Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Good morning, kids! Today, we're going to dive into a fascinating and important story from the Bible, found in 2 Kings 8. Imagine living in a time long ago, in a world very different from ours, but with people who still had many of the same fears, hopes, and dreams as we do. They looked to God for guidance and help just like we do. Here, we meet some interesting characters: a kind prophet named Elisha, a Shunammite woman who had a great faith, and a few kings who didn't always make good choices.

Elisha was a prophet, which means he was someone chosen by God to tell others about God's wishes and messages. This was before people had the Bible to read, so prophets were very important. In our story today, there's a big famine in the land. Can you imagine what it would be like if the grocery store shelves were empty and your pantry at home had little food? It must have been scary for the people! But Elisha brings hope and guidance during these tough times.

This story includes adventures and lessons about trusting God, the importance of listening to wise advice, and how God takes care of those who follow Him. So let's jump right in and learn about how God was working in the lives of the people then and how He works in our lives today.

Main Teaching Points

Let's dig deeper into this powerful story from 2 Kings 8 and discover some key lessons.

Point 1: Listening to Wise Counsel

At the beginning of the chapter, Elisha speaks to a woman who had shown him kindness in the past. She was known as the Shunammite woman. Elisha advised her to leave her home because there was going to be a seven-year famine in the land. Can you think of a time when someone you trust gave you advice that helped you make a good decision? It's important to listen to those we trust, just like the Shunammite woman listened to Elisha. She trusted him and knew he had God's wisdom. Because she listened, she and her family were safe and taken care of when there was no food in the land.

Point 2: God's Faithfulness in Restoration

After the seven years were over, the Shunammite woman returned to find her home and land had been taken by others. Can you imagine going away and coming back to find your home wasn't yours anymore? She was probably very sad and maybe even a little scared. But she didn't give up; she went to speak to the king to ask for her house and land back. Kids, this teaches us that even when things seem unfair, it's important to stand up for what's right. God worked through the king, and her home was returned to her! This shows us how God can restore what was lost when we trust Him, even when the situation seems impossible.

Point 3: The Consequences of Leadership Choices

The story also shifts to another important topic—leadership. There's a part where we hear about King Ben-Hadad of Aram and Hazael. The king becomes very sick and sends Hazael to Elisha to ask whether he will recover. Elisha reveals to Hazael that the king would die and that Hazael would

become king. Hazael didn't make godly choices and led with cruelty. This part of the story reminds us how important it is to choose leaders who follow God’s way and make positive decisions. When we have roles where others look up to us, like being a team captain or a leader, it’s important to make choices that are fair and kind, just like the good kings did.

In each of these parts, we see that God is at work, helping those who listen and trust in Him. Whether it’s by providing wisdom through others, restoring what was lost, or guiding leaders to do what is right, God is actively involved in the lives of those who seek Him.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Alright, kids, now let's think about how this story can apply to our own lives. We learned that it’s important to listen to wise counsel, like when your parents, teachers, or friends give you advice that comes from a loving place. Maybe someone tells you not to touch a hot stove or to study for a test even when you want to play. These bits of advice keep you safe and help you succeed. Remember, the Shunammite woman listened and her family was protected.

Next, think about how the Shunammite woman didn’t give up when it seemed like everything was lost. Maybe there’s been a time when things seemed unfair to you, like losing a favorite toy or someone not playing fair in a game. It’s okay to feel upset, but learning from the Shunammite woman, we can have faith that God sees us and can make things right.

We also talked about leaders. You may not be a king or queen, but you can lead by example. When you are kind to others and make good choices, you show others what it means to follow God. Imagine you’re the captain of a sports team. By being fair and cheering on your teammates, you’re being a leader just like God wants.

God has a big plan for each of us, and He is always nearby to help us make the right choices, to guide us back if we wander away, and to lead us through good examples. Trust in Him, just like the people in today’s story.

Interactive Discussion Questions with Explanation and Teaching Guidance

Now let's talk about this story with some fun questions!

Question 1:

Why do you think the Shunammite woman trusted Elisha’s advice to leave her home during the famine?

Guide: Encourage students to think about relationships of trust they have. Discuss the role of prophets as messengers from God and how this relates to listening to parents or teachers who guide us. Highlight that building trust involves knowing that someone cares for you and wants the best for you.

Question 2:

How did God show His faithfulness to the Shunammite woman and her family when they returned from the famine?

Guide: Lead students to see how persistence in doing right is honored by God. Ask them if they’ve ever had something lost and then found it again. Relate this to God helping the woman get back

what was hers and showing His faithfulness.

Question 3:

What can we learn about leadership from the story of King Ben-Hadad and Hazael?

Guide: Help students understand that being a good leader means making choices that help others and follow God’s rules. Discuss how leaders affect many people, just like a teacher affects a classroom or a coach affects a team. Encourage them to think of small ways they can lead positively every day.

These questions help us dig into the story more deeply. Just like the Shunammite woman and Elisha, we can trust in God’s guidance and look to Him in everything we do. As we end today’s lesson, remember that God is faithful, and He wants to guide us through all the seasons of our lives, whether we’re facing little challenges or big adventures!