

General Church Education



Elisha's Miracles

2 Kings 4

Lesson 18

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is the Prophet and
Preserver

For ages 11-12 years

Elisha's Miracles

2 Kings 4

Teacher Background

Like Elijah, Elisha showed the amazing power he received from the Lord by doing miracles that filled people with wonder and fear. For example, a woman went into debt when her husband died and creditors threatened to take her sons. At Elisha's direction, she gathered vessels, and poured a little oil into each one. The oil filled the pots. She sold the oil to repay her debts. Also, when a woman in Shunem helped Elisha, she was granted a son. When the boy suddenly died, Elisha revived him. The Lord also gave Elisha the power to heal a poisoned pot of stew, and to multiply food.

These amazing miracles show the Lord's power in a variety of ways. In each case, the miracle could occur due to the belief of those who were involved. There are no scientific explanations for these miracles. They were Divine. They occurred because the Lord caused an influx from the spiritual world to affect the natural world. No human beings could have caused them to happen.

Focus Points

- Elisha was a powerful prophet who demonstrated the Lord's power by doing miracles.
- Elisha increased a widow's oil and raised a woman's son from the dead.
- Elisha did many other miracles.

Readings from the Writings

“A miracle is what is done by the Lord, when there is something that concerns Himself, belief in Him, His heaven, or the church as a whole, which then passes through His heaven, and is then carried out by spirits without any of their own cooperative power. This is a miracle, and is called ‘the finger of God’.” *Spiritual Experiences* 655

“All Divine miracles, therefore all the miracles recorded in the Word, involved and signified spiritual and celestial things, that is to say, such things as pertain to heaven and the church, for this distinguishes Divine miracles from miracles not Divine.” *Apocalypse Explained* 455.22

“I spoke with a certain angel, and the subject of miracles also came up ... that they accomplish nothing whatever in disbelievers, being like a wind that touches, and is dispelled. For there is nothing within such persons to which [the miracles] relate.... Certain spirits said that miracles were what they wanted to see so that they would believe, and they received the reply, yes, but belief is on the inside, and takes root in the inner parts of a person ... in those who do not have faith, miracles can never produce any root. *Spiritual Experiences* 227

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“And [Elisha] went up, and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, and his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm.” (2 Kings 4:34)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Crossword

Answer questions to complete a crossword.

A Room for Elisha

The Shunammite woman and her husband built a room for Elisha on top of their house. Draw a picture of what the room might have looked like on the inside. Use the internet or a Bible dictionary to gather ideas about what it might have looked like.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Food from the Wild

Elisha and the prophets frequently traveled and depended on foods in their environment to survive. This required great knowledge about the edibility of wild plants. In this story, one of the prophets mistakenly prepared a poisonous food. Think about plants and animals that live and grow in the wild near your home. Which foods are safe to eat? How could you learn what you could eat if you needed to do so?

Miracles and Science

Miracles cannot be scientifically explained, but they did happen. They are amazing examples of the Lord’s power. Read a list of miracles and describe why each miracle illustrates the Lord’s power over natural things. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-miracles-and-science-1-kings-13-2-kings-4.pdf>

A Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

As you learn about the kings of Israel and Judah, complete a chart. As you fill in the spaces, think about whether the king is good or evil. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-a-chart-of-the-kings-of-israel-and-judah-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

Elisha's Miracles

2 Kings 4

Vocabulary

consult—ask for advice or information

scarce—not enough for the amount wanted or needed

revived—restored to life or consciousness

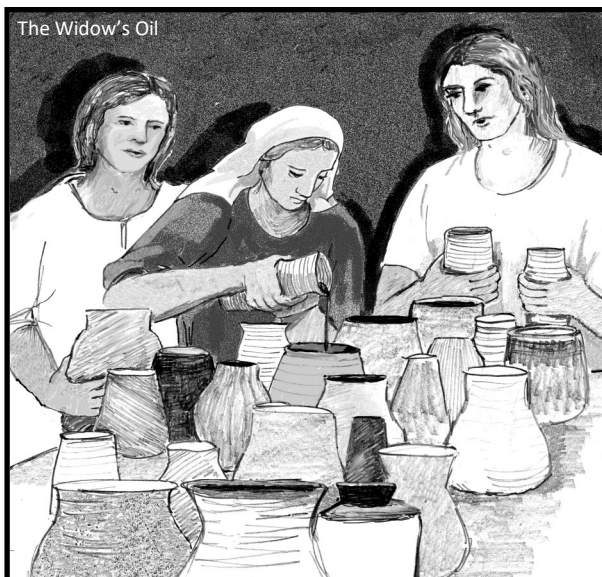
Elisha—the Prophet of the Lord

Like Elijah, Elisha showed the amazing power he received from the Lord by doing miracles. These miracles showed the people the Lord's closeness, power, and mercy. Although they were done by Elisha, people knew that he could not have done them without the Lord.

