

General Church Education



Elijah Raises the Widow's Son

I Kings 17:17-24

Lesson 13

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

ELIJAH RAISES THE WIDOW'S SON

I KINGS 17:17-24

Elijah lived with the widow of Zarephath for a period of time after the events of our last lesson. Today we learn that the widow's beloved son became ill and died. This was a double calamity for her. In those days a woman could not work for a living. She was supported by her husband. If she became a widow, she had to rely on her son for support. In our story, the widow had the grief of losing a child. In addition, the death of her son very likely condemned the widow to a life of poverty. In her grief and distress, she came to Elijah, accusing him of killing her son as punishment for past misdeeds.

Elijah's response to the widow mirrors the compassion that the Lord feels for each of us. The truth is that the Lord never sends sickness as a punishment. The Lord is the giver of life and good health. All sickness and tragedies in this world come from the evil in this world that originates with the devils in hell.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- Elijah represents the Lord as He is in His Word. This story reminds us that He can comfort and give new life to our spiritual states when we turn to Him in His Word.
- All life is from the Lord, but all evil comes from hell. The Lord is not to blame for the misfortunes in our lives.

FROM THE WRITINGS

The idea that evil, punishment, cursing, condemnation, and many other things come from the Lord is as remote from the truth as good is from evil, or heaven from hell, or what is Divine from what is of the devil. Evil, hell, and the devil do those things, and in no way the Lord who is mercy itself and good itself. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2447.5

The hells are the source of all evil. Nothing but good comes from God, for to the extent a person allows, God turns that evil towards what is good. Those in heaven perceive that nothing but good comes from God; but those in hell say that everything evil comes from God because He permits it and does not take it away. But in reply to this those of them who are in the world of spirits are told that if evil were taken away from them they would not possess any life; and neither would anyone in the world who is engrossed in evil. They are also told that the evil within them punishes itself in accordance with the law, and that the miseries that punishment brings eventually causes them to refrain from the doing of evils. See *Arcana Coelestia* 6071.3,6

ELIJAH RAISES THE WIDOW'S SON

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord has all power, including the power to raise the dead.

The Lord gives eternal life.

In our last lesson we read about the prophet Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. You may remember that there was a great drought in the land and the Lord told Elijah to find a widow in the city of Zarephath who would look after him. Do you remember how Elijah used great power from the Lord to create oil and flour that would never run out? This miracle saved the widow, her son and her household from dying of starvation during the famine. Elijah stayed with the widow for many days and she looked after him as the Lord had commanded her.

While Elijah was living with the widow, a great tragedy happened to her. Her son became ill and died. The widow came to Elijah and told him that her son had died. She had lost her only son, the thing that was the most precious to her. She was sad, thinking that Elijah had made her son die in order to punish her for bad things that she might have done in the past. She didn't understand that the Lord never really sends sickness or death into this world as a punishment. He gives life to every person and wants us all to live in good health until it is time to go to heaven to be with Him.

We might ask, "Why do people get sick and die if the Lord doesn't send diseases to us?" The answer is that all bad things that happen are from evil that comes into this world from hell. They are not from the Lord who wants everything good for all people. In this world, there are times when sickness or other bad things may happen to us. We can take comfort in knowing that the Lord is always with us, even in times of sickness. If there were no evil in the world, there would be no disease. There is no sickness in heaven because there is no evil there.



Read I Kings 17:17-18.

Elijah immediately took the son into his arms and carried him up to his own room. He laid the boy out on his own bed. Elijah then prayed to the Lord and asked Him to restore the boy's life. Elijah stretched himself out on the child three times. The Lord heard Elijah's prayer and restored the child back to perfect health. Then Elijah took the son downstairs and gave him to his mother.

At the time of this miracle, people did not understand that when a person's earthly body dies, the Lord raises them into the spiritual body, into the life of heaven. By raising the widow's son from the dead, the Lord began to teach people that no one really dies. It is just our natural body that gets left behind.

Read I Kings 17:19-24.

The widow was overjoyed and told Elijah that she now truly believed that he was a "man of God." She knew that he was a prophet of the Lord who spoke only the truth.



DISCUSSION

- Can you remember from our last lesson what the widow did to help Elijah? *(Even though they were running out of food because of the drought, she gave him water and a small cake before feeding herself and her son.)* Because she listened to the Word of the Lord that Elijah told her, the Lord was able to save the widow and her household with the miracle of the never-ending flour and oil.
- Have you ever lost something very precious to you? How did you feel when you discovered that it was gone? *(Answers might include sad, angry, confused, frustrated.)* How did you feel when you got it back?
- We know that the miracles in the Word tell us something special about the Lord and His almighty powers. The miracle in our last lesson showed that the Lord has power over nature. Today's lesson, raising the widow's son from the dead, teaches us about another power of the Lord. What do you think it was? *(The Lord has power to raise people from the dead.)*
- In the lessons that come after this we will be learning about other miracles that teach about this wonderful, life giving power of the Lord.



