

Church of God Sunday School

ELISHA RAISES A LITTLE BOY TO LIFE

2 Kings 4:18-37

The great woman of Shunem, who had a room made for Elisha, had been promised by Elisha that she would have a son, since she had no children. She did have that son, and he began to grow as children do. The years went by. The little boy got older and bigger. He anxiously waited for the time when he could go with his father. When the boy was old enough, his father said he could go with him and the reapers into the fields.

One day while they were in the fields, the boy came to his father, saying, "My head, my head." His head was hurting really bad! The boy's father did not know what to do for him, so he told a young servant to carry the boy to his mother.

The boy was given to his mother, and she, too, tried to do all she could for her son, but nothing helped. The boy could only sit on her lap, holding his head, being in much pain. At last, around noon, the boy died. The poor mother was heartbroken. She took her son to the room of Elisha, laid him on the bed, went out, and shut the door behind her. Then, she hurried into action.

She called to her husband, telling him that she was going to go see the man of God and that she needed an ass or a donkey to ride and a young man to go with her. Her husband wanted to know why she wanted to go to Elisha, because it was not a special day of worship. The woman only said that it would be all right.

When the woman had the animal, she quickly saddled it. She told the servant to lead on, to go as fast as he could, and not to slow down for her unless she asked him to. Then away they went to find Elisha! They went to Mount Carmel. The Prophet Elisha was there.

Now while she was still at a distance from Mount Carmel, Elisha saw her coming. He said to Gehazi, his

servant, "Behold, yonder is that Shunammite: Run now . . . and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child?"

Gehazi ran to the woman. Gehazi asked her all the questions, and she answered, "It is well." (But was it really?) The woman continued on to where Elisha was. She got off the animal when she had reached Elisha and grabbed him by the feet. (This was how she showed her sorrow and supplication for help.) Gehazi came to pull her away, but Elisha said, "Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me."



When the woman could speak, she looked at Elisha and said, "Did I desire a son of my lord [or 'Did I ask you for a son']? did I not say, Do not deceive me?"

Elisha knew something was terribly wrong with her son. He told Gehazi to make himself ready. Elisha gave Gehazi his own staff. He told Gehazi to take the staff and run to the woman's house. On the way, Gehazi was not to greet any one or answer anyone who spoke to him. He was supposed to lay the staff on the child's face. Gehazi hurried away.

But the mother was not satisfied when Elisha did not go. She said she would not leave without him; so he got up, and followed her.

When Gehazi reached the house, he went to the room where the boy lay. He did just as Elisha had told him to do, but the boy did not awake. Gehazi ran back to get Elisha.

When Elisha got to the house, he saw that the boy was dead, so he shut the door of the room. Only the dead boy and Elisha were in the room. Elisha began to pray. He asked God to hear him and to bring the boy back to life.

Just as Elijah had done to a widow's son, Elisha climbed up on the bed and laid on the cold dead body

of this little boy. Elisha put his face on the boy's face and his hands on the boy's hands. His body covered the boy's body. Soon the boy's skin was warm, but still, he was not breathing.

Elisha got up. He walked back and forth in the room. Finally, he laid down on the child once more—and what do you think happened? That time, the boy sneezed seven times. Kerchoo! Kerchoo! Kerchoo! Kerchoo! Kerchoo! Kerchoo! Kerchoo! Whew—then he opened his eyes!

Elisha immediately called for Gehazi. He told him to bring the boy's mother. When she came, Elisha said, "Take up thy son," but the woman fell at Elisha's feet again. This time, she bowed, to show her thankfulness and gratitude, because she knew that the God of Elisha was the One responsible for her son's return from death.

Also, she may have thanked Elisha for being spiritual enough to be used by God. (A great responsibility is placed on the Christian to live in such a way that God can freely use him or her to win others to the Kingdom of God.)

