



Elisha and the Widow

2 Kings 4:1-7



In class today . . .

. . . we learned about Elisha, a prophet in the kingdom of Israel during the reigns of four kings (849-795 B.C.). Elisha's ministry included aiding individual persons in distress, as in this story.

Talk with your child about . . .

. . . the need for comfort and security in our lives. People sharing their jars and the increasing of the oil might not resonate with the children, but the idea of the characters being saved through this miracle can. Your child can well understand the difficulties experienced in this story. All families have difficulties. A comfort for us is the knowledge that God is with us, especially in times of difficulty.

You may wish to spend some time talking about the value of oil, for its value is quite different now. Children may find it difficult to understand how valuable it was in biblical times. This understanding is important in how they read this story.

Discover Connections

Look at your church's pictorial directory. Notice the different families and the family connections. Show how families are connected. Let your child participate in this connecting. Talk about it, using questions such as: Who in this church is in our family? Who are our friends?

Explain to your child that the woman's family in today's Bible story also included her friends. Then look at the directory again and include the friend connections.

Something to Remember

"Go sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your children can live on the rest."

—2 Kings 4:7

Catechism Question

Question 6. How do you love God?

By worshiping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

—*Belonging to God: A First Catechism*

Main Idea

Elisha answers the pleas of a widow.

Helping

Discuss two things with your child: 1) What can I do to help somebody in my family feel my love? and 2) What does someone in my family do that makes *me* feel loved? Talk about how the answers to these two questions can happen today.

Prayer about Feelings

Make up a prayer together. Choose a feeling that you need to talk to God about. Pray this prayer or make up another:

God, right now, I feel _____.

I would rather feel _____.

Please help me.

I know that you are with me, whatever I am feeling.

Thank you for helping me with my feelings, and loving me no matter what.