

LESSON



The Boy Is Alive!

GRACE

Grace means belonging to God.

References

1 Kings 17:17-24; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 131, 132.

Memory Verse

"[The Lord] cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God wants to bless us in every way.

Feel that God wants us to be happy and healthy.

Respond by trusting God to hear and answer prayer.

The Message



God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God sends Elijah to a widow who fed him during a time of famine when there was not much food or water for a long time. While Elijah is staying there, the widow's son becomes sick and dies. She is very sad and tells Elijah what has happened. Elijah takes the boy up to his (Elijah's) room and puts him on the bed. He spreads himself over the boy's body

and prays. God hears Elijah's prayer and raises the boy to life. The widow rejoices and says that she now knows that God speaks through Elijah.

This is a lesson about grace.

The widow was deeply saddened when her son died. God cared about her happiness. Just as the widow helped Elijah, God showed His grace to the

SEVEN

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Trust Walk</i> B. <i>Long Jump</i> C. <i>Band-Aid Help</i>	blindfolds masking tape adhesive bandages
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 76. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	container with red construction paper heart attached
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	Bible-times costumes, oil and flour containers
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Getting Well</i>	none
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Get-well Cards</i>	copies of get-well card (see p. 142), art supplies

widow by restoring her son. God is very willing to bless us too.

Teacher Enrichment

"The widow of Zarephath shared her morsel with Elijah; and in return, her life and that of her son were preserved. And to all who, in time of trial and want, give sympathy and assistance to others more needy, God has promised great blessing. He has not changed. His power is no less now than in the days of Elijah. . . .

"Our heavenly Father still continues

to place in the pathway of His children opportunities that are blessings in disguise; and those who improve these opportunities find great joy. . . .

"No act of kindness shown in His name will fail to be recognized and rewarded" (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 131, 132).

What difficulty in your life may be a disguised blessing? How will you trust Him to bring great joy into your life?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 6.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Trust Walk

You Need:

- blindfolds

Divide the group into pairs. Blindfold one of each pair and have the other child lead the blindfolded child safely around the room by holding hands. After a short time switch the blindfolds and repeat.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did it feel when you couldn't see? Did you like it? Were you afraid that your partner might let you bump into something? Today in our Bible story we will learn about a widow who was taking care of Elijah and how she trusted God to take care of her family, even though she couldn't see the future and didn't know what was going to happen next. Just as your partner was careful while leading you around the room, we can trust God to watch over us and to answer our prayers. That reminds me of our message for today:**



God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

Say that with me.

B. Long Jump

You Need:

- masking tape

Lay a piece of masking tape five feet (1.5 meters) long on the floor. Ask: **Who would like to try to jump farther than this masking tape is long? Let's see if anyone can do it.** Let each child who wants to try to do so, saving your smallest child for last. You will help the smallest child jump the farthest by lifting them up (whisper in their ear that you are going to help). Say: **Hooray!** (Child's name) **did it!** Some children will protest saying the child had help.

Debriefing:

Allow response time as you ask: **How did it feel to try your very best to jump longer than the line and still not make it? Could you do it on**

your own? Why not? Sometimes we can't do things on our own, and we need to ask for help. Our Bible story today is about a widow who couldn't help her sick son. But God helped her. God took care of her son. And that leads me to today's message:



God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

Say that with me.

C. Band-Aid Help

You Need:

- adhesive bandage for each child

Say: **I am giving each of you a small adhesive bandage to put on a pretend sore on your finger. Try to do it all by yourself.** Allow time, but do not help the children unless they ask for help.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did some of you need help getting your bandage on straight? Was it easy or hard to do? Who usually helps us with bandages? God gave us our parents to take care of us, to help us when we need it. Jesus will take care of us too because He loves us more than anyone. Our Bible story today is about Elijah and a sick boy whose mother couldn't help him. God told Elijah how to help. And God took care of her son. That makes me think of today's message:**



God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 76.

2

Bible Lesson**Experiencing the Story****You Need:**

- Bible-times costumes
- oil and flour containers

Characters

- son (optional)
- widow (optional)
- Elijah

Beforehand, ask an adult to dress up as Elijah and tell the story. Be sure to review last week's story to remind the children that God cared for Elijah, the widow, and her son by providing oil and flour. If available, use the oil and flour containers from last week's story as props.

For a larger group, Elijah can tell the story with the help of one "son" and one "widow" from your class. For a smaller group, divide children into pairs (one son, one widow) and have them dress in Bible-times costumes and act out the part of the story of the son dying (play dead) and the widow crying. (Small dish towels make good headpieces.) For either group setting, have Elijah pray before the child comes back to life.

Read or tell the story.

