



## Lesson 5—Our Creator *Gives Us Our Food*

**II Kings 3:9,  
16-20; 4:38-44**

### **Memory Verse**

“Oh give thanks to the  
Lord, for He is good? For  
His mercy endures forever”  
(Psalm 107:1)

### **Teacher’s Objective**

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

**Define** what a miracle is

**Locate** on a map Gilgal

**Describe** why Elisha  
was able to perform all  
these miracles

**Express** in their own  
words how God provides  
for them today

**Materials Needed**  
See “Teaching Activities”  
for specific activities

### **Teacher’s Bible Study**

**G**od is the total embodiment of love; He is the originator of law and the giver of every good and perfect gift. His many titles and names (Creator, Counselor, Healer, Self-Existent One, Father, Almighty, etc.) reveal His special qualities of character and personality. Yet it is God’s mercy and compassion that are paramount in giving full hope and confidence to fallible human beings who are sinners all.

Perhaps the most outstanding single characteristic of God is His total, unselfish love. This one quality is so much a part of God’s entire makeup that He is in actuality its total personification, and hence “is love” (I John 4:8). God has demonstrated His love for us in many ways: through the sacrifice of His son (John 3:16), by forgiving our sins, by strengthening our will and determination in the face of trials, and in countless other ways, such as providing for our every need (home, family, food, healing). But perhaps the single greatest expression of God’s love is that He has devised a plan to share Himself by reproducing Himself through man.

This master plan is indeed the greatest imaginable truth and the very reason why the entire universe was created. All human beings from all time shall have a full opportunity to become members of God’s Family. Mankind has been created in God’s image (Genesis 1:26) and put on earth to reject evil and thereby to build character so that each human being can be spiritually born into God’s Kingdom and Family. Thus God’s Family of two shall grow to billions, and God’s greatness shall be multiplied by as many times as the incredible number of sons God shall add to His Family.

The God of the Bible is both cosmic and personal. He is the Creator of the universe and at the same time is concerned for each human being. He sustains galaxies and controls the full scope of human history at the same time as He focuses His intense concern on each man, woman, and child who seeks Him. God is involved with the whole of mankind: in the rise and fall of governments, in the sweep of generations, in the ultimate direction of human society. Yet this same Being is intimately involved in the personal lives of human beings of every social stratum, race, and intellect. God is merciful to sinners; He is compassionate and deeply desires that we attain the greatest possible happiness and success.

As we have seen from the previous stories, God is concerned about our every need and He is there to meet those needs. This week’s lesson deals with four miracles Elisha performed. All three miracles provided sustenance for the body (that is, food and water).

To prepare for this week’s lesson, read the following stories found in the New Testament about how Jesus Christ provided for the needs of others: John 2:1–12; John 6:1–14; and John 6:22–59.

## Presenting the Bible Story

### **II Kings 2:19**

During the past few weeks, we have been learning from the Word of God how He cares about our every need. Now we will be reading about four miracles Elisha performed. All four show God's love in providing food and water.

### **II Kings 2:20–22**

*First miracle:*

Elisha purifies the water

While in the city of Jericho, the men of the city came to Elisha with a problem. This particular miracle was probably performed shortly after Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind. The problem was with the water. It was poisonous to drink and it did not nourish the crops.

### **II Kings 3:9,16–20**

*Second miracle:*

Elisha sends water

There is some symbolism here. Elisha said, "Bring me a new bowl." This new bowl could represent Elisha. He was now the new instrument God was using now that Elijah was gone. Next Elisha said "Put salt in it (the bowl)." Salt was an important ingredient to the people of this time. Salt would preserve and purify. Salt was used in the grain offerings (Leviticus 2:13). Have you ever tasted water that has salt in it? The clean water that came from the spring now was a constant reminder of God's power and blessing.

### **II Kings 4:38–41**

*Third miracle:*

Elisha purifies  
the pot of stew

Edom was under the control of Jehoshaphat. As we read, the army ran out of water and there was no water to be found. The water that God sent the people was an expression of His love for them. God told the people to dig ditches. Does this seem like an odd thing to do? God had a plan, as we shall see. Read verse 17. Why did God say that they would not see wind or rain? Could it be because the people would then think that it just happened to rain?

### **II Kings 4:42–44**

*Fourth miracle:*

Elisha multiplies the bread  
and feeds 100 men

Find Gilgal on the map. What is a famine? There is a famine in the land and Elisha set out to teach a lesson. The gourd that was sliced and put in the stew looked harmless, but it turned out to be deadly. The people of this time were spiritually hungry and they had turned away from God and His law. The pagan god, Baal, that they embraced did not look deadly, but it was.

