

**ELISHA (1)**  
**2 Kings 4; Hebrews 11:35a**

**Memory Verse:** “*Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?*” (Acts 26:8 ESV).

**Background Helps:**

This week’s readings include a series of miracles performed by Elisha, the prophet of the LORD. Two of these miracles parallel earlier miracles of Elijah, showing that the same Spirit filled both men (2 Kings 2:9, 15):

- Elisha multiplies the widow’s oil (cf. 2 Kings 4:1-7 and 1 Kings 17:8-16).
- Elisha promises the Shunammite woman a son (2 Kings 4:8-17).
- Elisha raises the Shunammite woman’s son from the dead (cf. 2 Kings 4:18-37 and 1 Kings 17:17-24 and Hebrews 11:35a).
- Elisha purifies the deadly stew (2 Kings 4:38-41).
- Elisha multiplies the bread and the grain (2 Kings 4:42-44).

Notice that these miracles met the needs of a variety of people: a poor widow and her two sons who were in debt (2 Kings 4:1-7); a wealthy woman who was childless (4:8-17) and whose son later died (4:18-37); and “the sons of the prophets” who lacked food in a famine (4:38-44).

Elisha’s miracles demonstrated that he was the prophet of the true God, the LORD (Yahweh). See 1 Kings 17:24; 2 Kings 4:9. Notice how often Elisha is called “the man of God” in 2 Kings 4.

Read *Faith in the Face of Apostasy*, pages 93-110.<sup>1</sup>


**Lesson Helps:**


A possible aim: My students will learn how the LORD miraculously met various needs through the prophet of Elisha, so that they will trust the LORD to meet their own needs.

Miscellaneous ideas for your lesson:

- Find out current needs of the members of your class.
- Study 2 Kings 4 to see how the LORD met the needs of poverty (indebtedness), childlessness, death, and famine.
- Elisha’s God is our God. Trust him and pray for him to meet your needs.
- Include the memory verse: Acts 26:8. Emphasize the importance of faith (Heb. 11:35a).

**Home Assignment:**

 Read 2 Kings 5:1–6:23; Luke 4:27.

 Memorize 1 John 1:7b ESV.

<sup>1</sup> Raymond B. Dillard, *Faith in the Face of Apostasy* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing Company, 1999).