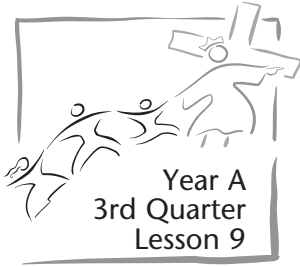


LESSON



Never-Ending Oil

COMMUNITY Community means caring for one another.

References

2 Kings 4:1-7; *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 227.

Memory Verse

"Elisha replied . . . , 'How can I help you?' " (2 Kings 4:2, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God uses His people to help solve problems that others face.

Feel concern for those who are in trouble.

Respond by listening to other people's problems and trying to help.

The Message



God's people care for one another.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A widow's two sons are to be sold as slaves to pay debts left by her husband. The woman begs the prophet Elisha for help. Elisha listens and tells her what God wants her to do. She listens and does as Elisha says. God blesses her for trusting His word and multiplies her oil. She sells the oil, pays her debts, and her sons are not sold as slaves.

This is a lesson about community.

The woman, her sons, and Elisha are

members of a community—God's community—the family of God. People in God's family help one another, just as He sent Elisha to help the widow. God will bless us as we help others in His family.

Teacher Enrichment

"God's gifts increase as they are imparted. We see this illustrated in the case of the poor widow whom the prophet Elisha, by a miracle, relieved from debt. She had only one jar of oil; but the prophet told her to borrow vessels of her

NINE

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>Handprint Collage</i> B. <i>Make a Pot</i> C. <i>How Many Cups?</i>	paper, marker, old shirts, finger paint, water, soap, paper towels modeling dough (see recipe, p. 93) pitcher, water, cups
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 96. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	container with pictures of people's faces
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	pitcher, water, paper cups
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Who Needs Help?</i>	pictures of people needing help
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>We Will Help!</i>	notes to send home (see Sharing the Lesson, p. 97)

neighbors, and the oil poured from that one jar continued to flow till all the vessels were filled. The supply ceased only when no more vessels were brought to receive it. So it will be now. So long as we let the gifts of God flow into channels of good, the Lord will supply the flow" (Ellen White, in *Signs of the Times*, Jan. 14, 1886).

"Christians should not allow themselves to be troubled with anxious care as to the necessities of life. If men love and obey God, and do their part, God will provide for all their wants. Although your living may have to be obtained by the sweat of your brow, you are not to distrust God;

for in the great plan of His providence, He will supply your need from day to day" (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 227).

What has God given you that you are willing to share?

Note to Teacher: Prepare a note for the children to take home regarding details about your chosen community service project (see Sharing the Lesson). Be specific about what they should bring and when (for next four weeks).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 6. If you do the Readiness Activity A in this lesson, you might want to use the collage as a room decoration.

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. Handprint Collage

You Need:

- large sheet of paper
- marker
- old shirts
- finger paint
- water
- soap
- paper towels

Start with a large sheet of paper, enough room for each child's handprints and name. At the top label it "Helping Hands." Write each child's name on an area of the collage paper. Then have them press their painted handprints above their name. Adults assist as needed. For this project you should have old, large shirts for the children to wear to protect their Sabbath clothes. Use washable finger paint. Children should have access to a sink or bowl and soap and paper towels to wash their hands afterward.

Say: **Today we are going to make a pretty collage, or picture, of each of your handprints that we can hang on our wall. The words at the top of the paper say "Helping Hands."**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Whose hands are on our collage? Whose hands on this collage can Jesus use to help others? Yes, all of them. We are all part of God's family, and we can help one another. Do you want to help others? Our message for today is:**



God's people care for one another.

Say it with me.