ELIJAH RAISES THE WIDOW'S SON | Activities

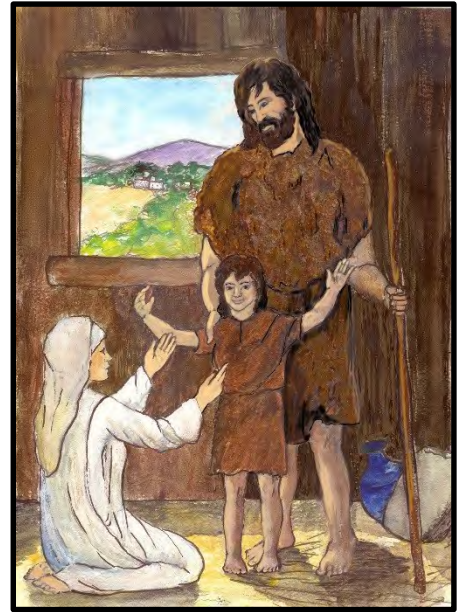
Recitation

- 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

- The Widow's House with Movable Figures
- Picture to color

The Widow's House with Movable Figures

Bring the story to life by creating a movable scene. Elijah stands as he takes the child from his mother and moves to the upper room. Turn figures so that Elijah lies on the boy to heal him. Return the boy to his mother after he is revived.

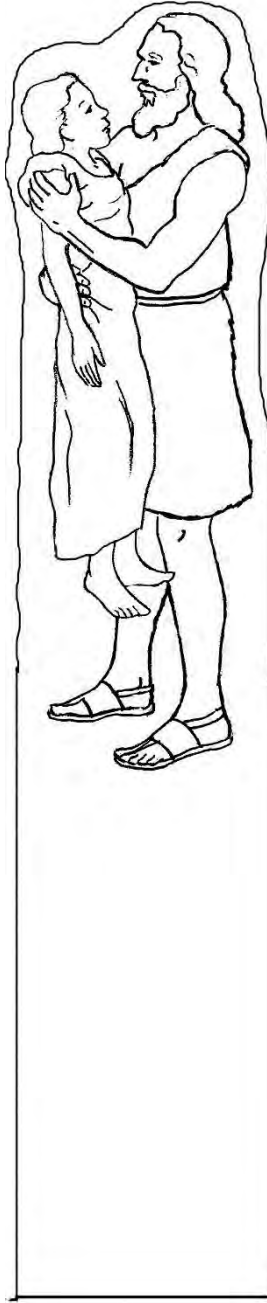
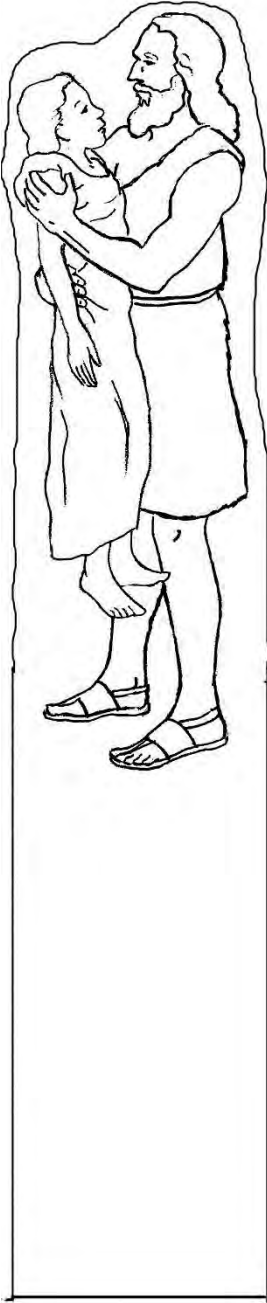
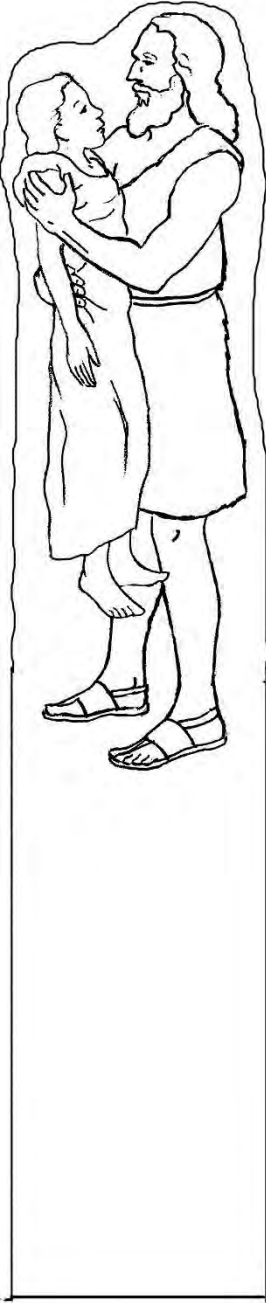
Supplies needed