Baal Shalisha is in the central hills of Ephraim. The response from the servant when he was told to give the food to the hundred men indicates that it would not be enough to feed all of them. Elisha assured his servant that it would not only be enough but that there would be leftovers.

God continues to give us food and water today because He loves and cares for us.

## 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**

Draw a picture of their favorite meal or their favorite food. Or, have the children make a collage using pictures of food from magazines. You will need to provide construction paper, glue, scissors, and magazines. Discuss the variety of food that God has given us.

## **Explore the Subject**

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

1. What is a miracle?
2. Why was Elisha able to perform these miracles?
3. How do these miracles show that Elisha cared for other people?
4. Did Elisha do a miracle that parallels a miracle that Jesus did?
5. Who has the ultimate power to perform a miracle?

## **Respond and Reinforce**

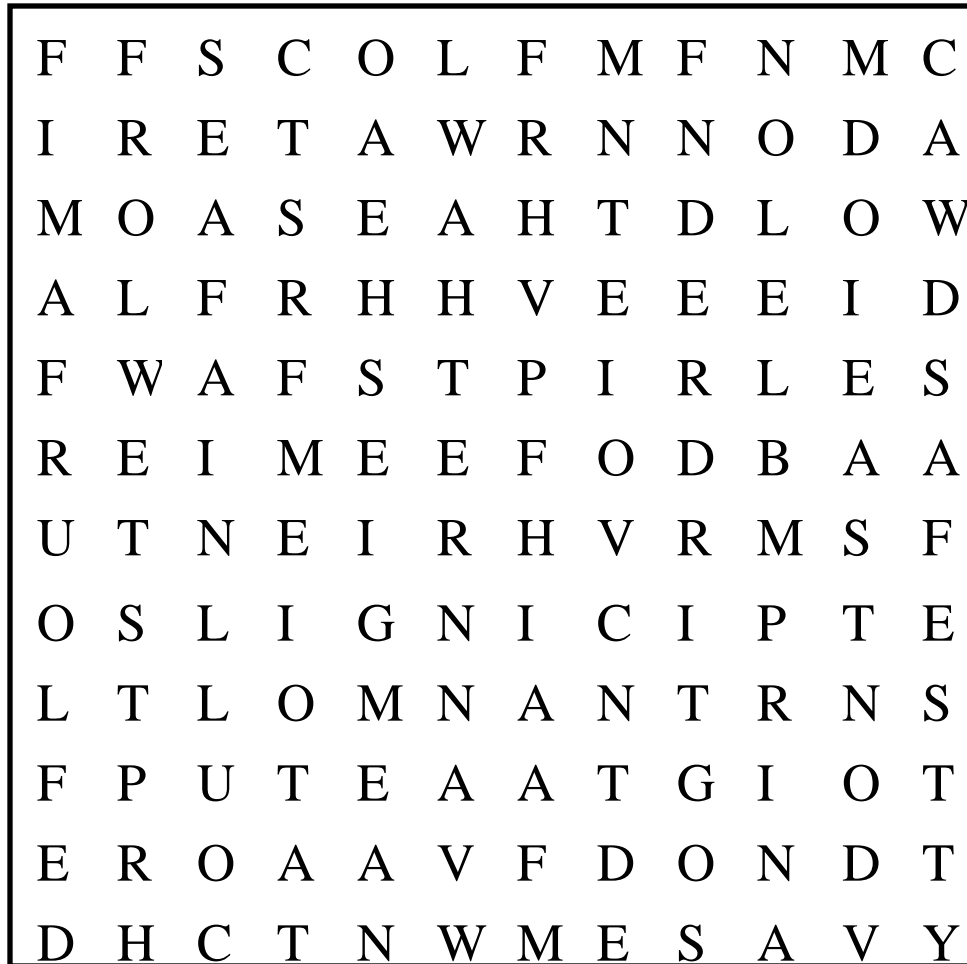
**Always close your  
class with prayer**

