

LESSON PLAN

MIGHTY MIRACLES OF ELISHA

2 Kings 3 – 4:7

Lesson Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Lesson Aim: Trust the Lord to take care of all your needs, because He cares for His people.

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

KEY (for Attention): How many of you have ever watched birds? What do they do? (Eat; build nests; fly; etc.) Do you think a bird worries about where his next meal will come from? No! Birds search for food until they find it. God takes care of all the birds and provides them the food that they need (Mt. 6:26). Our Bible stories today will show us how God takes care of people who trust in Him. He took care of some rich kings and He took care of a poor widow.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us more about trusting in God. Let’s look at it in our Bibles. (Have them find Philippians 4:19 in their Bibles while you print the verse on a poster board or on a whiteboard. Use lower case letters, except for regular use of capital letters, when printing the verse. Children sometimes have difficulty reading capital letters.) This verse promises us that God will supply (give) us those things that we **need** if we trust Him. He does not promise He will give us all that we **want** because that would make us greedy and selfish. But God will give us the things that we need, like He gives the birds what they need. He has all the riches in glory (Heaven) to take care of us. Remember, Jesus Christ created the world and everything in it. He is God. And He can take care of all our needs. But first we must make sure that we have asked Jesus Christ to take away our sins. That is our greatest need. Then we can come to Him and ask Him to take care of our other needs.

Words and phrases to explain in the verse:

“**Supply**” – take care of, or give

“**Need**” – things crucial for life like food, clothing, and a house to live in, or power to defeat Satan

“**His riches in glory**” - the wealth that God has in Heaven to take care of our needs

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): *PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In this lesson you will lean how God takes care of those who trust in Him.*

I. The Miracle of the Water (2 Kings 3:1-27)

Jehoram became the king of Israel after Ahab died; he was Ahab’s son. He also was a sinful king that worshipped gold calves representing God, but he put away the Baal worship of his father. When he became king, the Moabites revolted against him and would not serve him. King Jehoram persuaded the kings of Judah and Edom to join their armies with his to punish the Moabites for their revolt. The three armies and all their horses and pack animals traveled through the hot, dry desert for seven days. When they ran out of water and could find no more to drink, King Jehoram began to worry. He could not see any way out of this problem. He thought God wanted them to be killed by the army of the Moabites. But Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, trusted in God. He knew that God would supply their needs. He asked if there was a prophet of God with them so they could find out what God wanted them to do. (God does not speak directly through prophets any more. God used prophets to write the Bible and that is what we must use to know what He wants us to do today.) A servant said that the prophet Elisha was with them. No doubt he was ministering to the soldiers as a chaplain. So the three kings went to see him.

When the kings came to Elisha, he almost refused to see the kings because of King Jehoram’s sinful worship of God as gold calves. But since King Jehoshaphat trusted in the Lord, Elisha asked God for help and got an answer from the Lord for their problem. The Lord spoke to Elisha and said something like this: “Make ditches all over this valley. These ditches will fill up with water but without either wind or rain causing it. Then all the men and animals will have water to drink. But the Lord will do more than this for you. He will also cause your armies to be victorious over the army of Moab.” The next day when they woke up, they saw that the ditches that they had dug were full of water. King Jehoshaphat trusted in God

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to care for him and God provided him and the other two kings along with their armies all the water that they needed to drink so they could stay alive.

But God did more with the water than to give them something to drink. In the morning when the Moabites saw ditches filled with water, they thought the water that looked red was the blood of the armies that killed each other during the night. They ran into the camp of Israel, Judah and Edom to gather the things that were left in their tents, but to their surprise, the armies of Israel, Judah and Edom were not dead. They rose up and quickly defeated the Moabites who were not prepared to fight.

WE: When things do not happen to us as we would like, what do we do? Do we give up and act like King Jehoram? Or do we trust in God to take care of us, like King Jehoshaphat? We need to trust God; He will take care of the needs of His people. But God has not promised to take care of those who do not belong to Him. Do you belong to Him? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? If you do not, I will help you to receive Jesus as your Savior after class today. Then He will take care of your greatest need.

II. The Miracle of the Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7)

Later, a woman came to Elisha with a problem. Her godly husband had studied under the teaching of Elisha, but he had died. Now she owed money to a man, but had no way to pay him the money that she owed to him. Now in those days, if someone owed money to a person and could not pay it, that person could take his/her children as payment for the debt and he would make the children his slaves. That is what this man wanted to do with this woman's children. She was broken-hearted and came to Elisha for help. Elisha asked her what she had in her house. She said that she had nothing, but a pot of oil. Elisha told her to borrow as many large, empty jars as she could find and bring them into her house. Then she was to close the door and pour the olive oil from her small pot into the large jars. Without doubting the prophet, she did exactly what he told her to do. This showed that she completely trusted God to take care of her needs, even though she was told to do a strange thing. Who ever heard of oil from a small pot filling many large jars? But she believed and did as Elisha had told her until every large jar was filled. What a miracle! Then Elisha told her to sell the oil, pay off the bill to the man, and live with her sons on the extra money from her sale of the oil.

WE: Do we trust God to care for us even when it looks like His way of doing it is foolish? Tithing, giving God ten percent of all the money we get, may seem like a foolish way to stay out of debt, but God has promised to take care of our needs with the money that is left over after we have tithed. Will you begin to give God at least ten percent of all the money you get and trust Him to take care of you? You must obey God to get His blessings just like the woman obeyed God in our story.

BE (for Action): Who did not trust in God to take care of him? (Jehoram) What did he do instead? (Gave up and was ready to die) Who did trust in God to take care of him? (Jehoshaphat) Who trusted in God in the second story? (The woman) What did Jehoshaphat and the woman get from God? (God took care of their needs.) How can we learn to trust God to care for us? (Read these stories in the Bible; memorize Philippians 4:19; believe God's Word; and pray for God to supply your needs.) How many of you have real needs today? (Try to help them see the difference between wants and needs.) Who of you will trust God to take care of those needs? Who will pray right now for God to take care of our needs? (Allow as many as wish to pray.)