

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)

Lesson #47

DATE:

SUBJECT: God increases a Poor Woman's Oil – (3rd lesson in a Unit - GOD CARES FOR US) –
(Adapted from 4s & 5s TEACHING GUIDE, September-November 1990 – Unit 1, Lesson 3;
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SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 4:1-7

AIM: Bible Truth Aim - To realize God helped a poor woman.

Life Response Aim – To say “Thank You” to God every day for the food He gives me.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) “He cares for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Introduction:

Use this time to talk about olives and olive oil. Bring a bottle of oil, pictures of olive trees, and a bottle of pitted olives. Explain how olives grow and how olive oil was made in Bible times. Some children may want to taste the oil or the olives.

In Bible time, when olives got ripe, the children had great fun. Sometimes they climbed the low olive trees and shook the branches as hard as they could. Sometimes they stood on the ground and beat the branches with long sticks. After the olives were gathered, they were crushed and pressed till oil ran out. The people used olive oil for most of their cooking the way we use butter, margarine, or cooking oil.

You may want to make an olive tree bulletin board.

An Olive Tree Bulletin Board Center Some children may enjoy making an olive tree bulletin board. Cut a large tree from light-green paper; let the children cut olives from darker green paper. Have the tree tacked to the board. The children will enjoy placing olives as you discuss the use of olive oil. Point out that your pretend olives are larger than real ones.

Use some time to talk about jars of clay. If you can provide clay or play dough it may be worthwhile to make jars.

Provide play dough or clay and show how to make a Bible-time jar quickly and simply, so the children can follow your example. Press your thumb into the center of the dough to shape the inside. This is a good project for children who are unsure of their ability to make anything, as almost any effort will be some resemblance of a jar.

“Let’s all make jars. Watch how I use my fingers to shape the clay. Do your best to make a jar. We’ll learn how important a jar can be in today’s Bible story.” Each child in your class will need a jar for an activity after the Bible story.

Any of these activities (or a combination of them) will be helpful for today’s lesson.

Content:

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4. God sent birds to bring food to Elijah when he needed food. *Show Bible Picture #2.* Sometimes God uses other ways to help. Let's find out what He did another time.

Two boys and their mother were very unhappy. They had many problems and didn't know what to do. The boys' father had died. The family owed money to a man. Now the man was coming to take the boys away and make them work hard for him. The boys didn't want to leave their mother, and she didn't want them to leave her.

The mother knew that Elisha was in town. Maybe he could tell them what to do. So the mother hurried to where he was staying. *Show the picture on Sheet 6 of the Teaching Resources.* She told him her problems. "What is left in your house?" He asked. The mother thought of how empty her house was. She had almost nothing. But then she remembered she had one jar of cooking oil. "I have one jar of oil," she said.

Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can. Then pour oil from your jar into all the empty jars. God will take care of you." "What a strange thing to do!" the mother may have thought as she hurried back home. "How can one jar of oil fill many jars?" But she decided she'd do just as Elisha had said. She hurried home and told her boys what to do.

The boys and their mother walked up and down the street, knocking on the neighbors' doors. "May we borrow your empty jars, please?" The kind neighbors gave them empty jars. "Thank you," they said and hurried home. Soon their house was full of big jars, little jars, bright jars, and dark-colored jars. Mother picked up her own jar of oil. "Bring me an empty jar," she said. One boy brought a jar. She poured oil into it. And still the mother's jar was full of oil. The two boys took turns bringing empty jars to their mother. *Show Bible Picture #3.* Again and again and again and again the mother poured from her jar into the empty ones that the boys brought her. And still there was oil in her jar! God was doing a wonderful thing in their poor little home! At last every one of the jars was full of yellow oil!

Quickly the woman ran to Elisha and told him what had happened. "Go sell the oil and pay the money you owe," he said. After the woman sold the oil, she had all the money she needed to pay the man what she owed him and to buy food for a long time. The mother and her boys said, "Thank you, God, for taking care of us. Thank You, thank You!"

Play out the story:

We can be the poor woman's neighbors and each lends her a jar. Give each child a jar made earlier at the Art Center. Give the *closed* bottle of olive oil (from the Home living Center) to the child chosen to be the mother. Two children may run to all the other children's "houses" to borrow their jars. The mother then *pretends* to pour the oil from her bottle into the jars which the boys bring to her. When all the jars are "filled," the mother and boys bow their heads to thank God for His care.

Application:

God takes care of us – Our goal is to help the children thank God for the food we eat. To show them that the food really comes from God because He cares for us.

Where do we get our food from? (Grocery store, fruit market, etc.) That's right but where does the grocery get the food from? (From the farmer, rancher etc.) Right! Now where does the farmer get the food he grows or the cattle he raises? (From God) Very good. If you stop to think about it all our food really comes from God. Even if the farmer plants his seeds and tills the soil if God does not send the rain no plants will grow and we won't have any food in our markets. So God is the real source of our food. We should have a thankful feeling when we eat and take a little time to thank God for our food every time we eat. Should we thank God for our snack today? Of course!

You may have some personal experience of how God supplied food for you at a particular time. One sister was making a fruit salad for some saints and had a cantaloupe to put in it. She really liked cantaloupe and considered saving half for herself. But she put it all in and gave it to her friends. Later that day another sister came to her with a gift. She said she was thinking of her and wanted to bring her this gift. It was a beautiful ripe cantaloupe! So, you see how God cares for us even to give us the food we like.

Craft Idea:

I would use the above mentioned craft (a jar of clay or play dough, or a small olive tree of construction paper) and also you may copy the picture from the Scripture Press material to color.

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