



Elisha Saves a Woman's Son

(based on 2 Kings 4:8-37)

Elisha was one of God's prophets. It was his job to travel from place to place and pass on God's messages.

One day, Elisha came to a town called Shunem (SHOO-nuhm). While he was there, he met a wealthy woman who invited him home for a meal. Elisha became friends with the woman and her husband. He ate with them every time he came to Shunem.

Sometime later the woman said to her husband, "Let us make a small room for Elisha on the roof. Then he can stay with us whenever he comes to Shunem."

They called for some workers to come and build a comfortable room for Elisha. When it was finished, the woman and her husband got everything ready for the prophet. They brought in a bed for Elisha to sleep in when he was tired and a stool to sit on. There was a table with a lamp to light the room at night.

When Elisha came to Shunem, the woman and her husband showed him the room. The prophet was very thankful to have such a lovely place to stay and rest.

About a year later, the woman and her husband had a son. Elisha enjoyed visiting with the little family when he came through Shunem.

One day, when Elisha was at Mount Carmel, the young boy got very sick and died. The Shunammite woman laid her dead son on the bed in Elisha's room and left at once to find the prophet.

When she found Elisha, the woman fell to the ground. She was crying.

"What happened?" asked Elisha.

"My son has died," she sobbed. "Please, can you help?"

Elisha knew what to do. There was no time to lose. He and the woman hurried back to Shunem and went straight to the woman's house. When they got there, the prophet went straight upstairs to his room.

Elisha shut the door and prayed to God for a long time. He placed his hands on the boy and begged God to bring him back to life. Suddenly, the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. He was alive.

Elisha called the woman and told her to hug her son. What a celebration they had that night! Everyone said thank you to God for healing the boy and bringing him back to life.



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Use action figures or stuffed toys to act out today's story. Like the people in the story, be sure to thank God at the end.
- Let everyone draw a picture of their ideal getaway place, show their pictures to one another, and tell what they like most about their ideal place.



Responding to God's Grace

- The Shunamite couple gave Elisha a comfortable room. What would your children include in a guest room to make your guests comfortable?
- Elisha was such a good guest, the people built him his own room. Talk with your children about how to be a good guest. Let people take turns pretending to be a guest, and practice being considerate.
- Talk with your children about what to do when someone is badly hurt or seriously ill, and how to tell if outside help is needed. Talk about ways your children could get help, such as calling 911 or asking a neighbor or an adult.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Make thank-you cards for the first responders in your area. Deliver the cards to a nearby station.
- Have a family gathering to celebrate life, health, and being together. Share food and hugs!
- Pray:

God, we thank you for people who bring us comfort. Amen.