



## Lesson 4—Our Creator *Cares When We are Sick*

### II Kings 4:18-37

#### Memory Verse

“And the prayer of faith  
shall save the sick...”  
(James 5:15)

#### Teacher’s Objective

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

*Define* the word *faith*

*Locate* Mount  
Carmel on a map

*Describe* how God knows  
and cares when we are sick

*Express* in their own words  
how they will trust in God

#### Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities”  
for specific activities

### Teacher’s Bible Study

**D**ivine healing is a miracle which God in His mercy and love may extend to those who call upon Him in time of need, according to faith and/or other factors. Christians are encouraged to appreciate this special benefit from God as well as to do everything they can for themselves in times of illness or injury by seeking the most competent professional help. Faith in God for healing does not conflict with the use of modern medical science. The healings of Jesus Christ demonstrate and represent His power to express compassion, to forgive sin, and ultimately to resurrect the dead and establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

Healing is a continuous biblical theme running from Genesis, where God healed Abimelech and his wife and female slaves so that they bore children (Genesis 20:17), to Revelation, where the leaves of the tree of life will be for the healing of the nations in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 22:2). Yet it cannot be denied that God has extended the miracle of healing in different degrees for different purposes at different times. People have not always been healed with the same regularity or for the same reason.

There are few healings recorded in the Old Testament. The very fact that God gave laws of quarantine to ancient Israel proves that He did not instantly heal every disease, even in His theocratic state. This indicates that such divine intervention is not necessarily common even when God is working with specific individuals and groups, and promises to be their Healer.

Healing in the Bible is not a simplistic algebraic equation relating faith and healing. God healed for different reasons in different circumstances. God healed Hezekiah from a deadly sickness and added fifteen years to his life because he respected Hezekiah’s heartfelt prayer in which he recounted to God, with tears, his utter loyalty, sincerity, and uprightness. God healed Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army, of leprosy at a time when there were numerous lepers in Israel and Syria who were not healed; the full story in II Kings 5 not only indicates that the healing was a major factor in Israel’s international relations with Syria at that time, but also conveys many powerful lessons for people of all time.

The story of Elisha is similar, yet it has a “twist ending.” Elisha was a remarkable individual (II Kings 2–9). He asked for and received a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. A great number of miracles are recorded in his name; even after his death, Elisha’s bones brought a man back to life (II Kings 13:21). Despite the great powers bestowed and miracles performed through God’s Spirit, Elisha himself was not healed of some sort of sickness but actually died from it (verse 14).

Read the following scriptures to prepare for this week: Isaiah 38”Matthew 9:27–38; II Corinthians 12:1–10; and I Peter 5:1–10.

## Presenting the Bible Story

### II Kings 4:17–23

This week's story begins where we ended last week. Last week we ended with the Shunammite woman giving birth to a healthy baby boy. The child grew and one day went to the fields with his father. The young child became ill and complained of his head hurting. The child was taken to his mother, and died while his mother held him in her lap. When the young boy died his mother placed him in the room she had built for Elisha and closed the door. The thoughts of the Shunammite woman turned directly to Elisha.

### II Kings 4:24–26

#### A mother's plea

The woman knew where to find Elisha. With her servant she headed for Mount Carmel. Elisha saw her coming in haste and sent Gehazi to see what was wrong. When Gehazi questioned the woman about everyone being well, she answered, "It is well." Her answer shows a couple of things. She did not want to be delayed by the servant giving explanation of what had taken place. Her business was not with the servant, but with Elisha. She had to see the man of God.

### II Kings 4:27,28

Kneeling down and grabbing someone's feet was a sign of true humility. The reason Gehazi moved to push her away from Elisha was because he thought the behavior was inappropriate. There are times when God told his prophets what the situation would be before it happens. (I Kings 14:5), but not in this case. Elisha stopped him because he knew the woman was deeply upset about something for her to act in such a manner.

### II Kings 4:29–31

Knowing that Gehazi could travel faster alone Elisha sent Gehazi on ahead of them with instruction on what to do with the staff—the staff symbolized Elisha's authority as a prophet. The mother refused to leave Elisha. Following instructions Gehazi laid the staff on the boy's face—God would either honor this action, or He would ignore the gesture. When nothing happened Gehazi ran back to deliver the message to Elisha and the mother who were coming. Elisha continued on toward the house of the desperate mother.

### II Kings 4:32–35

Elisha came into the house and went into the room where the child lay. He closed the door and prayed earnestly to God. God heard and brought the child back to life.

This mother from Shunem showed great faith. She never gave up on God and His promise. Her actions revealed a strength of commitment. She believed God was in control of the situation and He would heal her son. In addition to her faith, we see God responding to people who trust in Him. Not in a staff to magically heal, or in Baal, but in the one true God.

## 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

Make a get well card for someone that is sick. Maybe a family member, school friend or neighbor.

