



REFERENCES: 2 KINGS 6:1-7; PROPHETS AND KINGS, PP. 260, 261.

The Floating Axhead

Do you think God knows about the tiniest ant crawling along? He does. He cares about little things. A long time ago God showed someone how much He cared about a little thing.

Elisha was visiting the school of the prophets at Gilgal. “Another new student is starting today,” someone told him. “But there is hardly any room for him. This school needs more space.”

The students liked the prophet’s visits. He answered their questions and listened to them. So they told him about the space problem.

“Prophet Elisha,” a student began, “we like it when you come. And we like to have new students. But we have a big problem. We need more room.”

Prophet Elisha thought about it. The school really was too small. “Yes,” he agreed. “This place is too small.”

“Let’s go to the Jordan River. We can build a place there where there is plenty of room,” someone suggested. “And there are plenty of trees to cut down for a larger building.”



Memory Verse

“Serve each other
with love.”

GALATIANS 5:13, ICB.

The Message

We can help
others, even in
small ways.

A bigger place was needed so more students could come and learn about God so they could tell others.

“Yes,” Elisha encouraged. “That’s a good idea. Go and get started.”

Then one of the students said, “Won’t you please come with us?”

“I will,” Elisha replied. And he went with them.

So they all met at the river and started working. Lots of trees had to be cut down to build a larger school. Everyone worked hard, chopping and cutting with axes. Suddenly one of the students cried out, “Oh, no! No! No!”

Everyone heard a big splash and turned to look. His ax! The axhead was gone! No wonder the student was upset. An ax was an expensive tool. The axhead was made of iron, and it would be hard to replace.

“It wasn’t mine,” the student moaned. “I borrowed it! What will I do? How can I replace it?”

Elisha hurried to the young man’s side. “Where did the axhead fall into the river?” he asked.

The student pointed to the exact spot. “There,” he said. “It just flew into the river right there.”

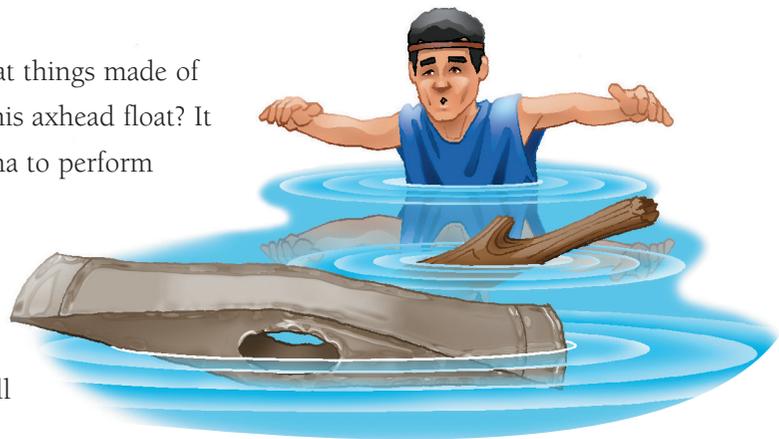
Then Elisha did the strangest thing. He picked up a stick and threw it into the water, right where the axhead fell in. And up came the axhead, floating on the water!

“Lift it out,” Elisha said to the young man.

So the young man entered the water and waded to the axhead. He grabbed it and returned to shore where he fixed it to the ax handle.

Now, everyone knows that things made of iron can’t float. So how did this axhead float? It was a miracle! God used Elisha to perform another miracle!

Yes, God cares about the little things. He cares if we lose a borrowed tool or a favorite toy. He cares about all your needs!



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story together and use the motions to review the memory verse as follows:

Serve. With palms up, arms at waist level, move arms forward.

each other . . . Point to others.

with love. . . . Cross arms over chest.

Galatians 5:13 Put palms together; then open.

SUNDAY

Help your child share the ax made in Sabbath School with someone who is sick or sad. Pray for that person.

Help your child gather small things to look at with a magnifying glass. Include a piece of hair. Read Matthew 10:30. Ask: Do you know how many hairs are on your head? Remind them that God knows and He cares about the small things.

MONDAY

Read 2 Kings 6:1-7 together. Ask: Why did the students go to the river? Take a walk by a river, pond, or lake. Toss a few things into the water, if you can do so without polluting. What sinks? What floats?

TUESDAY

Review the lesson. Ask: Why did the axhead

float? Show your child a real ax (or a picture). Point out the axhead. Talk about ax safety. Ask: What do people use axes for today?



WEDNESDAY

In the bathtub or sink, experiment with things that float and sink. Remind your child of the heavy axhead that God made float.

Help your child do something “small” for someone. (Put a love note in Daddy’s lunch, sweep a neighbor’s porch, etc.) Sing a song about caring or helping.

THURSDAY

Find little things in nature (ant, blade of grass, pebble). Ask: Does God care about these little things? Does God care about you and me?

Sing about Jesus’ care; then thank Him.

FRIDAY

During worship tonight, read about the floating axhead in *Prophets and Kings*, page 260 (third paragraph) and the top of page 261.

Ask: Who really worked the miracle?

Act out the Bible story with your family. Sing songs of praise and thank God for His care.

