

LESSON 2—ELISHA, Part 1: DEADLY STEW & A FLOATING AXE HEAD

Bible Reference: 2 Kings 4:38-41; 6:1-7

Key Verse: Philippians 4:4—Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

ITEMS NEEDED:

A can of diet soda, a can of non-diet soda and a large clear container ¾ full of water.

BIBLE LESSON

(Based on 2 Kings 4:38-41; 6:1-7)

REPEAT after me: *Give thanks In EVERYTHING, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus—1 Thessalonians 5:18.*

SAY: Because God is so good and we can trust Him, we can give thanks even when “bad” things happen.

ASK: **Who remembers what last week's Bible story was about?** (Paul and Silas. Briefly review the story with them.)

ASK: **What bad thing happened?** (They were falsely accused and thrown in prison.)

ASK: **How did Paul and Silas respond?** (They kept trusting God and were even singing. They made the choice to rejoice.)

ASK: **Who knows what book of the Bible last week's story came from?** (Acts.)

ASK: **Is the book of Acts in the Old Testament or New Testament?** (New Testament.)

SAY: Today's story comes from the Old Testament and happened about 900 years before Jesus was born. The next few weeks we're going to be looking at stories that happened to one of God's prophets, a man named Elisha.

ASK: **What do you know about Elisha?**

SAY: We're going to learn a lot about him over the next few weeks.

BIBLE STORY

SAY: I want you to listen for four things:

- What was the bad thing that happened?

- How did the people respond?
- How did Elisha respond?
- And what did God do?

Read 2 Kings 4:38-41 from your Bible

ASK: **What was the bad thing that happened?** (The stew had poisonous food in it.)

ASK: **How did the people respond?** (They were scared.)

ASK: **How did Elisha respond?** (He wasn't shaken. He just acted and he acted in faith. He told them to put some flour in the stew and then to serve it.)

ASK: **What did God do?** (The flour didn't fix the stew. God did. God responded to Elisha's act of faith and the stew could then be eaten.)

SAY: I want you to listen for the same four things:

- What was the bad thing that happened?
- How did the people respond?
- How did Elisha respond?
- And what did God do?

Read 2 Kings 6:1-7 from your Bible

ASK: **What was the bad thing that happened?** (The axhead fell into the water.)

ASK: **How did the people respond?** (The man was upset because he had borrowed the axe.)

ASK: **How did Elisha respond?** (He wasn't shaken. He just acted and he acted in faith. He asked where it fell in and then he threw a stick into the water.)

ASK: **What did God do?** (The stick didn't make the axhead float. God did. God responded to Elisha's act of faith and the iron axhead floated to the top.)

SAY: Some things float. Some things sink. I'm going to name something and I want you to say float or sink.

- An iron axhead (sinks—it's heavy!)
- A coin (sinks)
- A rubber ducky (floats)
- An iron anchor (sinks)
- A chair (sinks)
- An inflatable ball (floats)
- A baseball (sinks)
- A can of soda (hold up a can of Diet soda)

ASK: Who thinks this can of soda will sink? Who thinks it will float? Let's find out...

Put the can down in a large, clear container full of water. The diet can of soda will float.

Hold up a can of non-diet soda.

ASK: Who thinks this can of soda will sink? Who thinks it will float? Let's find out...

The regular can of soda will sink.

SAY: The only difference between these two cans is about three small packets of sugar. It might seem small but it makes a big difference.

SAY: In the same way, how you “see” situations will make a big difference too. The people in the stories simply “saw” what was there—poison in the stew and a sunken axhead. But Elisha looked beyond what he “saw” to what he knew God could do, and he immediately acted in faith.

SAY: When “bad” things happen in your life—Don't just look at what happened but look through it to see what God can do through what happened. Then put your trust in Him.

KEY VERSE

SAY: When things don't seem to go your way, keep your eyes on Jesus and just keep trusting.

SAY: You can always rejoice in God, no matter what is happening because Jesus will never leave you.

Read Philippians 4:4

Emphasize that God wants us to *always* rejoice in Him, no matter what situation we find ourselves in.

SAY: After everything I say, I want you to say: Rejoice!

*When you have a great day, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*When the have a rotten day, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*When you get what you want, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*When someone else gets what you want and you don't, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*If you loose everything you own, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*When your dad picks his nose and your friends all see him, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*When something scares you, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*When you get an A on a test, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*When you're watching your favorite movie, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*When you're watching your least favorite movie because it's your little brother's favorite movie that you've already seen 113 times, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

*Every moment of everyday, you can...*Students: Rejoice!

SAY: You can always rejoice because if you've given your life to Christ, God will never leave you and you can always trust him. You can look beyond what you see to what God can do.

SAY: A minute ago you saw how just a little sugar made a big difference between one soda can that floats and another that sinks. When you make the choice to rejoice it will make a huge difference in how you see situations and how you see what God can do in

Discussion Questions

- What do you think about Elisha?
- How was he different from the others in the stories?
- How is he different from other people that you know?
- In what ways would you like to be like Elisha?
- Who is someone in your life that you see has great faith?
- How can you see their faith in action?
- Are there situations you can think of where things happened in your life and instead of looking through to what God could do, everyone just became mad or frustrated or angry?
- What could you do to become a person of great faith?

Prayer—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.

Find more resources at www.330resources.org.

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