



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for February 1, 2009
Released on Wednesday, January 28, 2009**

"Showing Kindness to God's Messenger"

Scripture Lesson: 2 Kings 4:8–17.

Background Scripture: 2 Kings 4:8–17.

Read: 2 Kings 4:8–17.

Place: Shunem

Time: 852 and 848 B.C.

GOLDEN TEXT: "I perceive that this is a holy man of God,... Let us make a little chamber [for him]" (2 Kings 4:9–10).

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:
2 Kings 4:8–17**

8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that, as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

TEACHER'S NOTES

The "great woman" of Shunem models the kindness that should characterize God's people everywhere. This week's Bible lesson tells us about Christian behavior.

Kindness, however, seems not to be a natural characteristic for anyone, and some children have exceptional talent for being cruel. Their cruelty is thoughtless, but it is nonetheless real, as attested by the name-calling that mocks another child's physical defect.

In teaching kind behavior, then, we would do well to emphasize that God not only looks for kind deeds in His children but that He also listens for kind words.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that showing kindness to others as we have opportunity is something the Lord has told us to do.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

The "great woman" took advantage of her opportunity to be kind.

The "great woman" used what she had to show kindness.

We too have opportunities to serve others with kindness.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, you will need a picture of Elisha.

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of the important woman, a flat-roofed house, and a baby.

For Helping to Remember, for each child provide a 3-by-8-inch rectangle drawn on brown art paper, scissors (blunt tip, for safety), crayons, paste, and a sheet of yellow construction paper.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

You know the Bible talks about many different kinds of people. There are kings and soldiers and women and babies. The Bible talks about people called prophets too. Those were men who told people things God wanted them to know. One of those prophets was named Elisha. (Show Elisha.)

TELLING THE LESSON

Sometimes Elisha was with the king at the palace, telling him what the Lord wanted him to do. Other times Elisha just walked from one town to another, teaching people in different places. One day he came to the town of Shunem.

Now, in Shunem there lived an important woman. (Show the important woman.) The Bible does not tell how she was important. Did her husband rule part of the town? Did she live in a big house? The Bible does not say. It does not say how she heard about Elisha, either, but she did, and she asked him to come to her house for dinner. That was a kind thing to do.

The road through Shunem happened to go right past the important woman's house. So she invited him to stop in for something to eat every time he had to travel that way. That was a kind thing to do too.

One day the important woman said to her husband, "This man who goes by our house all the time is one of God's special men. Let us do something more for him than just invite him to dinner. Let us build a little upstairs room for him to stay in when he comes this way."

Houses in that place had flat roofs, like this. (Show flat-roofed house.) So on top of their flat roof they did build an extra little room. In it they put a bed and a table and a

chair and an oil lamp for seeing at night. They made it especially for Elisha. What a kind thing to do!

One day Elisha was lying on the bed, just resting and thinking. All at once he said to his servant, "Go down and ask the woman to come here."

Up the stairs came the important woman. (Show the woman.) Maybe she was thinking, *Elisha must want something*.

No, Elisha did not want anything. He said, "You have kindly taken care of us. Now what kind thing can I do for you? Should I ask the king to do something for you?"

The important woman said no, there was nothing she needed. But Elisha still wanted to do something kind for her. He asked his servant, "What can be done?"

The servant said, "Well, she has no children." (Show baby.) Of course having a baby was something every married woman wanted very much.

Elisha said, "Call her."

Up the stairs came the important woman. She stood at the door. (Show the woman.) Elisha said, "About this time next year, you will hold a baby boy in your arms."

Well, that news sounded too good to be true. "O man of God, do not lie to me!" she said.

But the next year the woman did have a new baby boy to hold and love. (Show baby.) Elisha must have asked God to make it happen.

Did you notice how the important woman simply used what she had to be kind to Elisha? (Show the woman.) She had food, and she shared it with him and his servant. She had enough money to build that little room for him, and she did. She was kind.

TELLING NOW TO LIVE

The Bible says to us, "Be ye kind one to another" (Ephesians 4:32). What do you have that you could use to show kindness to someone else? Do you have hands? Maybe you could use them to help Mom in the kitchen. I know you can talk. Could you say a kind word to somebody who has not been kind to you? Just being friendly is one way to be kind. The lady was kind. Let us be kind. That is Jesus' way.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Have the students make the brown rectangle into a flat-roofed house, cut it out, and paste it on the bottom half of the yellow sheet. On top of the house, they should draw the little room and its furnishings and then print "BE KIND" in the sky area.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"I perceive that this is an holy man of God, ... Let us make a little chamber [for him]" (2 Kings 4:9-10).

What the "great woman" in this week's Bible lesson was saying to her husband was: "I see that this man who travels past our house all the time is one of God's special men. Let us build a little upstairs room for him to stay in when he comes this way."

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

Willie Ferrell

Jesus Is All Ministries

www.jesusisall.com

Lesson Activities:

"Showing Kindness to God's Messenger" 2 Kings 4:8–17.

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a great woman, and she constrained him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, that he turned in there to eat some food." 2 KINGS 4:8 **TRUE OR FALSE**
2. "And she said to her husband, 'Look now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us twice a day.' " 2 KINGS 4:9 **TRUE OR FALSE**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

3. She said, "Please, let us make a small upper (**BROOM, ROOM**) on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there." 2 KINGS 4:10
4. Elijah said to Gehazi his servant, 'Call this Shunammite woman.' When he called her, she stood before him. And he said to him, 'Say now to her, "Look, you have been concerned for us with all this (**CARE, HAIR**). What can I do for you?" ' " 2 KINGS 4:12-13

TRUE OR FALSE:

5. "Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no son, and her husband is old.' " 2 KINGS 4:14 **TRUE OR FALSE**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

6. "Then he said, 'About this time next year you shall embrace a (**SON, DAUGHTER**).' And she said, 'No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!' " 2 KINGS 4:16

TRUE OR FALSE:

7. And the woman did not conceive, and bore no son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her. 2 KINGS 4:17 **TRUE OR FALSE**

"Showing Kindness to God's Messenger" Puzzle 2 Kings 4:8–17.

E L I S H A H E M H
G E V R Q O Y E U Q
E N F E F W N S M B
H O I N R U B Z A V
A T U A H A G U N B
Z A H S N J M U O W
I B I D D C M I F R
E L P I A O P N G O
Z E K R C V O M O O
P U E P G S V F D M

CARE
HUSBAND
ROOM
ELISHA
MAN OF GOD
SHUNEM
FOOD
SON
GEHAZI

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.