



## Lesson 2—Our Creator

# *Supplies Our Needs*

### II Kings 4:1-7

#### Memory Verse

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19)

#### Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

**Define** the uses of olive oil and how it was made

**Locate** II Kings in the Bible

**Describe** the difference between our needs and our wants

**Express** in their own words how God knows what our needs are and how we trust in Him

#### Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities” for specific activities

## Teacher’s Bible Study

**E**lisha was a prophet in Israel who carried on after the death of Elijah. Elisha was a prophet for more than fifty years in Israel. Prior to Elijah being taken up into heaven, Elisha had asked for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit (II Kings 2:9). This request was granted. Over the years, Elisha did many miracles, and as a point of interest, the Bible does report twice as many miracles of Elisha as Elijah.

There are a series of miracles reported in II Kings 4. These miracles that Elisha performed reinforce how God is not only interested in kings; He is interested in ordinary people. God is concerned about everyone’s needs on a daily basis. These miracles are compared to the miracles of Jesus (when Elisha raised the dead son of the Shunammite, multiplied loaves to feed a hundred, etc.). Finally, these miracles show the love of God. They show how God wants to enrich and save each of our lives.

This week’s story is about a man who incurred a huge debt and then died, leaving his wife and two sons. It was not an uncommon practice, in those days, that creditors could force a debtor to pay in money or sell the wife and children into slavery. This particular widow was faced with having to find a large amount of money or give up her two boys to slavery.

The widow appealed to Elisha for help. He told the widow to borrow containers from all her neighbors and then to transfer the oil from her only remaining pot of oil into the empty vessels. The pot continued to pour oil until all were filled, and her own pot still had oil remaining. She was able to sell enough oil to pay the debt and she and her sons to live on the remaining sum. The miracle of the oil enabled the widow to save her two sons from slavery.

Oil in Palestine, during Elisha’s time, was used both as a luxury and as a necessity. The Egyptians were known to use oil extracted from vegetables and animals. The most common type of oil was olive oil. The olives were sometimes beaten (Leviticus 24:2), sometimes trodden (Micah 6:15), but generally crushed in a mill designed for that purpose. Olive oil was used almost every day by everyone. It was expensive because it was time-consuming to make. One olive tree will yield about ten gallons of oil a year.

There were many purposes for the oil. It was used for lighting, medicinal purposes, cooking, and even for cosmetics and soaps. In the tabernacle, pure olive oil was used in the golden lampstand. Cuts and scrapes on animals and humans would be rubbed with olive oil to help the healing process. Priests, prophets, and the kings of Judah and Israel were anointed with the finest of olive oils. Queens would put it on their body.

In preparing for this week’s lesson, read and know the story in II Kings 4:1-7. In addition to this, read Psalm 46 and Psalm 104.

## Presenting the Bible Story

**Teacher**—if you have experienced the loss of a family member, share it with your students. *Not the details*, but how you felt

### II Kings 4:1

Read Matthew 6:8  
“For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him”

### II Kings 4:2

### II Kings 4:3

### II Kings 4:4-7

*Introduce memory verse*

### Art and Activities

**Explore the following questions with your students:**

To begin your lesson ask your students some of the following questions: Has anyone close to you and your family died? Who was this individual? When this happened, how did you feel about it? Explain to your students that it is natural to feel angry, sad, or scared, when someone you love gets sick, loses a job, has an accident, or dies. Today’s Bible story is about a family that was suffering from great loss, and all the feeling that accompany it.

During the time of Elisha, there was a school for prophets. Elisha was one of the leading teachers. The wife of one of the prophets made an appeal to Elisha for help when her husband died. This verse tells us that her husband feared and served the Lord. If a widow could not pay her debt, it was not uncommon that her children would be taken as slaves.

The widow had only one thing in her house. It was a jar of oil.

The widow’s faith may be measured by the number of jars she collected. God has provision enough for the amount of faith and obedience we show. Sometimes we may lack the faith and the obedience to do what we should. God can and will do more than we ask. Read Ephesians 3:20.

