



Lesson 3—Our Creator *Gives Us Our Homes*

II Kings 4:8-17

Memory Verse

“Behold, how good
and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell
together in unity!”
(Psalm 133:1)

Teacher’s Objective

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

Define what a home is

Locate Mount Carmel,
Shunem, and Gilgal
on a map

Describe what a home was
like during biblical times

Express in their own words
how they will go about
making their homes a
pleasant place to live

Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities”
for specific activities

Teacher’s Bible Study

The very analogy of God’s church as the “mother” of Christians shows that from God’s point of view both father and mother have specific roles. Both are absolutely *essential*.

The ideal for a family is two parents working together in mutual respect and love creating a safe and happy home for all who live there. The bond created between the parent and the child is the most durable of all.

The role of the father in a family is crucial to a child’s sense of “self.” It is a father’s example that can teach a child more than words. The father’s time, effort, patience, and humor are evidence of the love they have for their children and wife. Our heavenly Father is the standard for the father to follow: deep concern, vigilant care, the necessities of life provided, patience, grace, forgiveness when we err, ready to teach, and discipline for the good of the child, not done in anger. If we follow His example we will have the honor and respect of our children.

The spiritual responsibility of the church to nurture, protect, care for, instruct and even discipline God’s children is analogous to the responsibilities of the mother’s role to nurture, protect, care for, instruct, and discipline her offspring. In addition, the Bible describes that a fundamental responsibility of a wife is to *sustain* the home environment (“keepers at home,” Titus 2:5).

But Proverbs 31 reveals that a woman’s responsibility and opportunity is far broader than those who might interpret “domestic” responsibilities as only cooking and cleaning. Instead, the ideal wife is pictured as one who has creatively developed her talents and interests within the covenant of marriage. She is fully trustworthy, skilled, hard-working, and diligent in seeing about those she cares about. She is greatly loved and respected because her focus is on the health and welfare of her family. She has a keen sense of financial risk and responsibility (verse 16), has sharp business acumen (verses 18, 24), and is a competent administrator (verse 15). Such a woman is depicted as being “far more precious than jewels” (verse 10).

This passage is reassuring to all women. Its lessons can be transferred to our lives today.

The last lesson is in stark contrast to this week’s story about a well-to-do Shunem woman and her husband. The woman and her husband obviously were gracious and benevolent hosts. It is a charming story of how a husband trusted in the wisdom of his wife and allowed a room to be built for Elisha. Out of kindness and wanting to provide a weary wayfarer with a little comfort—a temporary home—the Shunem woman acted. She had no selfish motive. Her concern was for the welfare and comfort of the familiar traveler past her home. She wanted to be of service to others.

God will reward our efforts of service to others.

Presenting the Bible Story

II Kings 4:8-10

The wealthy Shunem woman wanted to be a blessing to God, and fulfill what she perceived Elisha needed. What he needed was a home to rest in as he journeyed from Mount Carmel to Shunem to Gilgal.

A room on a roof was a sign of prosperity.

We know the Shunammite couple was wealthy because a room on a roof was a sign of prosperity. It would take time and money to build a home, and so only a wealthy man could add a room on a roof. In an Israelite house, there was very little privacy. A home during this time was built more for shelter rather than for comfort. Most homes had a single room where everyone in the family would sleep on reed mats. The main building materials for a home were stone or bricks made from clay and straw.

II Kings 4:11-13

Elisha was grateful to the man and the woman for all that they had done for him. Elisha wanted to repay their kindness. Elisha may have asked Gehazi his servant to ask the woman because he felt she would be more likely to tell Gehazi rather than Elisha. Her reply was that she was in need of nothing. She was content.

II Kings 4:14-16

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward”
(Psalm 127:3)

It was the servant, Gehazi, that noted that the woman did not have a son and probably would not have a son because her husband was old. You could compare this couples plight with that of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18:10-14). To be childless in Israel was considered a personal tragedy. The Shunammite woman’s reply was somewhat like Sarah’s. She felt it was impossible because of the age of her husband. She also did not want to get her hopes up only to be disappointed.

“The woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.” The birth of this son was the Shunammite woman’s gift or reward from God for her kindness and goodness to Elisha.

II Kings 4:17

God saw to the needs of two individuals in this story. He provided Elisha with a home and the Shunammite woman with a child.

Teaching Activities

Art and Activities

Activity Pages

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

Art Activity

Find a picture of what a house looked like during Bible times, using the encyclopedia or other books about life during this time. Use shoe boxes or other small boxes, construction paper, clay, etc. and build a home. Color with either marking pens, crayons, or paint. This is a project that could be done on a small scale for each child or as a class project.