Greetings, young friends. I'm Elijah. Do you remember how God led me to the widow in the town of Zarephath? I've been here for a while now. I've been staying in a small room on the roof of the widow's house. It's more comfortable than camping beside Kerith Brook.

There is still no rain because the people are still worshipping the idol Baal. People everywhere are very hungry. But there is always food in the widow's house, just as the Lord had promised there would be.

Every day when the widow looks into her jar, she finds flour there to bake bread with. And every day when she looks into her jug, there is oil. Every day

we thank God for taking care of us.

The widow has a son. Sometimes I play with him or tell him stories.

One day the boy didn't feel well. The widow held her son and rocked him. She gave him cool water to drink. She sang soft songs to him. But her son became worse. His mother did everything she could to help him, but he died.

The widow came to me and cried out, "Why did this happen?" Tears ran down her face. I tried to comfort her.

Finally, I asked her to give the boy to me. I carried him upstairs to my room and laid him on my bed. Then I began to pray very hard. I reminded God that the boy's mother had been so kind to me. She fed me and let me stay in her home. And she loved, and needed, her son. I prayed for God to bring him back to life. Three times I prayed that prayer.

After the third time the boy began breathing again. He had come back to life! I was so happy that I shouted with joy. I picked him up and rushed back down the stairs. I shouted for his mother to come! "Your son is alive! Come and see!"

The widow grabbed her boy in a big hug. She sat down and took his face in her hands. She looked into her son's eyes. She laughed. She cried. She laughed and cried for joy at the same time. She thanked me and thanked God. She knew that God loved them, that He had taken care of them, and that He would always take care of them. And I knew that God would always take care of me too. And He will always take care of you.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say:
Imagine that you were the boy's mother. How would you have felt

when your son died? How would you have felt when he came back to life? If you were the son, what would you have told your friends about being made alive by God's power? When you are sick, who helps you? Who wants you to stay well and be healthy? Remember our message? Let's say it together:



God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 17:17-24. Point to the passage and say: **This**

is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible. Read the passage aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did Elijah say to God when he prayed over the boy? God didn't answer Elijah's prayer right away. Elijah prayed three times before the boy came back to life. Does God always answer our prayers right away? When he gave the boy to his mother, how do you think Elijah felt? How did the woman feel about Elijah then? How did she feel about God? God always hears and gives the best answer to our prayers. God answers our prayers according to His will and what is best for us. Sometimes it is not the answer we expect. Yet, no matter how God answers our prayers we can always know He loves and cares for us.**

Memory Verse

Turn to Nahum 1:7 and say:

This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible. Read the text aloud:

"The Lord . . . cares for those who trust in him." Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Teach the children the following actions for the words in their memory verse:

You Need:

Bible

[The Lord]

Point upward.



cares

Arms together as if rocking a doll.



for those who

Point to others.



trust in him.

Point upward.



Nahum 1:7

Palms together; then open as if opening a book.



Repeat until the children know the verse.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Jesus Is My Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 230)

"A Little Talk With Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 227)

"Thank You, Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 243)

"My God Is So Great" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 112)

Mission

Say: **Jesus cares for us in many ways. He wants us all to be healthy and He cares about us when we get sick. Some children in other places of the world are sick because they don't have people to teach them how to care for their bodies and stay well. In the mission story today we will hear how God took care of someone.**

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Our money can help Jesus send people who love Him to boys and girls around the world to teach them how to stay well.**

Prayer

Tell about an experience when Jesus answered a prayer of yours. Ask children to tell of an experience of their own.

Say: **Sometimes our prayers may not be answered in the way we would want. But God is always with us to take care of us.** Thank God for His loving care for each child.

You Need:

- offering container with red construction paper heart attached

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

3

Applying the Lesson**Getting Well**

Tell about a time when you were sick and Jesus helped you recover (maybe by getting special medicine from the doctor, being able to get more rest, drinking lots of water, etc.). Ask the children to share similar experiences. (Note: Children this age may think they will die if they get sick. Explain that people usually get well after being sick.) Allow several children to tell about their illness and about getting well.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How**

does it feel when you are sick?

Who takes care of you? Being sick isn't fun, and it's wonderful when moms and dads take care of us.

Someone else is taking care of us too. Who do you think it is? We

can trust Jesus to hear our prayer when we ask Him for help. So let's remember today's message:



God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Get-well Cards**

Beforehand, ask your pastor for the name and address of a church member who is ill. Or if a child in your class is absent because of sickness, use their name. Photocopy the pattern on page 142, one for each child. Fold the paper so the words are inside. Say: **Today** (person's name) **is sick** (explain who they are), **and we are going to make get-well cards for them.** Read aloud the message on the card. Say: **Decorate the card and then write your name on the inside.** Adults assist as needed.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

How would you feel if someone made a card and sent it to you while you were sick?