The beneficiaries of God’s grace, the widow and her sons, were the only ones to see the miracle occur. This is why the door was shut. God did provide the oil for every jar. The widow did as Elisha told her. She payed her debts and had enough to live on.

If something happens to your family, what should you do? First, go to God in prayer. God knows your needs. He cares about you and your family. He will give you peace and help you work out a solution to the problem. Remember, that God is able to turn a very bad situation into something very good for you. Trust Him!

## Teaching Activities

### Activity Pages

Provide a copy of the Activity Page suitable for each of your students. Provide pencils and crayons.

### Art Activity

Make an oil lamp: Purchase potter’s clay from a craft store. Give each student a clump of clay about the size of a tennis ball. Press thumbs down into the middle and form a bowl. Pinch one end of the bowl so it looks somewhat like a gravy boat. Dry completely. You may have to wait until the next Sabbath to pour the oil into the bowl. Put a wick into the bowl and light. Emphasize with the children that they are NEVER to light this without a parent.

## Explore the Subject

1. How do you think the sons felt when their dad died?
2. How do you think the widow felt when she found out that her sons

could be put into slavery?

3. Did the widow and her sons show faith?

4. How was their faith measured?

## **Respond and Reinforce**

**Always close your  
class with prayer**

1. What is olive oil and how is it made?

2. How was olive oil used during Bible times?

3. What is the difference between our needs and our wants?

4. Does God provide for our needs?

## Activity

### The Widow and the Oil

II Kings 4:1–7

Read the story of Elisha and the widow.  
Find the words hidden the word search puzzle below.



ELISHA

SERVITUDE

TRUST

HOLY MAN

VESSELS

PROPHET

OIL

NEED

MIRACLE

BORROW

WANT

SUPPLY

SLAVES

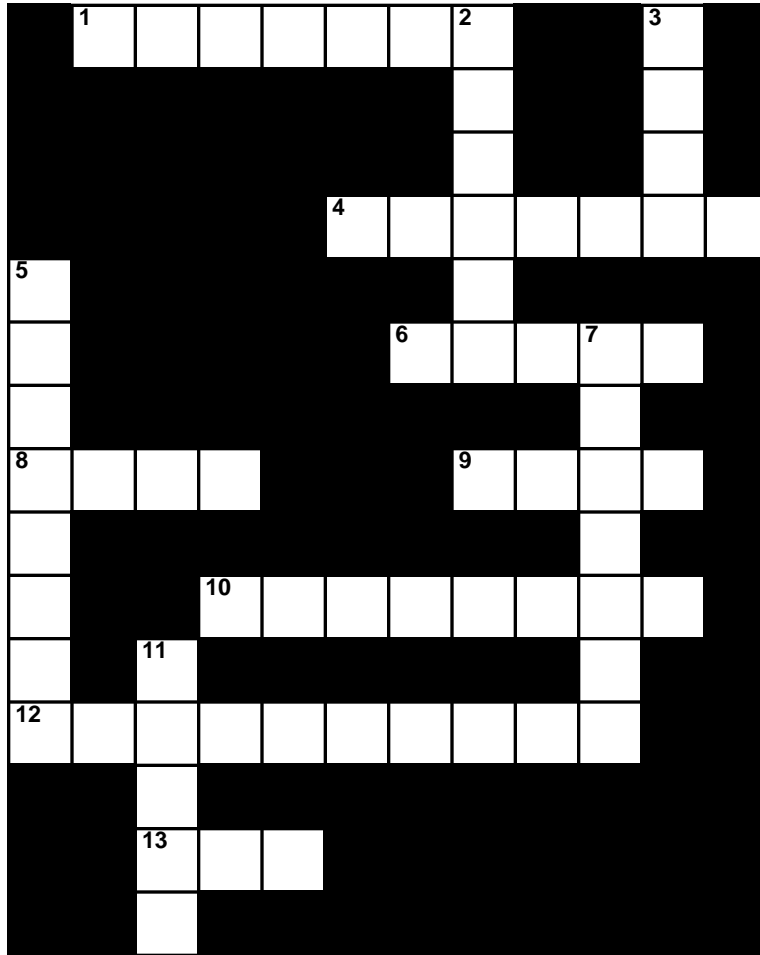
FAITH

CREDITOR

# Activity

## A Widow's Appeal to Elisha II Kings 4:1-7

Read the Scriptures to complete the crossword puzzle below.



