



Lesson 128

Elisha and the Shunammite's Son

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 4:18-37 • Setting: circa 845 B.C., in Shunem • Main Characters: God, Elisha, Gehazi, a Shunammite couple and their son • Plot: Elisha resurrects the Shunammite's son after he was | <p style="text-align: right;">stricken dead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “_____ unto the LORD” • Climax: <i>2 Kings 4:28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?</i> |
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Background

1. (2 Kings 4:8-17) In Elisha's travels he became friends with a couple that lived in _____. This couple had been very hospitable to Elisha. In return for their generosity, Elisha blessed the couple and made a prophetic proclamation that the childless couple would have a son by the following Spring. Elisha's prophecy was fulfilled.

Fallen Son

2. (vv 18-19) A few years passed, and the boy went out to be with his father in the field during harvest.
 - (a) But soon the child complained of a _____ and was sent to recover in the arms of his mother.
 - (b) (v 20) The boy laid in his mother's lap until noon and then suddenly passed away. (Because of his complaint of a headache and his activity outside, we can assume the boy died of _____.)

Fervent Prayer

3. (v 21) The Shunammite woman knew exactly who could help her deceased child – the same man that prayed the boy into life could pray life into the boy. She made plans to go see the prophet at Mt. Carmel, some _____ miles east.
 - (a) (vv 22-23) With haste she called for her husband and requested a donkey to ride and one of the young farm workers to escort her to see the prophet.
 - (b) The husband was a little surprised at her sudden need for religious exercise. His comment about the new moon and sabbath imply that needing to visit a prophet on a common _____ was unusual.
 - (c) (vv 23-24) Her reply “it shall be _____” was a polite way of saying “everything's fine, just let me leave.” With haste she and her escort made the journey to Mt. Carmel, where Elisha spent a lot of time (perhaps leading the college of prophets).

4. (vv 25-28) After kindly brushing Gehazi aside, the woman ran to Elisha, clutched his feet and said, “Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not _____ me?” meaning, “She was ready to think herself mocked with the mercy when it was so soon removed, and that it would have been better she had never had this child than to be deprived of him when she began to have comfort in him.”¹
5. (vv 29-37) Elisah acted quickly, sending Gehazi ahead with his staff to place on the child. But it wasn’t until Elisha _____ fervently and persistently did the boy come back to life. His seven-fold sneeze was the tell-tale sign of new life. The newly resurrected boy was placed into the arms of his relieved mother.

Application

6. Why do you think the Shunammite woman not did reveal her son’s death to her husband? _____
7. The story of the raising of the Shunammite's son is the story of faith in God and the power of prayer. The fact that the prophet's staff did no good was a detail of the story that helped emphasize that God doesn't work merely through sacred objects but through _____ and _____.

[Through faith]...*Women received their dead raised to life again... (Hebrews 11:35)*

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “prayed” • 1. Shunem • 2. a) headache; b) heat exhaustion • 3. 16; b) weekday; c) well • 4. Deceive • 5. prayed • 6. Answer’s will vary. My take: perhaps she knew if word spread it would be harder to get to Elisha quickly. 7. faith and prayer

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.

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print