How do you think the person we are sending these cards to will feel about getting them?

Do you think they will know that we care about them? Will

they know that God is watching over them? Does God answer the prayers of sick people?

Let's say our message again:



God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

You Need:

- copies of get-well card (see p. 142)
- art supplies

Closing

Pray for the person the children made the cards for, specifically asking Jesus to take care of them. Remind the children to pray for that person each day and to remember that God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

STUDENT LESSON

The Boy Is Alive!

References

1 Kings 17:17-24; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 131, 132

Memory Verse

"[The Lord] cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7, NIV).

The Message

God will always give the best answer to our prayers.

Do you remember ever being really, really sick? So sick that you thought you might never get well? That happened to the widow's son.

Elijah stayed in Zarephath where God had sent him. God had not sent rain for a long, long time because the people still worshipped the idol Baal. Without rain the crops did not grow, and people everywhere were very hungry. But there was always food in the widow's house, just as the Lord had promised.

Every day when the widow looked into her jar, she found enough flour to make bread. Every day when she looked into her jug, she found enough oil too. Every day God kept His promise.

One morning the widow's son may have whispered to his mother, "I don't feel good, Mother. I hurt all over."

The mother probably held her son and rocked him. She gave him cool water to drink. She sang soft songs to him. But her son didn't get well. He got worse. And then he died.

The widow cried and cried. Tears ran down her face as she told Elijah what had happened.

"Give me your son," Elijah said. He carried the boy upstairs to the room the widow had given Elijah. He laid

the boy on the bed. Then Elijah cried to the Lord. "Why has this happened to the kind woman who is sharing her home with me? O Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

Three times Elijah prayed this prayer.

The Lord did not answer Elijah with words. He did not answer Elijah's question about why the widow's son had died. But after the third prayer the boy began to breathe again. He came back to life!

Elijah shouted with joy. He picked up the boy and rushed down the stairs. "Your son is alive!" he

shouted. "Your son is alive!"

The widow grabbed her boy in a big hug. She was so happy she laughed and cried at the same time. Then she looked up at Elijah through her tears. "Now I know that you are a man of God," she said. "God truly speaks through you."

God speaks to us through other people too. Sometimes He gives the answers to our prayers through others. God cares for us. He will always give the best answer to our prayers.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week read the lesson story together and review the memory verse by using the following motions:

**[The Lord]
cares**

Point upward.
Arms together as if rock-
ing a doll.

**for those who
trust in him.**

Point to others.
Point upward.

Nahum 1:7

Palms together; then
open.

Tuesday

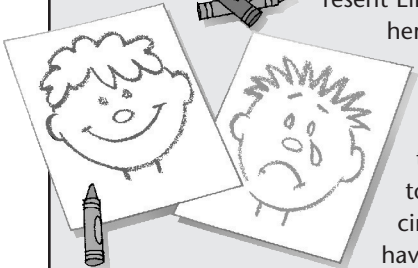
Help your child send or deliver the get-well card made in Sabbath School. Together, pray for that person. (Or help your child make a card.)

Wednesday

Help your child name five things that Jesus gives them to keep them healthy (food, water, etc.). Thank Jesus for each. Say the memory verse and sing a thank-You song together.

Sunday

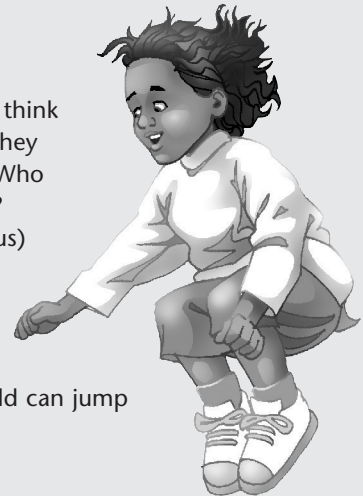
Together, read 1 Kings 17:17-24. Count the number of times Elijah prayed.



Draw five large circles to represent Elijah, the widow when her son died, the widow when her son was restored to life, the son when sick, and the son when restored to life. Help add to the circles faces each would have had.

Thursday

Ask your child to think about a time when they were very sick. Ask: Who helped you get well? (mother, doctor, Jesus) Talk about exercise as something Jesus gave us to keep us healthy. See how many times your child can jump in place.



Monday

Read the story together. Ask: How do you think his mother felt after the boy was healed? What do you think the boy did?

Sing a song about Jesus' love. Thank Him for His care.

Friday

During worship, read *Prophets and Kings*, page 131 (second, third, and fourth paragraphs). Then act out the Bible story. Let your child be the sick boy. Have each person draw two faces—one sad, the other happy—and hold up the appropriate one as the story unfolds. Say the memory verse together. Then sing thank-You songs.