



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 34

ELISHA & THE WIDOW (2 KINGS 4)

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: A jar and a cup that fits snugly inside the jar (must be able to put holes in these) water, small glasses/bowls/cups for the kids, glue or caulk.

Ask:

- What did we talk about last week? (Elijah and the sacrifice battle with the prophets of Baal)
- Were you able to remember how big God is this past week? He sent fire down from heaven in an incredible show.
- Today, we're going to learn about another story where God does some amazing miracles.
- First, I want you to think about what you would do if you owed somebody money, but didn't have any. (Allow for discussion)
- What if I told you that if you didn't pay your money, I was going to take from you the thing you loved most? How would you feel? What would you do? (Allow for answers)
- Keep those thoughts in your mind today when we get to our story

Summarize

When Elijah's time on earth was done, he didn't die! Can you believe that? God took him up to heaven in a chariot of fire pulled by flaming horses in a whirlwind. Can you imagine that? What would you have thought? If you're picturing it in your mind, tell me what it looks like. We can only imagine it, but there was a man there who saw this happen! His name was Elisha, and after he saw this, he became an incredible prophet for God with double the portion of the spirit that was on Elijah. Today and next week, we're going to learn about him.

Read: 2 Kings 4:1-2

Ask:

- The widow in our story wasn't going to get a toy taken away, but her children. She must have been terrified!
- So what did she do?

Do an Experiment:

Explain that today, we are going to try to watch this story how it played out. I will be the widow, and you guys get to watch. So remind me, what did the widow have? (Olive oil).

Hand out small, empty glasses to some of the kids.

Pull out a jar and place it on the table. Let's pretend this has olive oil in it. This is my jar. Now let's read and follow along with what happens next.

Read: 2 Kings 4:3-4

Do an Experiment (continued):

(For the Teacher): This experiment uses a vacuum to create a continuous flowing ability. Inside of your jar that the children see, you will have placed a cup. At the bottom of that cup, drill a hole. On the side of the outside jar, also drill a hole. You will lift the jar up, plugging the outside hole with a finger, and pour out the water. Then, set the jar back on the table. By removing your finger from the hole, the air will rush in and cause the inner cup to fill with more water. Pick up the jar (covering the hole) and fill up more cups. Once empty, set it down again, allowing it to refill. Do this until all the kids' glasses are full. After they are wowed, explain the science. If you need a video, I found many on YouTube. Often with names along the lines of "magic" water trick. Or endless water from a cup.

Explain and Apply:

I didn't actually do a miracle. I simply used water pressure and a hidden jar to make this work. But God used Elisha to do an incredible miracle for this woman and her family. By providing oil enough to pay her debts, the boys' lives were spared from slavery, and the widow was spared from the sorrow of being separated from her sons.

And guess what? God still provides for us today. The Bible says that he owns the cattle on a thousand hills. This means that God has unlimited resources! He can meet all of our needs in Christ Jesus.

It may not always feel like it. A man named Paul who loved Jesus very much said he knew what it felt like to be well-fed and hungry. But he knew that he could do everything through Christ. He knew that God would meet all his needs as he saw fit. And that is true for us, too. He sees us and cares for us, and he can provide for us in many ways.

Is there anything you would like to ask God for? Let's take some time to pray and present our requests to him.

Comic Book Bibles:

Have the kids color the story of Elisha and the widow in their comic book Bibles.

Memorize: 2 Kings 4:5

Close in Prayer



Drill a hole in the bottom center of a plastic cup (I got mine from a thrift store). The drill got away from me, but it still worked.



Drill another small hole in a plastic pitcher (another thrift store find). Your pitcher needs to have a large bottom that narrows and curves in at the top. Drill your hole where the neck starts to curve out.



Place your drilled cup in the pitcher. Either paint it all one color, or make sure the inside cup can't be seen. Make sure this is sealed well, or it will all fall out. You can seal it with caulk or hot glue, but make sure your water is in the basin first. If you need to refill again after you've sealed it, you can through the small hole in the pitcher. It will take a while, but work effectively.