



Lesson 127

Elisha and the Prophet's Chamber

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 4:8-17 • Setting: circa 845 B.C., in Shunem • Main Characters: God, Elisha, Gehazi and a Shunammite couple • Plot: Elisha blesses a Shunammite couple for their generosity to him. • Key word(s): “what is to be done for _____?” (v 13) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax: <i>2 Kings 4:16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.</i> |
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A Generous Couple

1. (v 8) In his journeys, Elisha often passed through _____, a city on the eastern side of the valley of Jezreel.
 - (a) Whenever the prophet passed that way he was often invited to dine with a certain _____ couple.
 - (b) (vv 9-10) This Shunammite woman grew in her respect and admiration for the holy prophet, so she asked her husband to build a special roof-top _____ where their frequent dinner guest could stay. The room was equipped with all the things necessary for comfort in that day and age: a bed, a table, a lamp, and a chair.

Returning the Favor

2. (vv 11-13) Elisha was so grateful for the couple's generosity that he asked what favor could be returned. The woman replied, “I dwell among mine own people,” meaning, “I am _____ with what I have and where I am.”
 - (a) (vv 14-17) Elisha turned to his servant Gehazi for suggestions on how best to express his gratitude to the Shunammite couple. Gehazi mentioned their childless state, and so Elisha blessed the couple by prophesying that she would embrace a son within a year, “according to the time of _____.” (see. Gen. 18:10, 14)
 - (b) At first, the woman protested because she didn't want her _____ to be dashed, but just as the prophet had promised, the woman gave birth at the appointed time to a son.

Application

3. The Shunammite woman and her husband were a generous couple who practiced the ministry of hospitality towards the prophet Elisha. In the New Testament, Christians

are commanded to be hospitable, not only to strangers, but especially to other _____.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained _____ unawares.

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

4. We typically think of money as means to material happiness, but the Bible teaches that the purpose of money is to serve God and _____.

1 Timothy 6:17–18 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

5. The Gospel is evidence of the generosity and hospitality of God. In fact, the Bible often uses the imagery of hospitality to describe the Gospel:

- (a) The Kingdom of heaven is compared to a wedding _____ . (Matt. 22:1-14)
- (b) Jesus came “not to be ministered unto, but to _____, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matt. 20:28)
- (c) Jesus said that in the Father's house are many _____ (places to live) and that his purpose for dying on the cross was to prepare these living quarters for us. (John 14:2)

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “thee” • 1. Shunem; a) wealthy; b) room • 2. Content; a) life; b) hopes • 3. Christians • Heb. 13:2 – angels • 4. others • 5. a) feast; b) minister; c) mansions

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.