The Word does not specifically say that Elisha used the miracles to tell us about the Lord, but there are many reasons for believing that he did. The prophets were to teach about the Lord and to turn people's hearts toward Him. Miracles made people pay attention. They filled people with wonder and fear, and opened their minds to think about what they saw and heard. Some would want to know the meaning and purpose of a miracle and would consult the Word. Some would feel thankful and come to love the Lord through these actions.

The Widow's Oil

One day, a woman with two little boys found herself in debt when her husband died. Her husband was a son of the prophets. The man she owed the money was about to take her sons as payment for the debt. In those days taking children as slaves to settle debts was common. Even adults became slaves if they could not pay what they owed.



The widow wanted to keep her sons and went to Elisha knowing that the Lord could help her through the prophet. Then she followed his instructions. She gathered the vessels in her home and poured a little oil into each vessel. The oil filled the pots. She could then go out and sell the oil, pay her debts, and provide for her sons.

The Shunammite Woman

Elisha sometimes went to Shunem and he often passed a woman who gave him food. She rec-

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ognized Elisha as a prophet of the Lord and wanted to care for him. After several visits, she asked her husband if they could add an upper room on to their house for him. This was common because land was scarce and cities were crowded.

One day Elisha passed by and the Shunammite woman invited him and his servant to stay. While there, Elisha asked her how he could help her since she had done so much for him. She said that she had what she needed. However, Gehazi, Elisha’s servant, knew she would love a son, but her husband was too old. Elisha asked the woman to return to him and he told her,

“About this time next year you shall embrace a son.” (2 Kings 4:16)

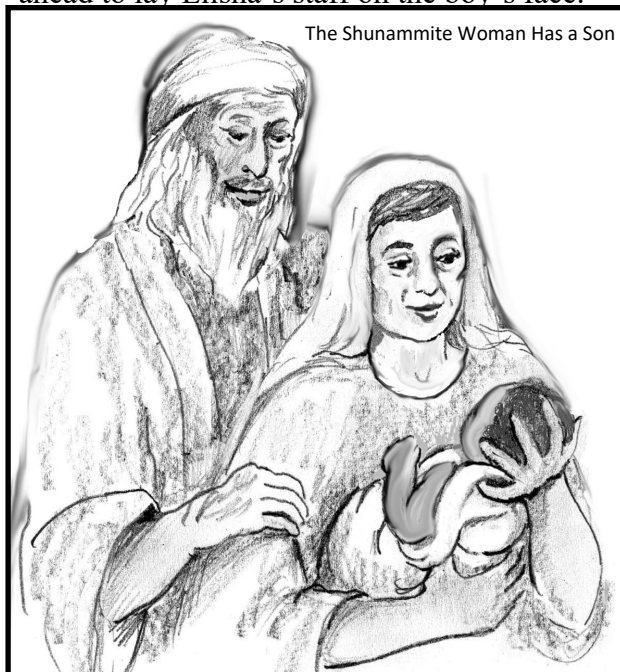
The Shunammite woman did not believe this, but a year later she gave birth to a son.

The Shunammite’s Son Is Raised From the Dead

After some years the boy was old enough to help his father in the fields. One day, he suddenly fell sick and on the same day, he died. His mother laid him out on the bed in the little room they built for Elisha. Then she went to fetch the prophet.

The woman traveled the fifteen miles to Mount Carmel by donkey. She rode through the hilly countryside as quickly as she could. Elisha saw her coming and sent his servant to meet her. When the servant asked her how things were, she said all was well—even though her son had died. She must have rushed past the servant to speak with Elisha, for Gehazi tried to stop her, but Elisha could see that she was distressed and needed the Lord’s help.

The woman appeared to accuse Elisha of giving her a son only to have him taken away. But she knew that only the Lord could help her, and that Elisha could call upon the Lord for that help. She continued to show faith by insisting on traveling with Elisha when the servant went ahead to lay Elisha’s staff on the boy’s face.