B. Make a Pot

You Need:

- modeling dough (p. 93)

Beforehand, make enough modeling dough, or use a store-bought one, for each child to be able to form a small bowl. Say: **Today our Bible story is about a woman who needed a lot of pots to put oil in. Let's pretend to help her by each making a pot. You can make a tall one or a short one, a wide one, or a thin one.**

Modeling Dough

1 cup white flour 1 teaspoon cooking oil
 4 tablespoons table salt 6 tablespoons water
 food coloring

Mix the flour and salt together and gradually add the water, stirring until the mixture is smooth. Add the cooking oil and mix well. Knead the dough for about five minutes. Add a few drops of food coloring and mix well.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Have you ever seen your mommy or daddy borrow something from someone, perhaps a neighbor or a friend? The woman in our story today needed help. God used Elisha to help her. She had to ask her neighbors if she could borrow a lot of jars or pots. Her neighbors were willing to help her too. Are you willing to help your neighbors and friends? And that leads me to today's message:**



God's people care for one another.

Say it with me.

C. How Many Cups?

Place a large pitcher of water and several small paper cups where all can see. Ask the children how many cups of water they think are in the pitcher. Tell the children they are going to find out exactly how many. As you pour the water into cups, talk about how eventually the pitcher will become empty. Line up the cups of water and have the children help you count them when finished.

You Need:

- pitcher
- water
- cups

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How many cups did the pitcher hold? Today we're going to hear a Bible story about a widow who had just a little cooking oil in her oil jar, but her jar didn't get empty. Her neighbors helped her in a special way. Do you want to help others? That makes me think of today's message:**



God's people care for one another.

Say that with me.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- pitcher
- water
- small paper cups

Experiencing the Story

Give assistants a stack of paper cups and ask them to stand in various parts of the room. Fill a large opaque pitcher or other large container with water. When the story tells about the widow gathering jars, have the children go to each assistant and ask, "Please, may I have more jars?" Each child may bring one paper cup to the front of the room and place it on a table. Use the container to demonstrate how the woman's oil jar was never empty. If necessary have an assistant hide behind a screen or curtain and refill your water container when needed. As you read the story, use the props and allow the children to act out the story. This story could be told by three people—a narrator, Elisha, and the widow—each speaking or reading a part.

Read or tell the story.

A woman came to Elisha with a problem. "How can I help you?" he asked.

"My husband was a good man who loved the Lord," the woman cried. "But now he is dead, and I can't pay the money he owed. The man my husband owed money to came to my house today. If I don't pay him, he says he will take away my sons to be his slaves!"

"What do you have in your house?" asked Elisha.

"Nothing!" the widow answered. "I have nothing at all except a little cooking oil."

Elisha thought about her need. Then he said, "Go to all your friends and neighbors. Borrow as many empty jars as you can. Then take your sons, go home, and shut the door. Pour the oil from your jar into all the jars that you have borrowed."

The widow woman looked at Elisha. She nodded her head. It was a strange thing that he asked her to do, but she would do it. The woman trusted Elisha. But more importantly, the woman trusted the Lord.

The widow went from house to house in her neighborhood. She asked everybody she talked to if she could borrow all their empty jars. Her sons helped her carry the jars home. [*Children act out this part.*]

The woman and her sons filled their house with empty jars. Then the woman shut the door. The boys looked at their mother with wondering eyes. What was going to happen now? The woman picked up her jar and carefully began to pour oil. It kept flowing into the first borrowed jar until the jar was full.

The woman smiled at her sons and turned to the second borrowed jar. She began to pour again. Soon she filled the second borrowed jar, and the third borrowed jar, and the fourth. She poured and poured. She soon lost count of how many jars she had filled. She just kept pouring and pouring until they were all filled. [*Demonstrate this.*]

When she didn't have any more jars to fill, she ran to find Elisha. "I did exactly as you said!" she said breathlessly. "I collected as many jars as I could find. I poured oil from my jar into all the jars until every one was filled. Then the oil stopped flowing. And now they are *all* filled with oil!"

Elisha smiled. "Now go and sell the oil," he said. "You will have enough money to pay what your husband owed. And you will have money left over for you and your sons to live on."

The widow praised and thanked the Lord for taking care of her. She thanked Him for the miracle of the oil that kept

flowing. And she thanked Him for Elisha and for good neighbors who cared about her.

