

Elisha and the Widow

2 Kings 4:1-7

The Bible shows us how God cares for us. This bible passage tells us about a widow who lived with her two sons. Her husband had died, and she owed people a lot of money, but she had no way to pay the people back. She didn't even have food to eat for the next week, so she asked Elisha for help.

Elisha was a prophet, which means that he gave people messages from God. The widow asked Elisha for help, and Elisha asked the woman what she had in her house and how he could help her. She told him that all she had left that was worth any money was a little bit of cooking oil in a jar. Elisha told the widow to go to all of her neighbors and ask to borrow lots and lots of empty jars.

After the widow collected lots of jars, Elisha told her to take her small jar of oil and pour oil into the borrowed jars. God did a miracle and helped the widow! She had just a little bit of oil to start with, but God gave the widow enough oil to fill all of the jars! Elisha then told the woman to sell the oil and use the money to pay back the people she owed money to. She even had enough left over to buy food for herself and her sons. God sent Elisha to help the widow and her sons.

God helped the widow and her sons when they were in need. God helps all of us, too. Maybe we're sad and need some comfort, or hungry and need something to eat, or lonely and need a friend. God gives us people who love and care for us because God cares for all of us. Jesus cared for people in need when he was on earth, and Jesus is caring for you today! Jesus loves you and wants you to care for people in need just as he did.



Water Fun! Estimating “Oil”:

God wants us to help care for others, but sometimes it can be hard to know just the right way to “pour out” our love and care to others. Here is a fun water project to try: Set out a pitcher of water and cups. Let children estimate how many of the containers they can fill with the liquid. (pour the water over cookie sheets to make cleanup easier.)

Each time you pour “oil” in a container, name a way you can care for others!

Discussion Questions:

Why weren't we able to fill all the containers?

Share a time you wanted to care for someone, but you didn't know how to help.

How can God help you the next time you face a situation like that?

God wants us to help and care for others. But sometimes it can be hard to know exactly what to do. When we face times like that, we can turn to God for help. God cares for all of us!

“God Cares” Jar Craft:

Today we learned what the Bible says happened when God used Elisha to care for a widow and her family. God cared for the widow and her family when they were in need, and God cares for us when we’re in need, too. But sometimes when we’re scared or hurting, it’s hard to remember that God cares for us. That’s why we’re going to make “God Cares” jars—to help us remember that God cares for us!

Supplies: Jar, container, or print a copy of the “God Cares Jar” (see below)

paper, scissors, decorative items: stickers, glue sticks or tape, markers or paint

If you are using the print out: cut along the dotted lines. Fold the cutout on the solid line and glue or tape just the sides of the jar together, leaving the top open. Decorate the blank side of the paper jar with the supplies you laid out.

If you are using your own jar: decorate the jar with stickers, ribbons, markers, or paint. Write the words “God Cares” on a piece of paper and cut it out and put it somewhere on the jar.

After you make your jar think of a time God has taken care of your family and write or draw that memory on a slip of paper. Then place the paper inside the jar. The next time your family faces a problem, open the jar and read the slips. Remember that God cares for you!



God Cares Jar