## **Explore the Subject**

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

1. Prayer is important. Elisha prayed earnestly to God to heal the young boy. Can you learn to pray like Elisha?
2. Make a list of things you can pray for.
3. When you pray, do you trust that God hears your prayer?

## **Respond and Reinforce**

**Always close your class with prayer**

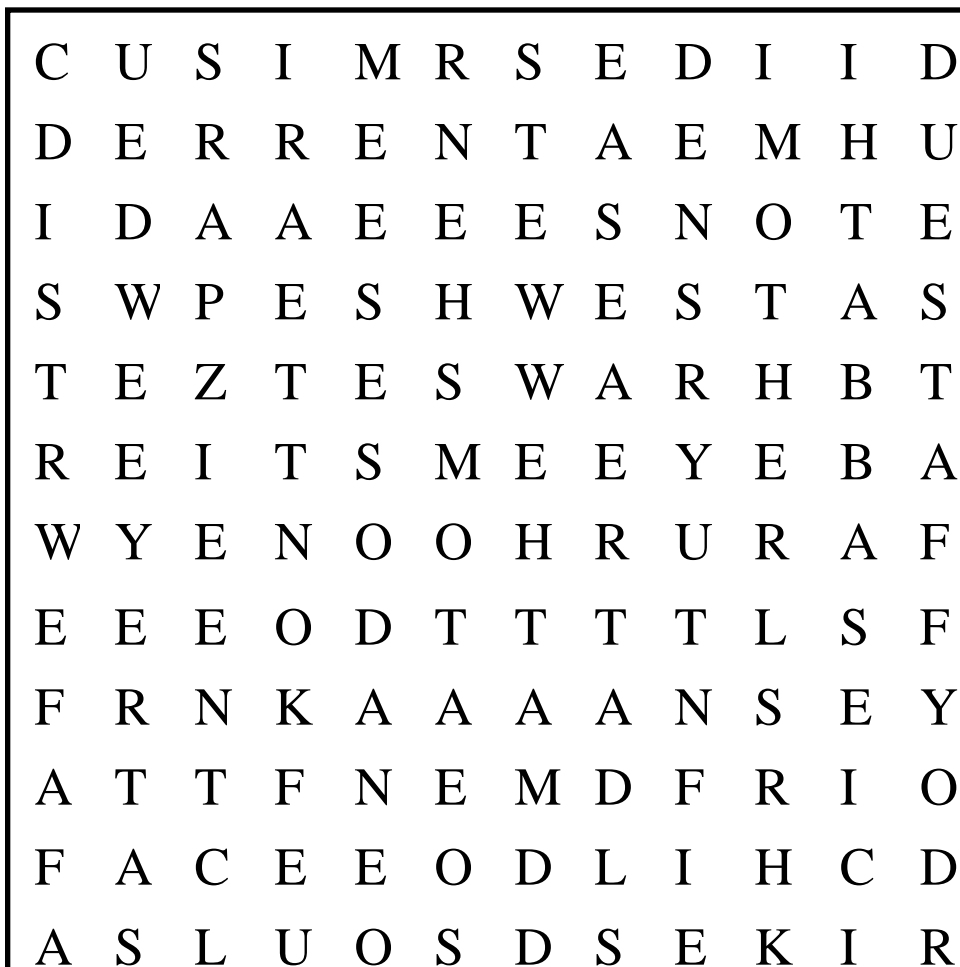
1. Have you ever made a promise you didn't keep?
2. Does God keep His promises?
3. What is an example of a promise from the stories we have read about Elisha where God has made a promise and kept it?
4. Discuss memory verse.