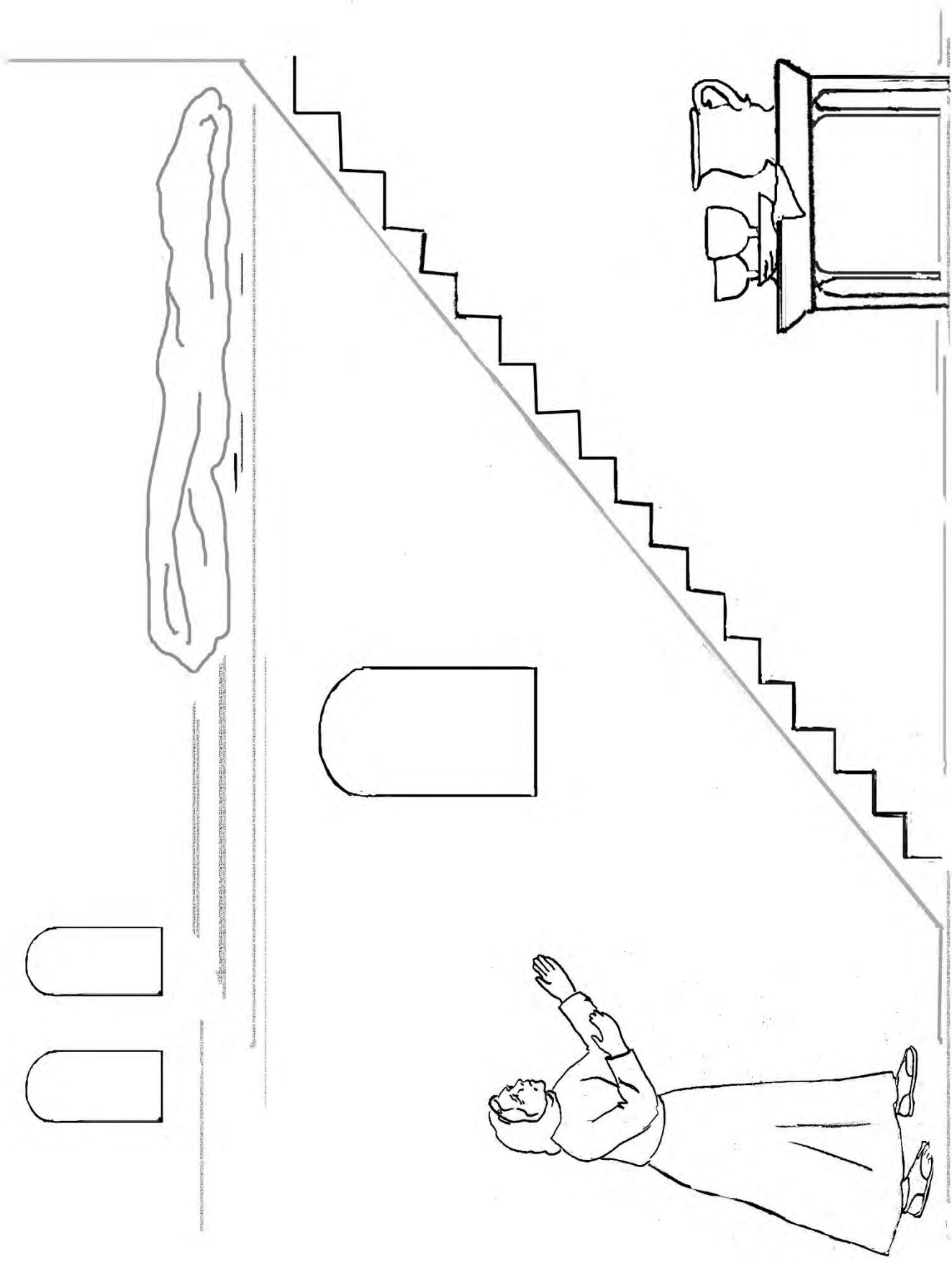
- picture of the inside of the widow's house printed on stiff paper
- 1 copy of Elijah and the widow's son "puppet" printed on stiff paper
- crayons, markers or colored pencils
- scissors

Directions

1. Color the inside of the widow's house and the puppet of Elijah and the boy using crayons, markers or colored pencils.
2. Cut slit in the house scene along the line marked just above the stairs so that Elijah can take the boy upstairs.
3. Insert the puppet into the slit. Move Elijah so that he takes the boy from his mother's arms up into the upper room, lays on the boy, and then descends the stairs and returns the boy to his mother.









Recitation Award | Lessons 12, 13, 14