God wants us to be good friends and neighbors too. He wants us to care for others.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
What do you think the widow felt when she thought she would lose her sons? How do you think she felt after she poured a few containers full of oil and the oil kept flowing? How would you have felt? How did her friends and neighbors help her? How did her sons help her? How can you help others? Remember our message? Let's say it together:



God's people care for one another.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4:1-7. Point to the passage and say:

This is where today's story is found in

God's Word, the Bible. Read the passage aloud, pointing to each sentence as you read. Paraphrase if necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you discuss the story. Ask: **Why did the man want to take the widow's two sons away from her? What would he do with them? What is a slave? When Elisha told the woman what to do, what did she think? What would you have thought? Would you have done as he asked? Where did the woman get more jars? What kind of neighbors did the woman have? How can you be a good neighbor? Remember our message for today:**



God's people care for one another.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Turn to 2 Kings 4:2 and say:

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

"Elisha replied . . . , 'How can I help you?'" Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Gather children into pairs. Assign one child to be the widow and one to be Elisha. Have the widow kneel down in front of Elisha with hands held up as if begging for help. Elisha then repeats the memory verse (**"Elisha replied, . . . 'How can I help you?'" [2 Kings 4:2]**) to the widow. Then have children switch roles. Continue until all can say the verse.

You Need:

Bible

3

Applying the Lesson

Who Needs Help?

You Need:

- pictures of people needing help

One at a time, show pictures taken from magazines or newspapers of people needing help (flooded area, person with injury, sad person, someone carrying too many groceries, etc.). Each time ask, **Who in this picture needs help?** Discuss each need and ask

how someone might help them.

What could we do to help these people? Can we always help them? If we can't help them, who can? Do we sometimes help others by asking someone else to help them? What are some other ways we can care for people? Let's remember our message. Say it with me.



God's people care for one another.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Say that with me again.

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

- "Share With You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 277)
- "Something Nice" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 261)
- "We Are His Hands" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 314)
- "We Are Sharing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 280)
- "Helping Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 288)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

To emphasize the "community" theme, make an offering container with pictures of people's faces on it (old magazines are a good source).

Say: **When you bring your offering you are helping other people in God's family.**

Prayer

Ask the children if they know of anyone who is in need—someone who is sick, or has lost a job, or doesn't know Jesus, etc. Pray specifically for people in need.

You Need:

- container with pictures of people's faces attached to it

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

4

Sharing the Lesson**We Will Help!****You Need:**

- notes to send home

Before Sabbath, talk to your church's Community Services leader or pastor and ask about projects or families your class may be able to help. Possible projects may be collecting baby blankets for a women's crisis shelter, toiletries or canned foods for a homeless shelter, clothing for the Community Services clothes closet, etc. Pick a project beforehand, and tell the children how your class is going to help this month. Discuss exactly what they will need to collect and bring to Sabbath School during the next few weeks. Plan to complete the project by the last Sabbath of this quarter (Lesson 13).

Send home with the children a note explaining the project to their parents and soliciting parental permission and help.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Are you willing to help others? What would you like to bring to Sabbath School next week for our project? Whom will you ask about bringing it? Whose help might you need? Where should we keep the things we bring?** Take as much time as necessary to encourage each child to participate in some way. Be aware of family circumstances that might make it difficult for a child to bring anything. Talk about ways to help even if a child can't bring something. (The children can help you receive the things others bring and store them carefully, etc.) **We want to be known as a caring class. If you are willing to help others, say our message again:**



God's people care for one another.

Say that with me one more time.

Closing

Pray that this week the children will look for ways to help people. Remind them to bring in items for your community project next week.

STUDENT LESSON

Never-Ending Oil

References

2 Kings 4:1-7; *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 227

Memory Verse

"Elisha replied . . . , 'How can I help you?'" (2 Kings 4:2, NIV).

The Message

God's people care for one another.

Has your family ever asked to borrow something from a neighbor? Maybe your family asked for some flour, or perhaps a tool? A poor widow once borrowed some unusual things.

A poor widow came to Elisha with tear stains on her face. "My husband was a good man who loved the Lord," the woman cried. "But now he is dead. The man my husband owed money to says if I don't pay him, he will take away my two sons to be his slaves!"

"How can I help you?" Elisha asked gently. "Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

"Nothing!" the widow answered. "I have nothing except a little oil."

