

LESSON PLAN

ELISHA RAISES A BOY TO LIFE

2 Kings 4:8-41

Lesson Memory Verse: John 10:10 "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

Lesson Aim: Trust the Lord to give you eternal life, since He is the one who gave you physical life.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): How many of you know what stew is? (Let them tell you, if they can.) Yes, it is a thick soup with vegetables and meat in it. Elisha and his students made stew one day. (Read II Kings 4:38-41.) They did not have many vegetables, so one of the students went out into the field and found a strange vine with some gourds on it. He picked them and put them into the stew to help make it taste better, but what do you think happened? These gourds were poisonous and so they filled the whole pot of stew with poison. That meant that anyone who ate the stew would get very sick and possibly die. The students were disappointed that their stew was ruined. They were so hungry and they did not have much food left to eat. So what do you think they did? (Let them guess.) They went to Elisha and told him what had happened. It was no problem for him. He knew exactly what to do because God gave him special wisdom and power. He asked for some meal and when he put it in the stew, it made the stew good again. No more did the stew bring death to those who ate it, but it helped to give them life.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse also talks about **life**. It is found in John 10:10 in the last part of the verse. Our story told us how Elisha made the bad stew good again. By doing this, he kept his students alive. Our memory verse, however, is talking about a different kind of life. It tells how Jesus gives life to our souls, which is even more important than giving life to our bodies. What did Jesus say? He said, "**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**" Jesus came to this world that we might have life for our souls and that we might have it more abundantly. "Abundant" life means plenty of life. It is "abundant" life because it will last forever and it is with Him. Jesus always gives us more than we could ask or think. Life with Jesus is super and it gets better and better as we get to know Him better.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. The story in our lesson today is about a boy who received special life from God through Elisha. Listen carefully and see if you can tell me whether he received special life for his body or for his soul.

I. The Boy is Born (2 Kings 4:8-17)

Elisha and his servant, Gehazi, were treated very kindly by a great woman of Shunem and her husband. They made a special room for them in their home, so they could rest in comfort when they were traveling in the area. Elisha wanted to do something for them in return for their kindness. When he learned that they had no children, he promised the lady that she would have a son. She thought he was joking, but God gave her a son just as Elisha had promised. Who gave the baby boy his life? His parents, yes; but who gave his parents life to give to their boy? Yes, it was God. It is God that has given life to everyone.

WE: We have been given life from God. We could not live or move or breathe without God giving us that power (Acts 17:28). We should thank Him for giving us life. But He wants to give more than life for our bodies; He wants to give us life for our souls, too. Then we can live with Him forever. You can have that life when you ask Jesus to take your sins and become your Savior. Jesus said that when He gives you life for your soul, you are born again. You are in the family of God!

II. The Boy is Dead (2 Kings 4:18-32)

One day, after the boy had grown some, he was in the field with his father. Suddenly, he became very sick and cried, "My head, my head!" The father told a servant to carry him to his mother, which the servant did. The boy sat upon his mother's knees until noon, and then he died. The mother laid him on Elisha's bed and then went to get Elisha. She rode a donkey as fast as it could go until she got to Elisha. She knew the only hope for her son was Elisha because he had power from God. When Elisha learned that something was wrong with her son, he sent Gehazi ahead of him and gave him his staff to see if he

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could help the boy in any way. But Gehazi had no power to help the boy. When Elisha came to the house, he found the boy was lying dead on the bed that the woman had made especially for him and his servant.

WE: We will die sometime unless we are alive when Jesus comes for the believers in the Rapture. Have you ever known of a person who died? When a person's body dies, it does not move or breathe. When a person's body dies, his soul goes to Hell or to Heaven. Some people say the soul lingers around the body for a short time. The Bible does not tell us, this is so. The bodies of some people die when they are very old, but the bodies of other people die when they are very young. Therefore, it is always important to be ready to die, whether we are young or old. How can we be ready? We must have the life that Jesus gives by receiving Him as our Savior. When you ask Him to be your Savior, He will give you this life.

III. The Boy is Alive (2 Kings 4:33-37)

Elisha went into the room with the dead boy and shut the door and prayed to the Lord. He needed God's power to give life to this boy. Then Elisha lay on the boy until the boy became warm. Then he walked back and forth in the room and finally lay on the boy again. This time the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. The Lord gave life to the boy once again. But what kind of life was it? Was it life to his body or life to his soul? (It was life to his body.) It was a miracle of God that the boy had his life given back to him. Very few people have ever had this happen. The mother was very thankful to Elisha. Who else should she have thanked? (The Lord) I am sure she did thank the Lord. But as wonderful as it was to see this boy's body receive life once more, what would have been more wonderful? (To see his soul receive life from God) We do not know if the boy's soul received eternal life or not. We hope so.

WE: We must ask ourselves a very important question: "Does our soul have everlasting life?" The only way we can have everlasting life is for us to ask Jesus to save us from our sins and become our Savior. Then He will give us everlasting life.

BE (for Action): What is better than being born? (Being born again) What is worse than dying? (Dying without Jesus as my Savior and going to Hell.) What is better than having your body receive life again after it has died? (Having my soul receive eternal life from Jesus) How can you receive everlasting life from Jesus? (By asking Him to take away all of my sins and be my Savior) Have you done that? If you cannot remember a time when you asked Jesus to become your Savior and really meant it, then I urge you to do it today. (Have the children bow their heads and ask for those who want to receive Jesus as their Savior to raise their hands. Tell them that you will pray for those that raised their hands and will talk to them after class is dismissed.)