## Activity

### Elisha and the Shunemite Woman

II Kings 4:18–37

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



CHILD

NEW MOON

DISTRESS

HEAD

SABBATH

STAFF

REAPER

DONKEY

FACE

FATHER

FEET

SNEEZE

MOTHER

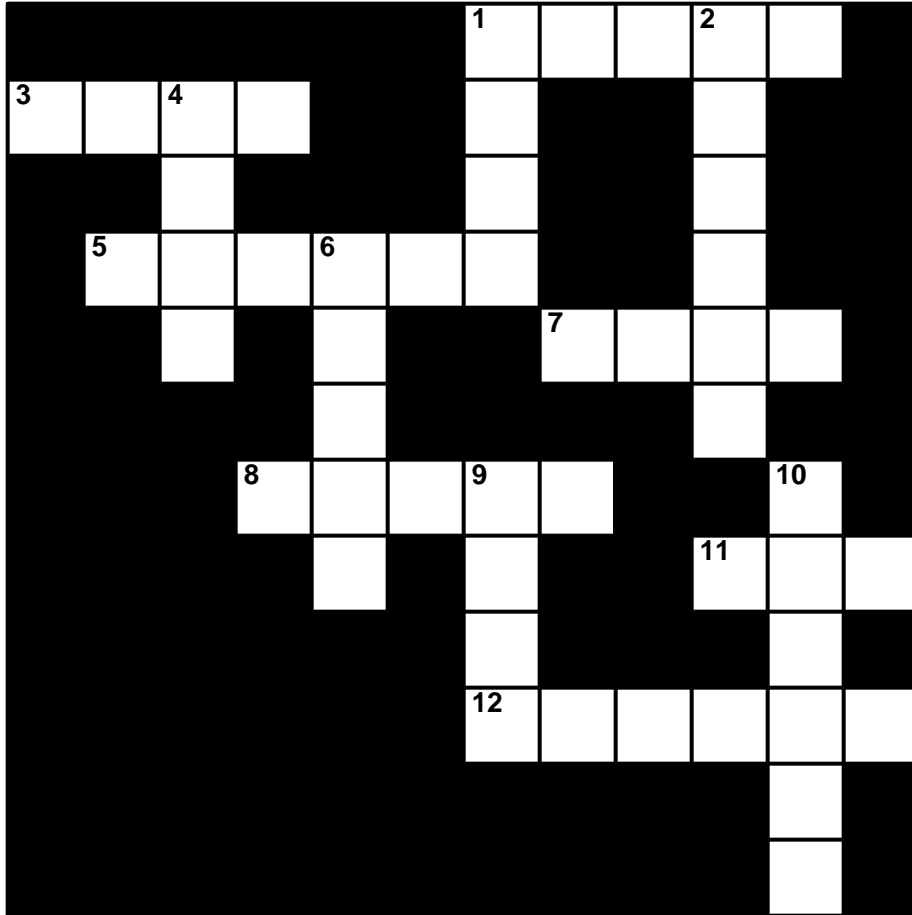
SOUL

WARM

# Activity Page

## Elisha Hears a Mothers Plea II Kings 4:18–37

Read the Scriptures and fill in the crossword puzzle below.



### Across

1. Elisha put his mouth, his eyes, and his \_\_\_\_ upon the child (II Kings 4:34).
3. Heated, imparting, or able to maintain heat.
5. A mountain ridge in NW Israel (II Kings 4:25).
7. The joint of the leg that gives movement, and joins the thigh with the lower part of the leg.
8. A stick or rod that is used for a combination of walking, climbing, or as a weapon.
11. Man-child.
12. The successor of Elijah.

### Down

1. To cure or make whole.
2. Domestic beast of burden descended from the African wild ass.
4. A way to gather.
6. The opening in the head that takes in food and water for nourishment.
9. The outward appearance.
10. The female parent.

Across: 1. Hands; 3. Warm; 5. Carmel; 7. Knee; 8. Staff; 11. Son; 12. Elisha. Down: 1. Heal; 2. Donkey; 4. Heap; 6. Mouth; 9. Face; 10. Mother.

## Activity Page

### Our Creator Cares When We are Sick

God watches over us when we are ill. Sometime He heals us with prayer. And sometimes He sends physicians to help make us better. Color the picture.



“And the prayer  
offered in  
faith will make the  
sick person well.”

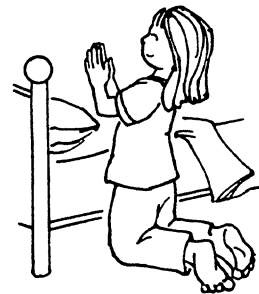
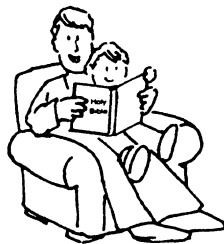
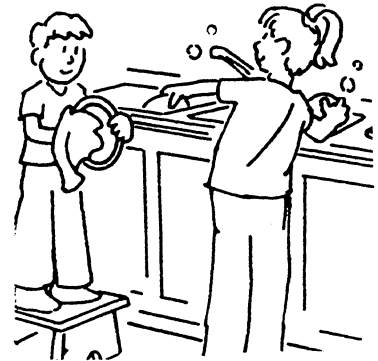
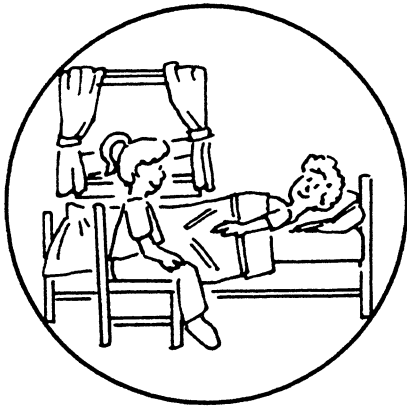
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# Activity Page

## Our Creator Cares When We are Sick

What are some things we can do for others if they are sick?

Circle the things you might do for someone who is ill or recuperating from being sick.



Can you think of anything else? List them:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____