Elisha thought about her need. "Go to all your friends and neighbors," he spoke kindly, "and borrow as many empty jars as you can. Then go home and shut the door. Pour the oil from your jar into all the borrowed jars."

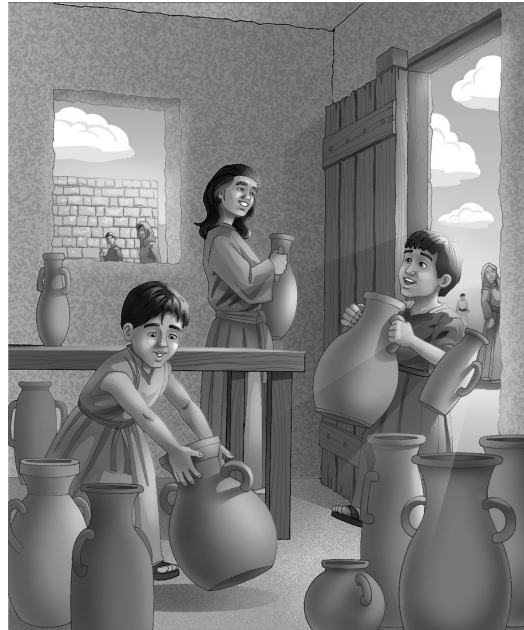
So the widow borrowed her neighbors' empty jars. She and her sons filled their house with empty jars. Then the woman shut the door. She began to pour oil from her jar into a borrowed jar. The oil kept flowing, and soon the first borrowed jar was full.

The woman poured and poured, and the oil kept flowing. She filled the second borrowed jar. She filled the third borrowed jar. Then she filled the fourth.

Soon she lost count. She just kept pouring until all the jars were full.

"Bring me another jar!" she said happily.

"There aren't any more empty jars left, Mother," her boys exclaimed. "You filled them all!"



The woman's eyes sparkled. She hurried out of the house and ran to find Elisha. "I did exactly what you said!" she spoke breathlessly. "I borrowed as many jars as I could, and now they are *all* filled with oil! And I still have oil in my jar!"

Elisha smiled. "Go and sell the oil," he said. "Pay back what your husband owed.

And you will have money left over for you and your sons to live on."

The widow praised the Lord for the miracle of the oil. She thanked God for taking care of her. And she thanked Him for Elisha and her neighbors.

That day the widow and her sons learned that they could always trust the Lord to take care of them. We can trust God to send the right people to care for us too. And God wants us to be good neighbors also. How can you be a good neighbor? How can you help others today?

Do and Say

Sabbath

Read the lesson story each day this week and re-view the memory verse as follows: Have your child (the “widow”) kneel in front of “Elisha” (you) with hands held up as if begging. “Elisha” says the memory verse to the “widow.” Switch roles and repeat several times.

Sunday

Together, read 2 Kings 4:1-7. Ask: How do you think the widow felt when she thought the man might take her boys away? What did the woman do with the oil?

Show your child oils you use (olive oil, corn oil, etc.). Let them smell or taste each. Ask: What do you think the widow used her oil for? Let your child help you use the cooking oil to prepare food today. Thank God for food.



Monday

Your child’s Sabbath School class has chosen a community service project. Together, make a plan for helping with that project. (Or plan one your family can do.) Talk about how you can be a good neighbor to others.

Sing “Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 202).

Tuesday

Have your child help you pour and count how

many cups of water are in two or three of your largest pitchers. Ask: Do you think the widow’s neighbors lent more or fewer jars than these? Why did God give the widow enough oil to fill all the jars?



Wednesday

Act out the Bible story with your family. Talk about ways church friends have helped your family. Ask: What would you have shared with the widow if she had been our neighbor? Why?

Sing a caring song before prayer.

Thursday

Ask your child to tell the lesson story. Count the ways God can use your family to help others. Try to do one today.

Sing a helping song before you pray.

Friday

Read about God’s care for us in *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 227 (second paragraph). Ask: What will God give us? What do we need to do? Should we worry?

Let your child point out things in your home for which to thank God. Sing a thank-You song.