

The Shunammite Woman's
Land Restored

2 Kings 8:1-6

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 8:6

“Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two balloons and masking tape.

A bucket of Legos, Tinkertoys or other blocks.

Construction paper (two sheets per child), scissors, glue and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Crab-walk Relay Race

This game will help the children get their energy out. You will need two balloons and masking tape. Using the masking tape, make a start line and finish line. Separate the class into two teams. Have each team line up at the starting line. Blow up the two balloons and give one to each of the starting children.

When you say, “go” the first children in line will go to the floor and will do a crab-walk. How they do that is by putting their hands and feet on the floor with their stomachs in the air. Next, they need to place the balloon on their stomach and balance it there as they head to the other side of the classroom. They will then return and pass the balloon to the next person in the relay.

For added excitement you can bring an electric fan and see if the balloon will stay on their stomachs. Have fun!

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever had to move to a new town where you didn't know anyone? Maybe your parents got a new job, which meant that they needed to move. It was probably hard to have to move to a new home, go to a new school, and make new friends.

Sometimes people have to move to another nation like some of our missionaries have done. The people are very different in other countries. They act and dress differently. It would take a lot of getting used to. But sometimes God calls us to do that.

In our story today, the Shunammite widow and her son had to move to another country. The Lord warned them through the prophet Elisha that there was going to be a big famine, which meant that there was not going to be enough food to eat, for seven years. If they stayed home, they would starve.

Sometimes God calls on us to do things that are not easy. The woman and her son had to leave their home, family, and friends and move to a land where they were strangers. There was no one to help them there but God. This took a lot of faith. They knew that they could trust God to take care of them. **God takes care of His people.**

We will learn in this lesson that God will always take care of us no matter what. It may be in different ways than we would like it to be, but He will always take care of us. The Lord faithfully helped the Shunammite woman. He will faithfully take care of us.

2 KINGS 8:1-2

Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years."

So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God, and she went with her household and dwelt in the land of the Philistines seven years.

When Elisha told the woman to leave because of the famine, she believed and followed God's leading. She and her family left their home and lived in the land of the Philistines for seven years.

What do you suppose she may have been thinking when the prophet Elisha told her that she would have to move? Maybe she thought, "I've always lived here, why do I have to move?" or "Why can't God just take care of me here?" Sometimes we may not always understand why God does things the way that He does, but we are only required to obey Him, not to understand everything.

The important thing here is that she obeyed what the Lord had commanded her to do through Elisha. The famine must have been pretty bad to force her to stay away for seven years. But by her moving to the land of the Philistines, the Lord was really taking care of her needs. She obeyed and the Lord blessed. **God takes care of His people.**

The "Following Instructions" Game

Sometimes the Lord may have us doing things that we don't always understand until we have come through it, or even later. Just like the Shunammite woman in our story today, we just need to obey. But as we see in our story, the Lord always took care of her every need. Use this activity to help reinforce the lesson and our need for obedience.

You will need a bucket of Legos, Tinkertoys or other blocks. Before class separate out 4 sets of 10-20 blocks and have the children get into pairs. The blocks in each set should be the same blocks. Take two pairs to begin.

Have the team decide who will go first. The person going second should turn around and keep their eyes closed. Give the first child 30 seconds to build anything they want. When the 30 seconds are up, don't allow the second person to see the creation, just the rest of the class. Now, give the second person their set of 10 - 20 blocks. The first person will now describe their creation to the second person who will have to make the exact same creation. Remember the second person can't look; they can only receive instructions from their partner. Give them 1 minute (since it is harder). Have the class decide which team came closest to the original creation. Allow all of the children an opportunity to play.

Reinforce with the children how important it is to listen to instructions and to follow them. We also need to be careful to obey the Lord.

2 KINGS 8:3

It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to make an appeal to the king for her house and for her land.

After the seven-year famine was over, the woman came home. She went to the king for the return of her house and land. It seems that maybe someone else had taken over her property or had claimed that it was theirs. Could you imagine having some property that you thought was yours only to come back seven years later and find out that someone else was there?

So she made an appeal all the way to the king in order to get her land back. An appeal is a request or asking the king to help her to get her land back. The Lord can work through kings or government officials to help the right thing to be done. So she goes to the king.

2 KINGS 8:4-5

Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done."

Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life."

Just as the woman came into court to beg for her house and land back, Elisha's servant, Gehazi, was talking to the king about all the miracles of God that Elisha had been doing. As he told the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, he looked up and saw her and her son coming in. He pointed them out and said, "This is the woman and her son whom Elisha restored to life!"

Talk about perfect timing! It's amazing how God takes care of us no matter what. **God takes care of His people.** Because she was there appealing for her land while Gehazi was talking to the king she will get her request.

There are times in our lives that God works great things. Sometimes He will have us in the right place at the right time in order to help someone or to show the Lord's kindness and love to someone. We have to be sensitive to what the Lord is doing so that we don't miss out on His blessings.

2 KINGS 8:6

And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now."

The king asked her if this was true and she told him about Elisha and what God had done for her and her son when He restored her son to life. The king assigned an official to her case and restored all the income from her land for the seven years that she was gone and gave this to her too.

Do you think that her coming into court just as the king and the servant of Elisha were talking about her and her son was a coincidence? No. This was God's plan to take care of her.

Because she was faithful, trusted, and obeyed God, she not only got back her house and land that she went to beg the king for, she got back everything else she had owned and the income for all the time she was gone. God blessed her for her faith during these difficult years. **God takes care of His people.**

God has a wonderful plan for our lives. If we believe and trust in Him, He will take care of us. He will provide for us during the difficult times and will bless us for being faithful to Him. What we need to do is to be sure to be obedient to the Lord when He speaks to our hearts. God certainly had a plan for the Shunammite woman. He wasn't done working in her life and was going to take good care of her.

In closing, let's read a wonderful verse about how that God takes care of us.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Open The Door

When we need help we should always go to the Lord to ask Him for help! Jesus said in Luke 11:9 - “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Our craft in this lesson will help us to remember to come to the Lord.

You will need two sheets of construction paper per child, one can be any color and the other should be brown. You will also need scissors, glue and markers. Have the children cut out a door from the brown paper. They can decorate the door by using a marker. Have them glue the door to the other sheet of construction paper. Leave enough room for writing around the top, bottom and sides of the door. On the left side of the door write “Ask” vertically. On the top of the door write “Seek” horizontally. On the right side, write “Knock” vertically. On the bottom, write Luke 11:9. On the inside of the door write “and it will be opened to you!”

Allow the children to color or decorate their craft with other items. Remind them that this is what is pictured when the Shunammite woman went to the king to ask for help. We can go to the Lord, or king, anytime to ask for His help.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to always trust in the Lord and obey Him. Also thank the Lord for His wonderful care for us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.