Without doubt, the Shunammite woman was truly happy. She took her son. Surely, the woman's faith in God must have increased. She had an even greater reason to please God and do His will now.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer . . . let your requests be made known unto God."*

—Philippians 4:6  
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Word Search

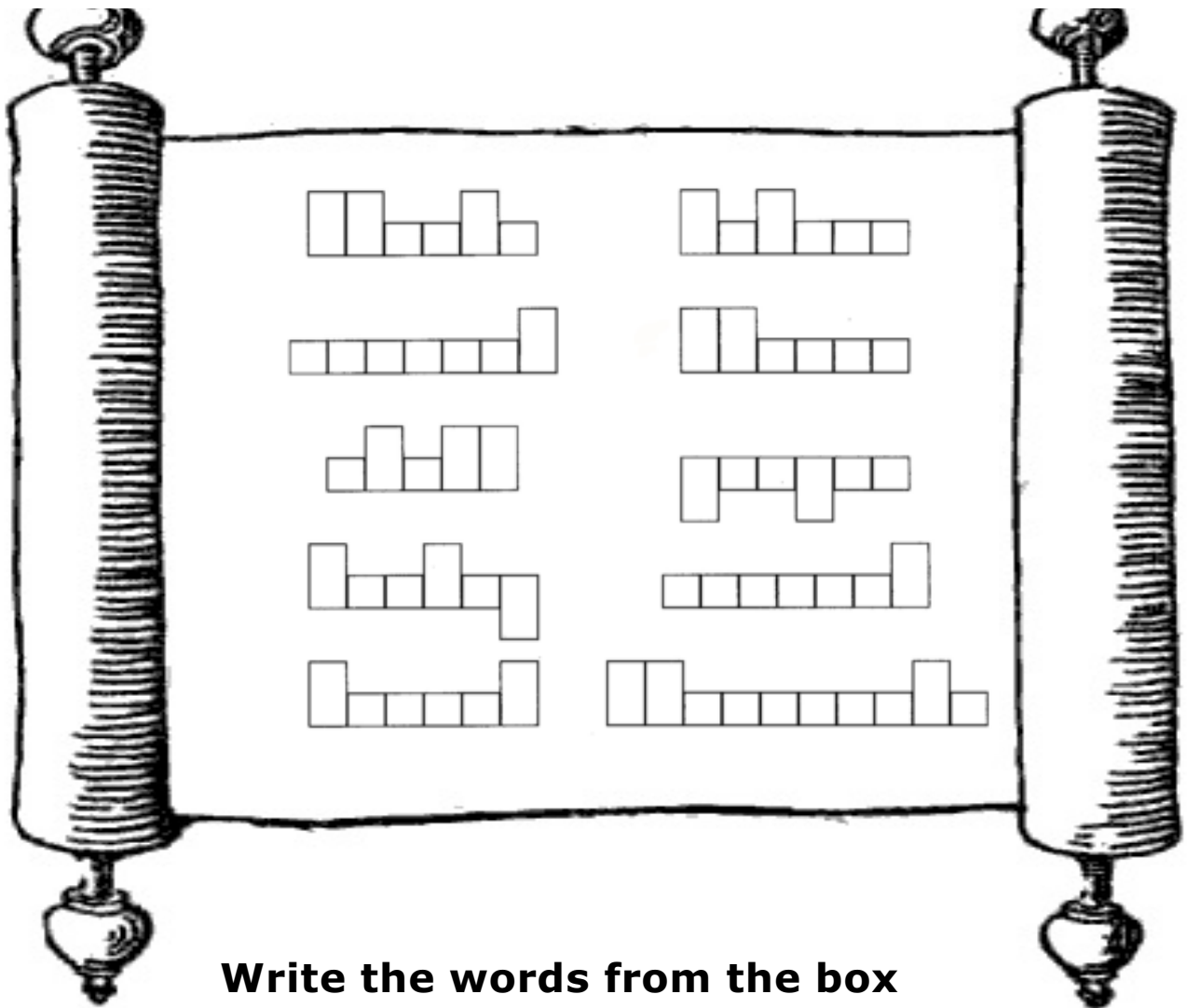
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donkey
 Elisha
 Gehazi
 seven
 Shunem
 sneezed
 staff

Word Shapes



**Write the words from the box
in the word shape box that fits.**

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|---------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Shunem | servant | Elisha | prayer |
| staff | Gehazi | Carmel | |
| donkey | Shunammite | sneezed | |



The Boy Is Restored to His Mother