

Adventures with GOD!

ELISHA AND THE WIDOW (C.2.FALL.8)

Biblical Reference	2 Kings 4:1-7
Key Verse	Philippians 4:19
Key Concept	God cares about my physical and economical conditions. He provides for my needs.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss how God has met their needs and the needs of their families. 2. Tell the story of Elisha and the widow. 3. Say today's memory verse.

Life Application

Today's story reflects a common situation faced by many people, who struggle just to have enough money to put food on the table. In previous lessons, the children have talked about the difference between needs and wants. Today we will focus on the different ways that God shows care for us, by taking care of our physical needs. During this week the children will thank the Lord for all the ways God provides for them.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Game	Coins	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible illustrations	10 minutes
Dialogue	See instructions	10 minutes
Activity	Booklets, pencils	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (2 Kings 4:1-7) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Game: In advance get a bunch of smaller coins (4 or 5 for each child). If you cannot get coins, cut them out of paper. Before the children enter, hide the coins. When class begins, tell them to look for the hidden treasure. They need to find all the coins. When the game ends call them together and have them count the coins. Tell them that they are all winners. What about those who have more coins than others? Ask how they can resolve the situation? Perhaps those children that have more coins can give people who have fewer coins more, so that everyone has the same amount. Let them work out the situation. Explain that in the story today we are going to read about a woman who had very little and needed a miracle. God took care of her needs in a big way and God continues to meet our needs.

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Bible Exploration: Cut out several jars, like the ones in the illustrations. While telling the story in 2 Kings 4:1-7 (it's important to have read it previously so you can tell it in your own words), paste the jars on dark colored paper. Keep gluing or taking on more and more jars (Keep the illustration for use at another time).

Dialogue: What did the widow in the story need? How must she have felt before God provided for her needs? How must she have felt after Elisha performed the miracle? What was her response? What should be our response when we see God responding to our needs? Talk with children about how God supplies all our needs. Ask them to make a list of things we need (i.e., food, shelter and clothing). Then ask them what needs God has supplied in their lives, helping them to see that it is God who supplies the needs through the work of their parents, community services (provided by governments and taxes), the help of others, and so on. Sometimes we think that we are the ones providing for our needs, but it is always God who is giving us what we need!

Activity: The verses used today in their booklets are:

Tasks: 2 Kings 4:1

Miracle: 2 Kings 4:3-7

Problem: 2 Kings 4:1-2

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

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Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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Illustration

Jugs

