

Week 54 The Widow's Son [1 Kings 17:17-24]

Series: **Elijah**

Application: **God is more powerful than death.**

Memory Verse: **“The Lord alone is God.” 1 Kings 18:39 (Elijah's name means ‘The Lord is God’)**

Preparation Notes

Elijah, the widow and her son were being fed from the jar of flour and the jug of oil that never ran out.

Some time later, the widow's son fell ill. He got worse and worse until he finally stopped breathing. The widow assumed he had died as a divine punishment for her sin, and she said to Elijah:

“What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

She thought Elijah's presence in her house had drawn God's attention to her sin.

(Remind the children that she was a pagan and did not have a full understanding of God's love for her. Use this as an opportunity to explain to the children that we must be tolerant of non-Christians and their misunderstandings; and help them to see more clearly what God is really like).

Elijah took her son, carried him up to the bedroom and onto the bed. Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord:

“O Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!”

The Lord heard Elijah's cry and the boy's life returned to him. Elijah carried the boy down to his mother, who then realised that Elijah really was a man of God and what he said was the truth.

This is the first recorded time a person is raised from the dead in the Bible. God used it to powerfully convince the widow that Elijah was a true prophet.

Learning Points (Discoverers 1)

- The widow's son died.
- Elijah prayed that the boy would live, and he recovered.

Learning Points (Discoverers 2)

- The widow's son became ill and died.
- Elijah prayed that the boy would live, and he recovered.

- God used this to show that Elijah was a true prophet.

Learning Points (Discoverers 3)

- The widow's son became ill and died.
- The widow blamed Elijah, her sin and God for her loss.
- Elijah prayed that the boy would live, and he recovered.
- God used this to show that Elijah was a true prophet.

Discoverers 1

Bible Bit.

You could use a completed example of today's craft activity to tell the story.

Suggested Activities.

Colour and stick on the happy/sad lips shown in DWK54:1. You could hide the lips around the room for the children to find if time allows.

Discoverers 2

Bible Bit.

Continue to tell the story using the 'fuzzy felt' flannel board. The Teacher's Manual, which accompanies these resources, outlines this story on page 121. Remember, it also has some tips for using the resource in the introduction.

Suggested Activities.

Make and colour the story illustration in DWK 54:2.

Discoverers 3

Bible Bit.

This is a very simple story, but one with very significant implications. The incident foreshadows Christ, and is one of the reasons the people of His day associated Him with Elijah. Try to bring out the awe of a person being brought back from the dead and concentrate on the questions that may be raised in the children's minds during the talk time. (Do the talk time before the activity).

Suggested Activities.

Eternal life bead crosses; DWK 54:3.

Talk time.

- Does God always save sick people's lives whenever we pray for them?
- The bible says that if he know and love Jesus we will have eternal life. What is eternal life?

Prayer and worship.