1. Does God provide food for us today?
2. How do we show thanks to God for what He does?
3. Discuss the memory verse

## Activity Page

### Elisha's Faith II Kings 3:9,16–20; 4:38–44

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



ANIMAL  
WATER  
FOOD  
DITCHES  
OFFERING  
EDOM

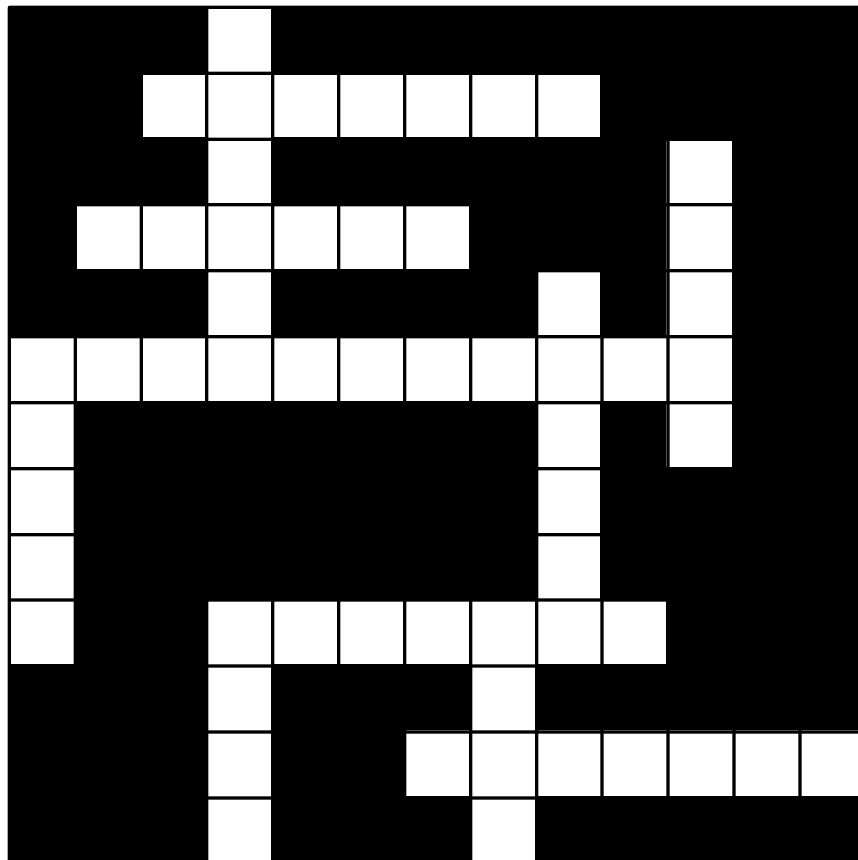
FAMINE  
STEW  
GOURD  
WILD VINE  
HERBS  
POT

FLOUR  
HARM  
SONS  
PROPHETS  
FIELD  
SAFE

## Activity Page

### God Provides Miracles II Kings 3:9,16–20; 4:38–44

Read the Scriptures and complete the crossword puzzle below.



#### Across

2. To sustain with food and nutrients for health.
4. A grain that has been cultivated since prehistoric times.
6. The first products of anything.
7. Any amazing or wonderful occurrence.
9. To furnish or supply with what is lacking or needed.

#### Down

1. Hard shelled fruit used for dippers, or ladles.
3. To allow without fear.
5. "Elisha came to \_\_\_\_\_; and there was a dearth in the land..." (II Kings 4:38).
6. Confidence or trust in a person or thing.
7. Ground seeds of a cereal grass.
8. Maize developed to be eaten as a vegetable while still soft.

Across: 2. Nourish; 4. Barley; 6. Firstfruits; 7. Miracle; 9. Provide. Down: 1. Gourds; 3. Trust; 5. Gilead; 6. Faith; 7. Meal; 8. Corn.

## Activity Page

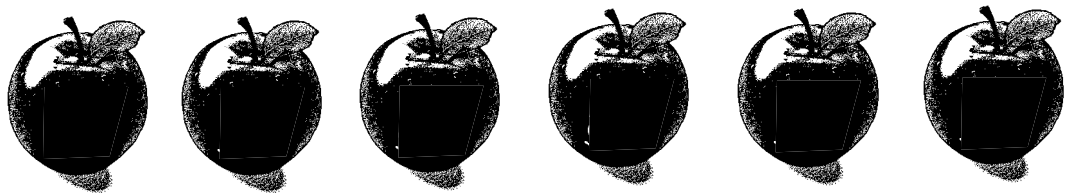
### Our Creator Gives Us Our Food

Circle the number of items that the number indicates, and color the pictures.

**2**  
**snacks**



**5**  
**apples**



**3**  
**pizza**



**4**  
**cupcakes**



**6**  
**candy apples**



## **Activity Page**

### **Our Creator Gives Us Our Food**

God provides all His creatures with food. Sometimes we can even help!

The little ants found a sandwich. Color the picture below.