Explore the Subject

Explore the following questions with your students:

1. If the man in today’s story had not allowed his wife to build a room for Elisha, or had gotten angry would this have provided a pleasant home? *No.* What else would the man have lost by being inhospitable? *A son.*

2. What makes a good and pleasant home?

Respond and Reinforce

**Always close your
class with prayer**

1. Did God provide and give you your home?

2. What can you do to make your home a pleasant place to be?

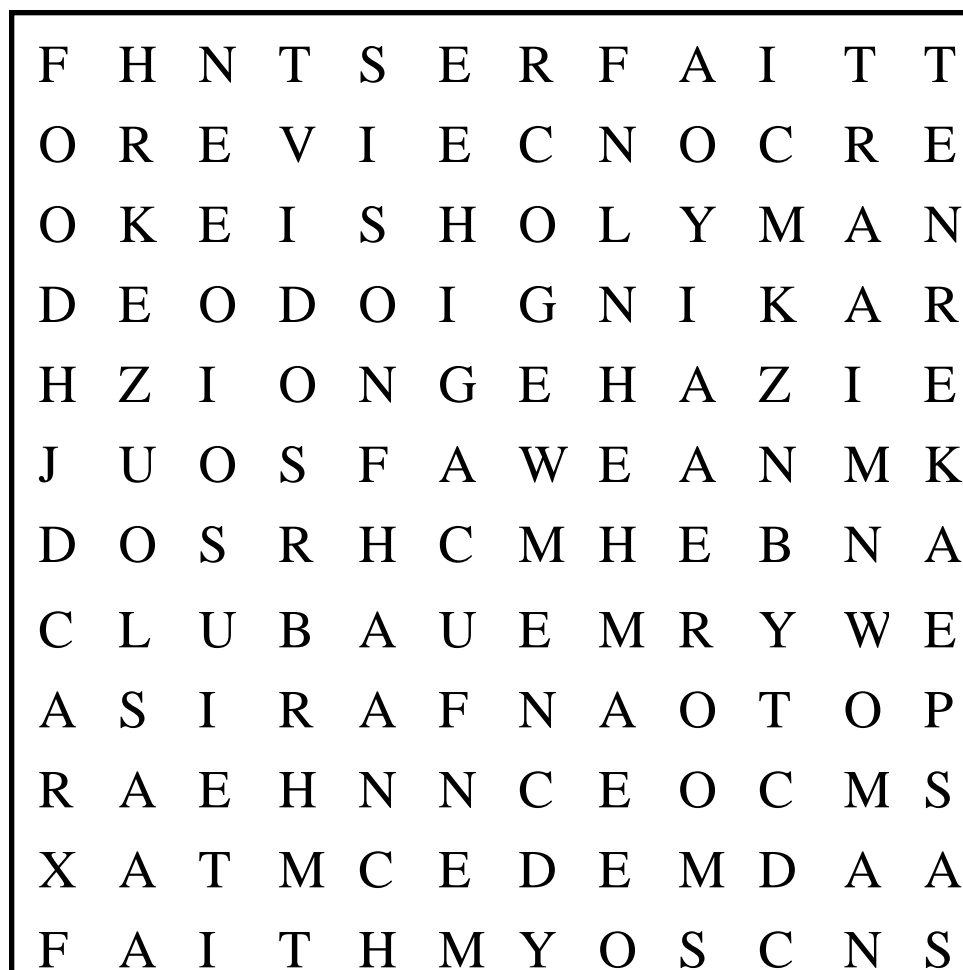
3. Discuss the memory verse.

Activity Page

Kindness is Repaid

II Kings 4:8–17

Read the story and find the words hidden in the word search puzzle below.



