

Look Closer: Raising Up the Son in Our Lives

I Kings 17:16-24: Elijah Revives the Widow's Son

"Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him."

I Kings 17:17

This activity takes a closer look at how the impact of the world around us may contribute to feelings that our religion has died, and ways in which we can make changes to bring it back to life.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- copy of "Raising Up the Son in Our Lives" (see attached sheet)
- pen or pencil

Optional Teacher Preparation

Select passages from the Word as a closing activity for the students. Look for peaceful background music for a meditation time to go with a prayer or reading.

Warm-up

The death of the widow's son pictures a death in our lives. It is when we feel that our religion has gone, or is no longer working for us. Let's take a look at messages we receive from the world around us.

Process

1. Distribute the page "Raising Up the Son in Our Lives" to students.
2. Read aloud, and discuss each section of the chart as it is read. Encourage further examples and responses.
3. Discuss "Restoring the son...." with the students.

Wrap-up

End the discussion with a group prayer, quiet meditation or readings from the Word.



Raising up the Son in Our Lives

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The stories in the Word are the stories of our lives

The death of the widow's son pictures a death in our lives. It is when we feel that our religion has gone, or is no longer working for us.

Let's take a closer look at how the impact of what surrounds us might contribute to this.

Source	Messages That Impact Us
Friends	Our friends may take a different view of life and make moral choices that we do not agree with. We may go along with their ideas even when we feel uncomfortable because we are afraid of losing their friendship. Are these people really our "friends?"
Music	Song lyrics may promote unhealthy sexual behavior.
Advertising	Advertising promotes products and behaviors as cool. But are they good? Messages are streamed at us on the Internet, TV, and in print.
Clothing	Look at words and pictures on clothing. What are they promoting? Think about clothing styles that encourage modesty, and those that do not.
TV and Movies	The holiness of marriage is seldom portrayed. Immoral behavior is often made to look attractive, normal and acceptable.
Internet	Websites and ads may promote sick ideas. The solitary nature of being on the Internet leaves us thinking that nobody knows about it, and that it is OK.
Computer Games	Look for what defines winning. Is it killing everyone else for our own advantage? Is everyone who is opposed to us evil?

Restoring the son....

What can you do to bring the son back to life? To find new truths that revive you, raising you up into a new relationship with the Lord? Look for an idea that will work for you!

- **Go to an upper room** Go to a quiet place in your mind. Think about the choices you are making.
- **Read the Word** Set aside a few minutes each day. The Lord is in His Word and can speak to us there. Look for inspirational passages to lift you up.
- **Pray** Ask the Lord for help and inspiration. Prayer will bring Him closer.
- **Get a new start** Imagine the Lord as a loving Father! How joyful He must feel when we return to Him.