



The Secret Wish

Primary 3-7

Bible Text:

2 Kings 4:18-22, 27-37

Lesson Aim:

To teach children that God is all powerful. We can have the confidence that He hears our prayers and will answer. Never give up trusting in Him.

Memory Verse:

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things"
(Jeremiah 33:3).

Words to Learn:

- Prophet
- Hospitable

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

Divine 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 His will. 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. We are to ask for our healing within God's will, ask God to lead and direct us, actively try to get well, and trust God for the outcome.

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.

There are few healings recorded in the Old Testament. This may indicate that 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 simple equation. Faith does not always mean healing. Nor does a lack of restoration indicate a lack of faith. God has always healed for different reasons in different circumstances.

The prophet Elisha was a remarkable individual (2 Kings 2-9). A great number of miracles are recorded in his name. Despite the great powers bestowed, and miracles performed, through God's Spirit, the prophet himself was not healed of some sort of sickness but actually died from it (verse 14). Even after his death, Elisha's bones brought a man back to life (2 Kings 13:21)! Even though he was not to be healed, Elisha never stopped obeying God and he always had faith that God would do what was best. He trusted God completely.

Our Bible story is about a Shunammite woman who had graciously opened her home to provide comfort for Elisha when he traveled through her city. Grateful for her generous hospitality, Elisha wanted to

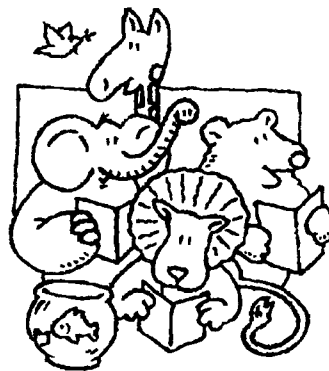
repay her in some way for her great kindness. He was told she had no son, and her husband was old. Elisha told her that she would have a young son within a year. The woman replied "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant." Perhaps she was afraid to hope. To a woman who yearns for children this is the greatest gift that can be given.

The child was born into the waiting arms of two loving parents. He grew and blessed their lives. One day the young child went to the fields to be with his father. The young boy became ill and complained of his head hurting. He 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. She single-mindedly went to find Elisha.

The mother would not give up the precious gift of her son easily. Her actions revealed a strength of commitment. She believed God was in control of the situation and He would bring back her son. She earnestly sought restoration, and was heard.

In addition to her faith, we see God responding to people who trust in Him. People who trusted not in a staff to magically heal, or in Baal, but in the one true God. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Psalm 22:1-31; Psalm 40:1-8; Psalm 141:8-10

2. Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. *True or false:* The woman believed that Elisha was a man of God and she wanted to give him comfort in his travels—*TRUE*
2. *True or false:* The woman did not ask to be paid for her hospitality to Elisha. She was just being very kind—*TRUE*
3. *True or false:* Elisha wanted to repay the woman's kindness—*TRUE*
4. *True or false:* Elisha told the woman she would have a son—*TRUE*
5. *True or false:* The woman accepted the death of her son—*FALSE*
6. *True or false:* Elisha knew something was very wrong when the woman fell on her knees and grabbed his feet—*TRUE*
7. *True or false:* Elisha made the woman go away—*FALSE*
8. *True or false:* God can make good things happen when it looks pretty bad to us—*TRUE*

3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

- **Prophet**—a person sent by God to warn or to teach something that God wants understood.
- **Hospitable**—the friendly treatment of guests or strangers; to be generous and warm toward the weary.

SKY Story Time

The Secret Wish

There once lived a very kind lady in a city called Shunem (called *Shoonem*). This kind-hearted woman was very hospitable to strangers. She was very generous and could be relied on to give a meal to a tired, hungry, dusty traveler.

A much-respected and powerful man named Elisha became a welcome guest to her home. He was a traveler, and when he traveled by her house he would stop, knowing he would be welcomed with food, a cool drink, and a chance to rest his weary feet.

The woman knew that Elisha was a righteous man and that he traveled a great deal doing God's work. Knowing how tiring traveling can be, she asked her husband if it would be all right to set aside a room just for Elisha to use for rest when he traveled by. Elisha was thankful for this thoughtful gesture.

The woman never asked for favors, money, or anything in return for the use of her home. She was generous in nature and just liked helping people.

One evening Elisha was resting in the dim coolness of the room after a long, hot walk. The dust had been washed off his body, and his appetite and thirst satisfied. He got to thinking about the comfort being given to him and decided to reward the woman

for her ungrudging generosity. When asked what he could do for her, she made no request. She was not asking for payment and was content to be of service.