JOURNEY

SHUNEM

WOMAN

FOOD

HOLY MAN

ROOM

REST

GEHAZI

SON

HUSBAND

CONCEIVE

CHILD

CARE

SPEAK

KING

COMMANDER

EMBRACE

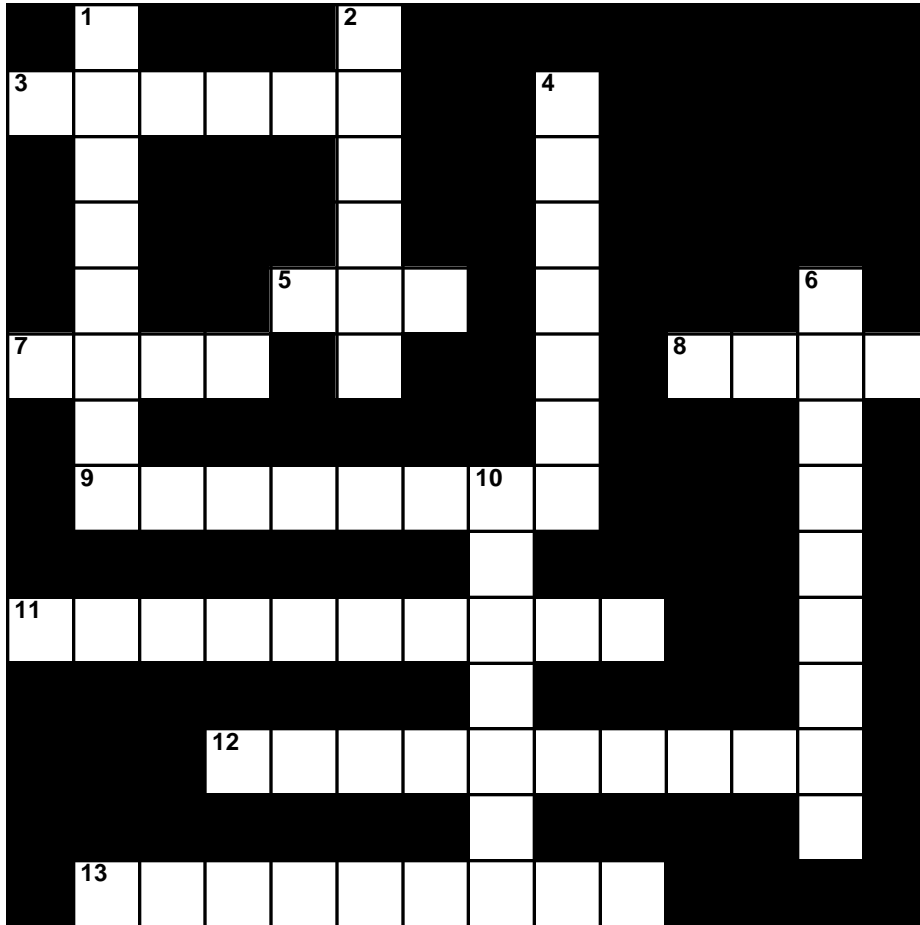
FAITH

Activity Page

Elisha Receives Hospitality

II Kings 4:8–17

Read the Scriptures and complete the crossword puzzle below.



Across

- 3. The servant of Elisha.
- 5. A parent's male child.
- 7. The residence or abode of a person.
- 8. A portion of space within a building that is enclosed from the outer parts.
- 9. An outsider.
- 11. Receiving or entertaining guests or strangers warmly.
- 12. "Call this _____. And when he had called her, she stood before him" (II Kings 4:12).
- 13. Without sons or daughters.

Down

- 1. Liberal in giving or sharing.
- 2. The quality of using discernment or insight.
- 4. A private room in a house, especially a bedroom.
- 6. Something brought into being.
- 10. To enfold within your arms.

Activity Page

Our Creator Provides Homes

Draw a line from the objects on the left to their home on the right.

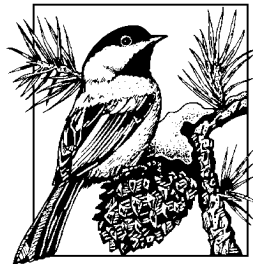
Dog



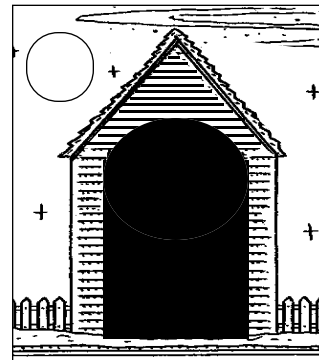
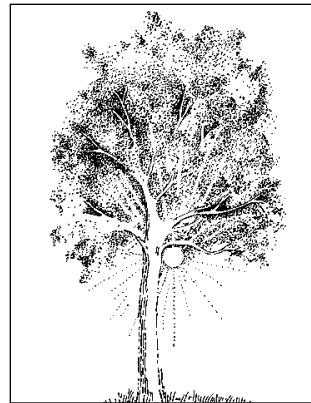
Squirrel



Bird



Deer



Activity Page

Our Creator Gives Us Our Homes

God blesses us with our homes and families. Make a list of the things you like about your home.



What I like about my home:
