

General Church Education



# The Prophet Elisha

II Kings 4:8-21

## Lesson 14

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

# THE PROPHET ELISHA

II KINGS 4:8-21

There are many wonderful accounts in the Old Testament that tell about the Lord's mighty power to save and heal. The two Books of Kings telling about Elijah and Elisha are particularly dramatic and are ones that you may want to read to your child.

Elisha, the prophet in today's story, came after Elijah as the leading prophet in Israel. Elisha stands for the Lord as we see Him in the truth of His Word.

Our story is about Elisha and a woman who lived in the city of Shunem. The woman and her husband made a room for Elisha in their house. He was able to stay there as he passed by on his travels. Because Elisha had been made an integral part of the couple's lives, he was able to help them when they turned to him in times of trouble.

The widow prepared a room for the Prophet of the Lord. This stands in contrast to the Christmas story when there was "no room in the inn" for the Lord.

## IDEA FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- Today's story can remind us to create a special "room" in our hearts and minds where we can hold the Lord's Word as the central treasure of our inner life. Then the Lord can be present with His power to energize and renew our spiritual life.

## FROM THE WRITINGS

By "house" in the spiritual sense (the Ancient Church) they understood man, and by the "rooms" and "bed-chambers" they understood man's interiors. Therefore "coming or entering into the chamber" signifies to be in one's self, so 'bedchambers' stands for a person's interiors - what he has thought, what he has intended, and what he has mulled over. In Matthew, "When you pray, enter your bedchamber, and shut your door, and pray in secret." (Matthew 6:6) *Arcana Coelestia* 5694

The ancients compared a person's mind to a house, and the inward parts of a person to chambers. The human mind is indeed like a house, for the things it contains are virtually as distinct from one another as the chambers within a house. Those at the center are the inmost parts of the mind, while those to the sides are the more external parts there. The ancients compared the latter to forecourts, and the parts which were outside but adjoining parts more internal they compared to porticos. *Arcana Coelestia* 7353

## THE PROPHET ELISHA

### IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord has all power.

Therefore, He has power to give life and to raise the dead.

It is important to make room for the Lord in our lives.

Our last two stories have been about Elijah. After the Lord took up into heaven, Elisha became his prophet. The Lord gave him powers to do miracles just as He had given Elijah. Elisha traveled about the land of Israel with his servant, Gehazi, bringing the Word of the Lord to the people and doing miracles. A woman living in Shunem saw Elisha as he passed by and invited him in to eat. She realized he was a "holy man of God." She and her husband built a small upper room for Elisha to stay in when he came to Shunem.

Read II Kings 4:8-10.

Elisha was grateful to the woman and her husband. He wanted to thank them. He asked the woman if he could help her husband get a job with the commander of the army or the king. The woman realized this would mean that she would have to move away from "her own people." She didn't want that. She was content with her friends and family. Elisha's servant, Gehazi, knew the one thing that the woman wanted that she didn't have. Listen to the story and hear what Gehazi told Elisha.

Read II Kings 4:11-14.







The woman had no son. Elisha made a wonderful promise to the woman that came true, just as Elisha had promised.

Read II Kings 4:15-17.

We can imagine the joy of the woman and her husband as they welcomed the precious baby into their family. The baby grew up. One day he went into the field where his father was harvesting. He suddenly had a bad headache. The father sent the boy home with a servant so his mother could look after him. Listen for what happened next.

Read II Kings 4:18-21.

It was a terrible sadness for the woman and her husband to lose their son.

But isn't it wonderful that the woman remembered Elisha's power? She took the boy up to Elisha's room, laid him on his bed and hurried off to find Elisha.

Read II Kings 4:22-30.

Elisha listened to the woman. He suggested that Gehazi should take his staff and go to heal the boy. The woman had faith in Elisha and begged him to come. She knew Elisha had the power to bring back her son. When Elisha went, he found that Gehazi had tried to raise the boy from the dead. However the Lord's power to do this miracle was with Elisha and not with his servant. Read II Kings 4:1-37.





## DISCUSSION

- In our first two lessons we read about how Elijah helped the widow of Zarephath. In today's story Elisha helped a woman who lived in Shunem. Can you think of some ways that these stories are like each other? (*Answers might include: both prophets stayed in the homes of the women, both women had only one son, both sons died, both women asked the prophets for help, both Elijah and Elisha were given power from the Lord to raise the sons from the dead.*)
- What things can you remember that are different about the two stories? (*Answers might include the differing details of how the prophets brought the children back to life.*)
- The woman in today's story had no child. Elisha promised her that the Lord would send her a son. Do you know any other stories in the Word that tell about the Lord sending babies to people who had no children? (*Answers might include: Isaac born to Abraham and Sarah [Genesis 22], Samuel born to Elkanah and Hannah [I Samuel 1], John born to Zacharias and Elizabeth [Luke 1], Jesus born to Mary [Luke 1 and 2; Matthew 1].* )
- In today's story, the woman and her husband realized that Elisha was a "Man of God." This is why they made a special room for him in their house. Because they had invited Elisha to live with them and be an important part of their lives he was able to help them and give them back their son. Can we invite the Lord to live in a "special room" in our hearts and minds? How can we make a special place for the Lord to be within us? (*Answers might include: read the Word, pray to Him at certain times of the day, spend time each day thinking about Him and the blessings that He has given us.*)



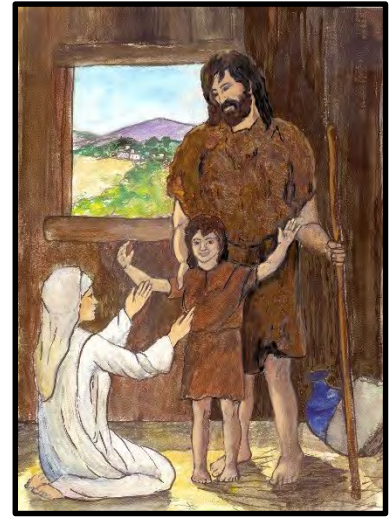


# THE PROPHET ELISHA | Activities

## Recitation

- Learn the recitation.  
You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created.  
Revelation 4:11

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



## Song

- Heal Me  
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-heal-me/>

## Projects

- Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son
- Picture to color

## Additional Activity

- Create a picture story line of the events in the story

## **Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son**

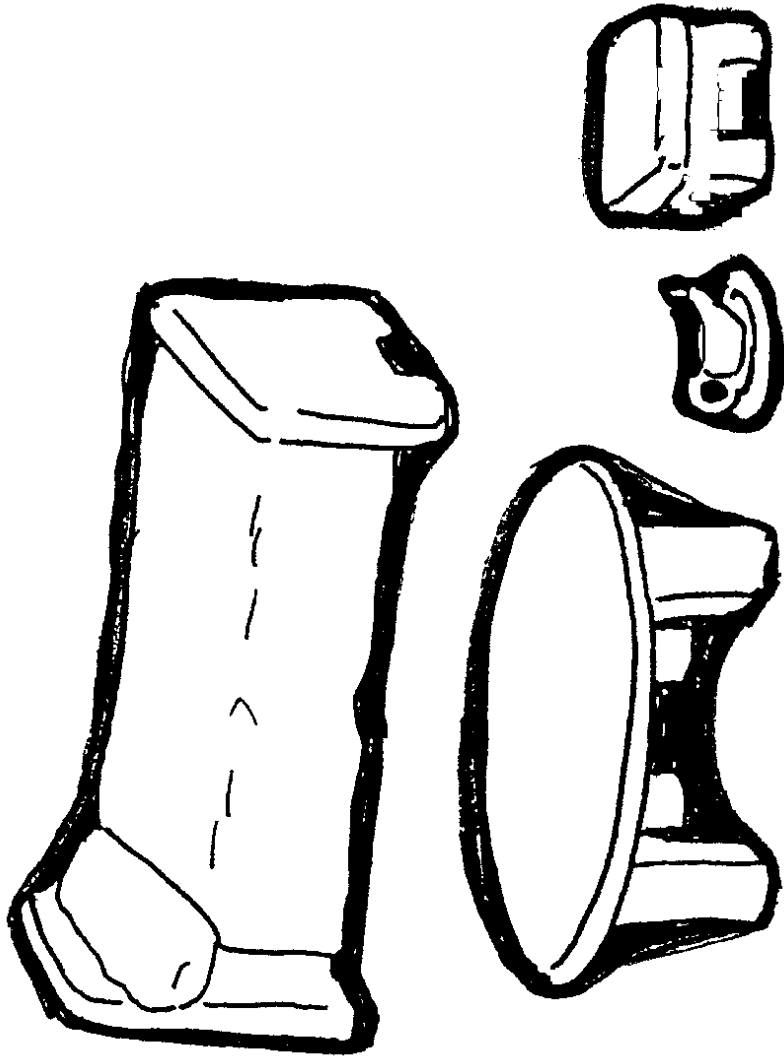
Recreate the upper room where Elisha slept in Shunem. Make a scene showing Elisha restoring the sick boy to life in his room.