Then Elisha's servant informed him that she had no son and her husband was growing old. Elisha knew now what was the best gift she could be given.

He told her she would have a son within the next year. The woman was astounded!

For although she and her husband had wanted children none ever came. As the years had passed she had resigned herself to being childless. Nevertheless, she was thankful for her many blessings.

Surprise, Surprise!

One year later, just like Elisha had predicted, a little son was born to the man and woman. The yearning for their own child was satisfied.

The woman and her husband were proud parents. The little boy knew his parents loved him very much. He loved to hear his mother tell him the story about how a man called Elisha had asked God to send them a special present. And God had sent them him! It was his favorite story!

One day he went into the fields to watch his daddy work. He liked to be with his father and the men reaping the harvest. He wanted to

be like his dad when he grew up.

A strange pain started in his head, and it continued to get worse.

"Daddy, my head hurts," the little fellow said. The little boy was rarely sick. Perhaps thinking his son might have gotten too hot, his father said to one of the servants, "Take my son to his mother. She will know what to do to make him feel better."

Confidence in God

The young boy's mother held him on her lap. She bathed his head with a cool cloth. But her child did not get better. He became sicker and then died.

The mother carried her son upstairs to Elisha's room and laid him down on the bed. The mother then went downstairs and got on a donkey and left to find Elisha. The mother knew that Elisha would help her.

Elisha was found at Mount Carmel preaching. When Elisha saw the woman coming, he sent his servant to meet her. Elisha suspected something was very wrong. When the servant asked her if she was well, if her husband was well, and if her child was well, she answered yes. The woman did not want to be delayed by the servant giving him explanation of what had taken place. She wanted to see Elisha, the man of God. When she finally reached Elisha, she told him what had happened.

Knowing that Gehazi, Elisha's servant could travel faster alone, Elisha sent him on ahead of them with instruction on what to do with the staff. Elisha's staff was a symbol of Elisha's

authority as a prophet.

When the servant arrived at the home, he did just as Elisha had told him to do. He laid the staff on the boy's face. Nothing happened. The servant ran back to tell Elisha and the mother who were making their way to the house.

When Elisha came into the house, he went into the upstairs room and there lying on his bed was the dead child. Elisha shut the door. He knelt down and prayed earnestly to God. Elisha had faith in God. Something wonderful then happened. The little boy sneezed seven times, and then he opened his eyes. Elisha called his mother into the room. She came in, thanked Elisha, and joyfully picked up her son.

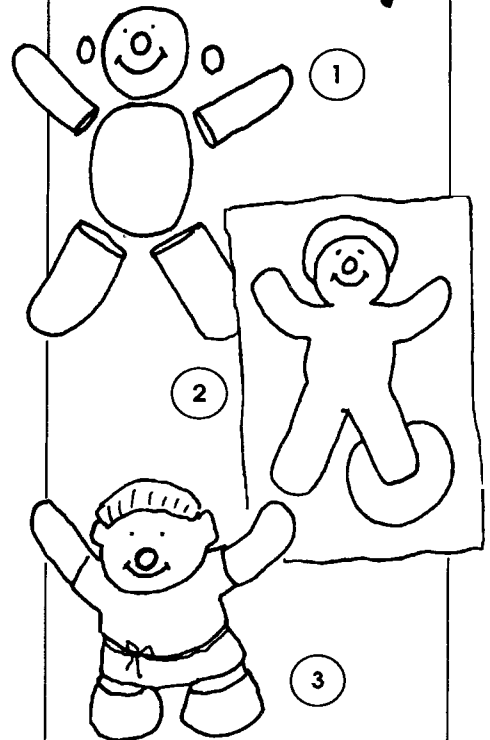
Even though her son was dead, the mother never gave up. She had faith that Elisha, the prophet of GOD, could help her son. □ The End

Crafty Idea

1. Combine flour, salt, and water. Knead until the dough is smooth and rubbery. Fashion the body of the little boy out of cylinders and balls of the dough. Press the head and limbs onto the body (a few drops of water will make the dough stick). Use a toothpick to etch in the features. Bake the figure on a foil-lined sheet for 1 hour at 275 degrees. Let cool.
2. Flatten pieces of dough into a thin circle and wrap them around the ends of the legs. Gently press down to help figure stand on its own. Bake for one more hour.
3. Let him cool before painting (acrylics work best). Use a scrap of material to fashion his robe, and string to make the sash.

Crafty Ideas

Bake Me a Little Boy



Materials To Use:

- 3 Cups flour
- 1 Cup salt
- 1 cup water
- food coloring
- acrylic paint and brushes
- Scraps of material
- String