

God Cared for a Widow

2 Kings 4:1–7



Elisha was a prophet of God. He taught other men about God so they could help him do God's work.

One day a widow came to Elisha. She was crying. Her husband had been a prophet and had died. Now she had no way to pay her bills and feed her two sons. One man wanted to be paid right away. He said he would take the widow's sons and make them slaves.

"What do you have of value in your house?" Elisha asked.

The widow only had a pot of oil. Oil was expensive in her country.

pots—small pots, medium pots, large jars, extra-large pots, and tall jars. Her own pot of oil kept pouring and pouring and pouring out oil until all the pots were full. But her own pot never got empty!

She went to Elisha and said, "All the pots and jars are full."

"Go sell the oil; pay the man what you owe him. You and your sons will have money left to live on for a long time," said Elisha.

The widow obeyed. God had told Elisha what she should do. God loves and cares for people who need help. 🌟

"Borrow pots and jars from your neighbors," said Elisha. "Then you and your sons go home and close the door. Fill all the pots and jars with oil."

The widow did what Elisha said. She began pouring the oil and filling the

Theme

God loves and cares for the needy.

Measurable Response

My child will identify ways to show God's love to others.

Memory Verse

"Let us do good to all" (Galatians 6:10).

Bible Story Questions

Ask your child these review questions.

- Why was the widow crying?
- What did Elisha tell her to do?
- What miracle did God do?
- How does God feel about poor people?



Helpful Harris



Oh no!" Harris heard Grandma say.

"What's wrong?" he asked, as he hurried to Grandma's room.

"My necklace broke," Grandma replied.

"Look, the beads are all over the floor."

Harris looked at the floor. There were little pretty beads everywhere—by Grandma's chair, by Grandma's bed, under Grandma's side table. And some little beads were still rolling.

"This is a special necklace," Grandma said. "Your grandpa gave it to me for my thirtieth birthday. It has thirty beads. Oh, I hope I don't lose any."

"I'll help you find them," Harris offered.

Grandma picked up the beads by her chair. She found one down inside the cushion. Harris got on his hands and knees. He got a handful out of the rug. He gave those to Grandma. He crawled under the table on his hands and knees and found some more. He gave them to Grandma.

"Let's count them. Maybe we have found them all," said Grandma.

They counted together: "One, two, three,

four, five." They counted all the way to twenty-nine.

"Oh dear," said Grandma. "We need just one more. Where could it be?"

Harris got on his stomach so he could see better. He looked under the chair again and under the table. No bead! Then he rolled over and looked under the dresser.

"I see it! It's way back by the wall under this dresser," he shouted.

"Oh dear. I can't get under there, and the dresser is too heavy for me to move," sighed Grandma.

"I think I can get it," said Harris as he wiggled and scooted on his stomach. He reached his arm as far as he could. Then he stretched out his fingers. Finally, he rolled the bead away from the wall until he could pick it up. Then he wiggled backwards out from under the dresser.

"Number thirty!" he yelled as he held it up.

Grandma hugged Harris and said, "You are so kind and helpful. God is pleased when we help others, even when it is a hard job." ■

Life Application

- Why was Grandma upset?
- Why was the necklace special?
- How was Harris able to help?
- Tell about a time when you helped someone, even though it was hard to do.



WHAT'S
HIDING
UNDER YOUR
DRESSER?



The At-home Helper

Help your child develop a pattern of looking for ways to help. After reading the Bible story and the application story, talk about how the sons helped their mother. Take your child on a walk around the house, looking for ways to help family members; e.g., dusting hard-to-reach places on furniture, picking up toys for a younger sibling, using a hand vacuum to vacuum under side tables and desks or along sides of the walls in a room. Give praise and thanks for the help in front of other family members.

Jar Search Game

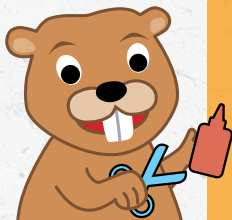


Have a "family jar search" to see how the widow and her sons felt as they searched for empty jars. Before the search, hide containers in various rooms. Time the search. Secure a bell or timer to signal the end. Read the story on the front of this leaflet as a family devotional. Talk about looking for jars. Assign rooms for family members to search. The person who finds the most gets a prize. Count all the jars. Choose one to let your child pour vegetable oil into. Talk about the color and feel and what oil is used for.

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child is developing his caring skills.

1. My child knows that God expects him to be kind and help others.
2. My child does not discriminate. He is learning to help elderly, handicapped, and disadvantaged people.
3. My child often helps and shows kindness without being reminded.



Directions: The widow's sons gathered many pots and jars. Circle the one that finishes each sentence.

Needing Help "Let us do good to all" (Galatians 6:10).

1. The poor widow could not feed her _____.

dog

sons

Dad

2. One man wanted to make her sons _____.

cooks

soldiers

slaves

3. Elisha was a _____.

prophet

king

farmer

4. The widow only had a pot of _____.

coffee

stew

oil

5. Elisha said to gather lots of _____.

nuts

pots and jars

berries

6. He told the widow to fill all the pots with _____.

oil

money

water

7. The widow's little jar _____ run out of oil.

did

did not

8. Elisha told her to _____ the oil.

mail away

sell

drink

9. The widow paid her _____.

sons

neighbors

bills