### Across

1. An occurrence that surpasses all known human powers or natural forces.
4. A hollow or concave utensil for holding liquids.
6. Confidence or trust; belief that is not based on proof.
8. A liability or obligation to pay or render something.
9. A means of access.
10. A person or firm to whom money is due.
12. A fellow human being; or one who lives near another.
13. A viscous, combustible liquid.

### Down

2. The successor of Elijah.
3. Completely filled.
5. A person who by means of a bond becomes the surety of another person.
7. The creditors came to make the widow's \_\_\_\_\_ bondsmen (two words; II Kings 4:1).
11. A woman who has lost her husband by death.

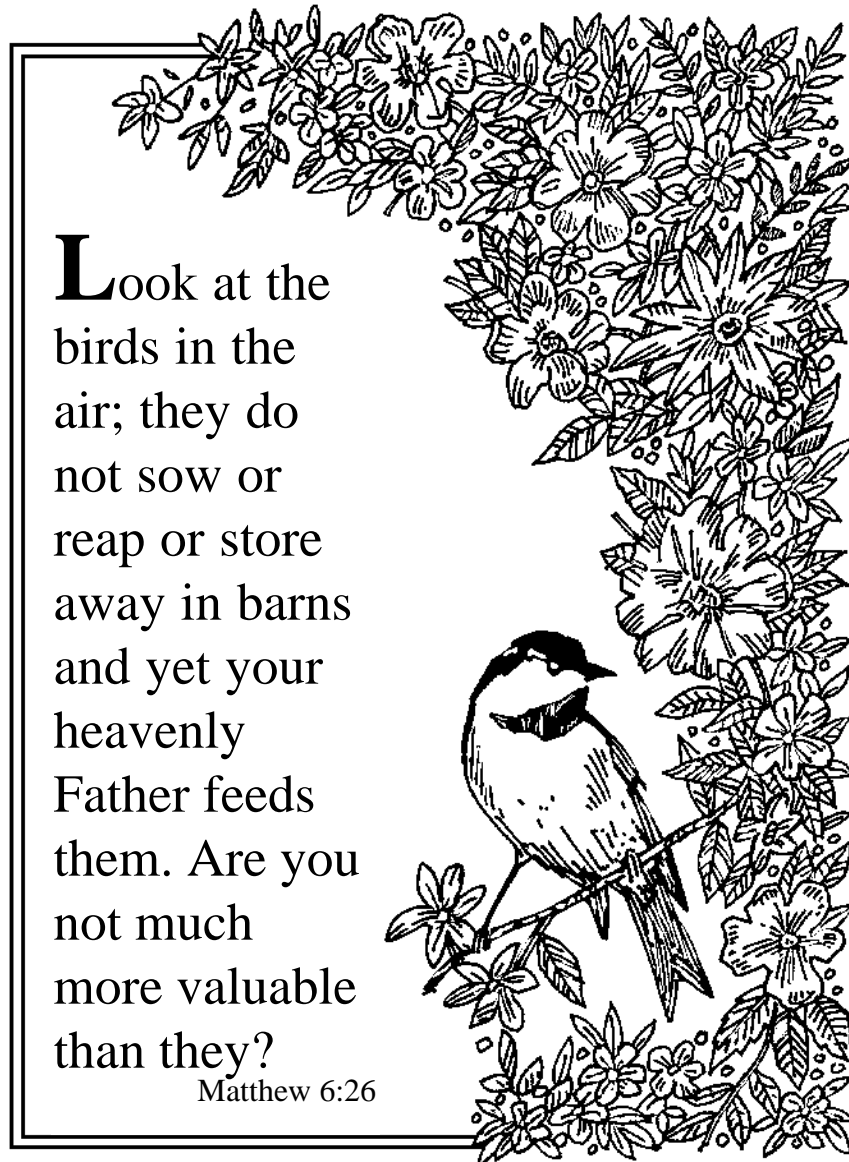
Across: 1. Miracle; 4. Vessels; 6. Faith; 8. Debt; 9. Door; 10. Creditor; 11. Neighbour; 13. Oil. Down: 2. Elisha; 3. Full; 5. Sons; 7. Two sons; 11. Widow.