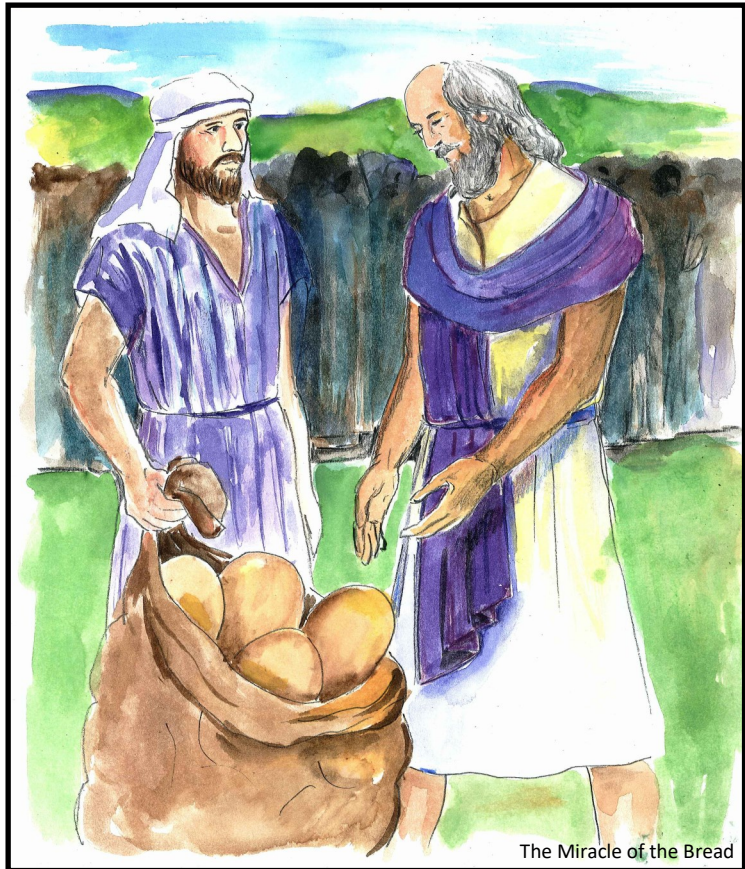
When Elisha came into the house, he went to the boy. First he prayed to the Lord and then he lay on the child to breathe life into him. When the child did not come back to life Elisha showed his deep concern by pacing back and forth. We might wonder what was going through his mind as he returned to the boy to try again. This time it worked—the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. You can imagine the joy and wonder of the woman and her husband when their son revived after being dead for at least a day.

Elisha Continues to Do Miracles

After performing such an amazing miracle, Elisha returned to Gilgal to find that there was a

famine. Some of the sons of prophets were with him, so Elisha had his servant make a pot of stew. Someone collected wild gourds for the stew and put them into the pot without knowing what they were. However, they were poisonous and so poisoned the stew. Elisha made the stew edible by putting flour into it.

While Elisha was in Gilgal, a man from another city brought him twenty loaves of bread so the prophet would have food. Elisha told the man to give it to the people who were with him. The man was surprised since there were one hundred men with Elisha. Elisha assured him that the Lord would take care of it—and He did. The loaves stretched among the men and there were some left over.



The Miracle of the Bread

Miracles

Every miracle in the Word was done by the Lord, even those that appeared to be done by people like Moses or Elisha. Some miracles in the Old Testament were later done by the Lord while He was on earth. He fed many people with very little food. He made many sick and infirm people well. He brought people back from the dead. The Heavenly Doctrine tells us that:

“A miracle is what is done by the Lord, when there is something that concerns Himself, belief in Him, His heaven, or the church as a whole, which then passes through His heaven, and is then carried out by spirits without any of their own cooperative power [entering into it]. This is a miracle, and is called "the finger of God" (*Spiritual Experiences* 655).

The purpose of miracles was not to force anyone to believe in the Lord or to actually fear Him. They were done to teach people about the Lord and to confirm a faith that already existed. They had no real meaning for people who did not believe in the Lord. In fact, a person without faith could not benefit from a miracle.

Miracles like the ones we read about in the Word no longer occur on earth, but wonderful things happen every day. The Lord tells us that we can see these things if we look for Him in everyday occurrences, the cycles of nature, the birth of a baby, each breath that we take. Each of these is a gift from the Lord—just as the miracles in the Word were gifts from Him.

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“And he went up, and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, and his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm.” (2 Kings 4:34)

Projects and Activities (answers at back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Crossword

Answer questions to complete a crossword.

A Room for Elisha

The Shunammite woman and her husband built a room for Elisha on top of their house. Draw a picture of what the room might have looked like on the inside. Use the internet or a Bible dictionary to gather ideas about what it might have looked like.