### **Supplies needed**

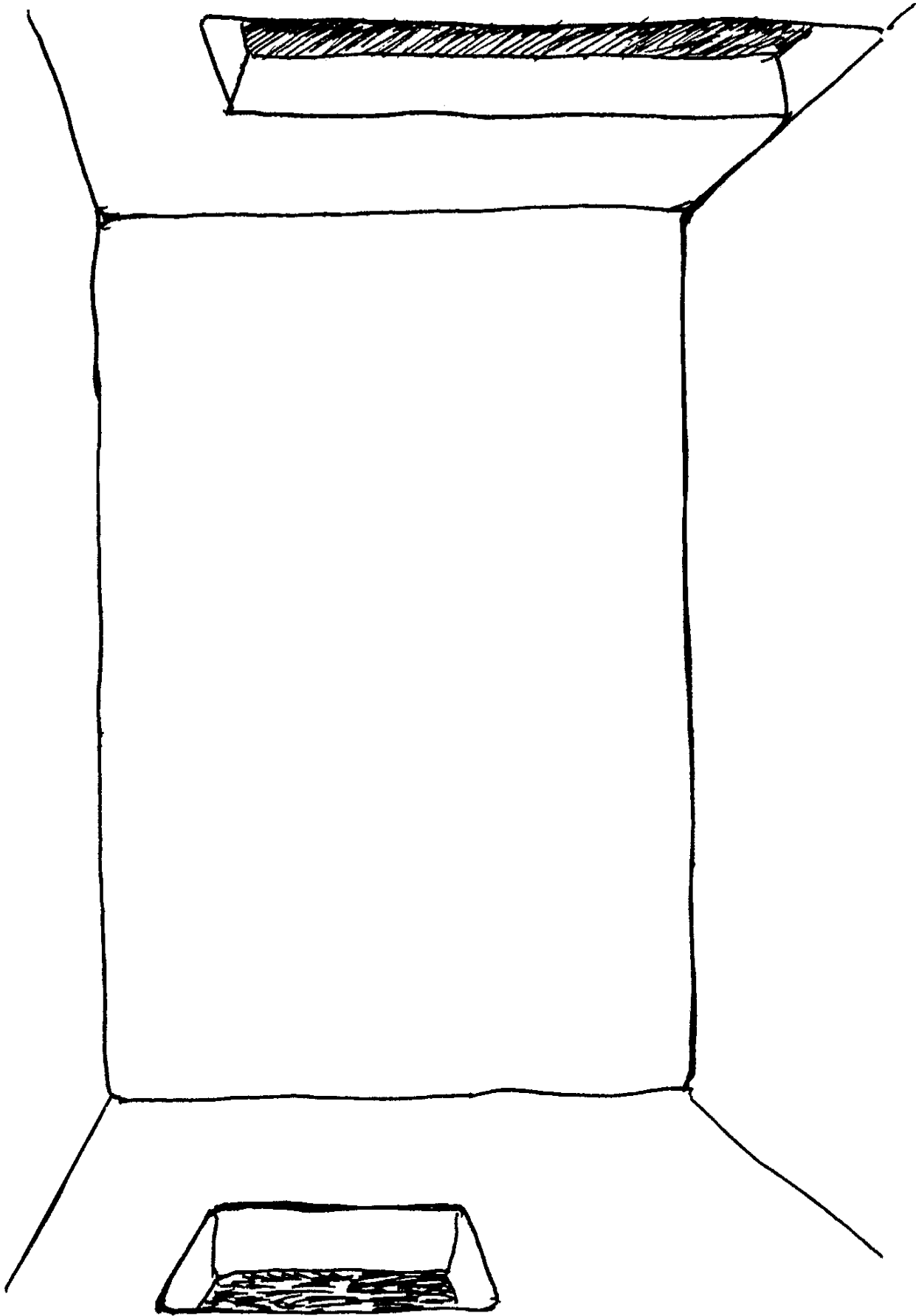
- pictures of the upper room and furniture printed or glued on to stiff paper
- crayons, markers or colored pencils
- scissors
- glue

### **Directions**

1. Color the picture of the upper room.
2. Color and cut out the bed, table, stool, and oil lamp.
3. Place them in the room. Put the oil lamp on the table.
4. Glue the furniture to the picture.
5. Draw your own picture of Elisha, and of the sick boy. Color and cut out the figures.
6. Act out the story using the picture and your figures of Elisha and the boy.









# Recitation Award | Lessons 12, 13, 14