## Activity

### Our Creator Supplies Our Needs

Our heavenly Father loves us very much and watches over us daily.

Color the picture and give it to someone you love.

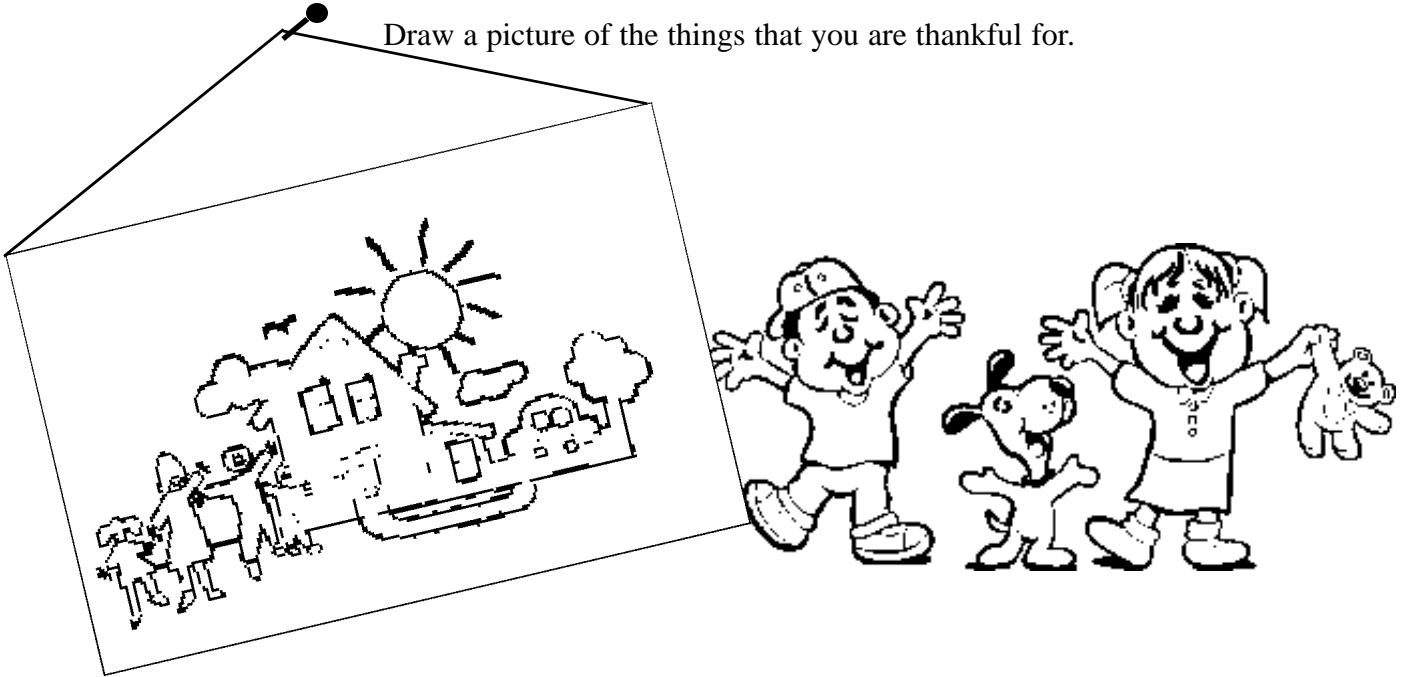


## Activity

# Our Creator Supplies Our Needs

This is the picture that Trina and Bobby drew of the things they are thankful God has given them.

Draw a picture of the things that you are thankful for.



**I am thankful to God for:**

A large, empty rectangular box intended for a child to draw or write their response to the prompt above.