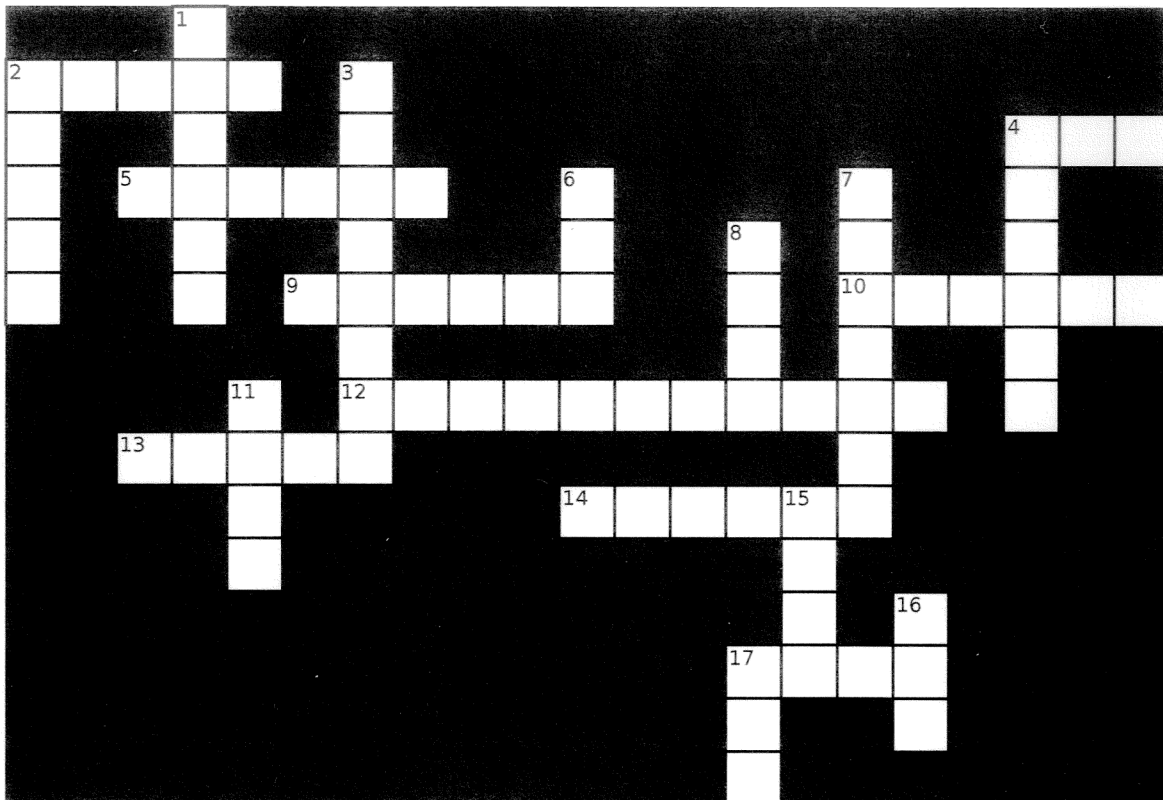
Crossword (2 Kings 4)

Across

2. How many times did the boy sneeze when he came to life?
4. Was the room built on the top or the side of the house?
5. What grain was the bread made from?
9. Where was there a famine?
10. A woman from what town gave Elisha food whenever he traveled there?
12. How many people did Elisha feed with the loaves? (There is a hyphen in the answer.)
13. What did Elisha put into the pot to make the food good again?
14. What poisonous things did the prophets put into the food?
17. What did Elisha prepare to feed the sons of the prophets?

Down

1. What was the name of Elisha's servant?
2. What did Elisha's servant lay on the boy?
3. Who was going to take the sons?
4. How many loaves of bread did the man from Baal Shalisha bring to Elisha?
6. What did the Lord provide a never-ending supply of in the first miracle in II Kings:4?
7. Into what did the woman put the extra supply?
8. What happened to the son of the woman who had made the room for Elisha?
11. What did the woman have her husband build for Elisha?
15. The woman used the unending supply to pay off her....
16. How many sons were to be taken from a widow of one of the prophets?
17. What did the woman who fed Elisha want very much?



A Room for Elisha

2 Kings 4

The Shunammite woman recognized Elisha as a prophet of the Lord. Whenever Elisha came to the city of Shunem, she would give him food. After noticing that he came often to her city, the woman asked her husband if they could build a room for Elisha to use on his visits. Her husband agreed, and they built a room on the top of their house.

This action tells us a number of things about the Shunammite woman. List at least two of them in the space below.

Preparing a room for the prophet was like preparing a place for the Lord in our minds. Why?



When upper rooms were added to a home in Biblical times, a staircase was usually built outside. This is a picture of what the house might have looked like from the outside. Draw a picture below of what the room might have looked like from the inside. You can use the internet or a Bible dictionary to get some ideas.

Answers

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Crossword

Across: 2. seven; 4. top; 5. barley; 9. Gilgal; 10. Shunem; 12. one-hundred; 13. flour; 14. gourds; 17. stew.

Down: 1. Gehazi; 2. staff; 3. creditor; 4. twenty; 6. oil; 7. vessels; 8. died; 11. room; 15. debt; 16. two; 17. son.