

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God helps us
solve big problems.

BIBLE

Elisha And The Famine:
2 Kings 4:38–44; Psalm 52:8–9

ABOUT THIS WEEK

When we leave an art class, we can feel inspired to create things that end up being quite a challenge. This week, we'll see how God helped Elisha with a challenge as he took care of others during a famine. Whenever he faced a problem, Elisha knew God could help him create a solution because **God helps us solve big problems.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to the *Imagine That!* art studio. But today, it's about a different kind of art—the culinary arts, or art you can eat. Speaking of which, we'll see in today's Bible story how God worked through Elisha to provide food when there wasn't anything to eat. Imagine that!

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Paint Without A Brush

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you will need a plastic container with a lid (they can be recycled and of different sizes) for each kid or pair, washable paints, pompoms, marbles, small pebbles, and pieces of paper. Kids will fit the paper inside their container, add in the objects, squirt in a small amount of the desired color paint, seal the lid, and shake the container to create their art.*
- We have a problem. I wanted to do an art project with you but we don't have any paintbrushes. All we have are these containers and some random objects. **How can we paint with them?**
- We can put all these things into a container and shake out a cool piece of art! What a creative and fun solution.
- In today's Bible story, we'll see how God gave Elisha some pretty creative solutions to some pretty serious problems.

ACTIVITY | Artsy PB & Js

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a piece of bread for each kid, peanut butter (or peanut-free [Wowbutter](#)), jelly, plastic knives or spoons, and an assortment of cookie cutters for kids to punch shapes from their bread. Invite kids to decorate their bread shapes with peanut butter and jelly, then eat up!*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Provide more food items (such as any berries, bananas, oranges, sliced cheese, pretzel sticks) and encourage preteens to create fun [sandwich art](#).*

✳ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Have a few gluten-free and nut-free options available for kids with disabilities. Let their families know ahead of time what specific snacks you'll be providing, and allow them to provide additional foods for their kid if needed.*

- You all took a plain piece of bread and turned it into art. That reminds me of how God can sometimes work wonders through things like food.
- Today's story is about a special feast that happened even when there were big problems. Get ready to see, hear, and taste God's power to solve problems.

QUESTION | How do we fix problems?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to share their answers freely. Choose a few of the responses to discuss different things a particular method could solve.*
- **What are some ways we can fix different problems?**
- Problems usually pop up unexpectedly. Even artists face big problems sometimes. When problems come up while painting, they could start over and turn their problem into a brand-new thing.
- This is what God does for us, too. Sometimes, God gives us a solution to our problems. Other times, God gives us new ways of approaching the problem.

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | 2 Kings 4:38–44 (Elisha And The Famine)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up your space like an art class. Set up a canvas, poster paper, or dry-erase board on an easel, along with paint brushes, paint palettes, and markers. If you can, draw elements of the story as you tell it—even simple stick figures are great.*

✳ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Kids with disabilities love being part of the solution. This week, think of some simple problems that might come up during service that would give kids an opportunity to help solve, like the storyteller can't find their markers or a group runs out of paper. If those things happen, ask them, "What should we do?" and see what solutions they come up with.*

- Hello, artists! Welcome back to the Imagine That! studio. We're going to create artwork inspired by Scripture.
- **We'll begin by reading 2 Kings 4:38.**
 - A famine means there isn't enough food in a certain place. This could be caused by wars or by not having enough water for plants and crops to grow. People go hungry during famines.
 - **How do you feel when you're hungry?** *Grumpy, angry, sad, irritable, tired, dizzy.*
 - But it wasn't just regular hunger like when you miss a meal. This hunger was really serious, like life or death. So, Elisha thought of an idea. He wanted to make a stew for the prophets who were all hanging out together.
 - Imagine a big pot. *Draw a large pot.* Now, it's all set to cook up a scrumptious stew.
- **How did the stew turn out? Let's read 2 Kings 4:39–40.**
 - Let's add some leafy herbs and maybe a gourd-like squash to the stew. *Draw some leaves and a pear-shaped gourd in the pot.*
 - The stew looked like it would have been yummy, but it wasn't good at all. *Draw a frowny face.*
 - The men who ate it said there was "death in the pot." That meant the servant probably gathered something that shouldn't have been eaten, but not on purpose. There was a famine, and things to eat were hard to come by.
- **But God does something amazing through Elisha in 2 Kings 4:41.**
 - *Draw a few dots in the pot for the flour.* Just a bit of flour and the stew wasn't harmful anymore!
 - *Change the frowny face to a smiley face.* Now, I'm no cooking expert, but I don't think you can

fix poisonous food with just a pinch of flour. Well, it wasn't the flour that fixed the stew. It wasn't Elisha who fixed the stew. It was God.

- **That's not the only amazing thing God did in this famine. Let's read 2 Kings 4:42-44.**
 - *Away from the pot, draw twenty small ovals for loaves of bread.* Twenty loaves may seem like a lot of bread, but it was needed to feed a hundred people. Doing the math ... each person would get one-fifth of a loaf of bread. That might be enough for a snack, but for a meal in the middle of a famine? That's barely enough.
 - But God made it enough. The people ate their fill and even had leftovers, just as God had said!
- Elisha knew that God could help with small problems and big ones—even in a famine. A pot of bad stew and a tiny bit of bread might seem like a tear in the canvas that can't be fixed. But, as you saw, God is the greatest artist and the most creative problem solver. *Imagine that!*

BIG IDEA | God helps us solve big problems.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need [white butcher paper](#), white oil pastel or crayon, watercolor paint, and sponge brushes. Write the Big Idea (or a few key words) on the butcher paper with the white oil pastel or crayon so that it blends in and is almost invisible. Then, invite the kids to paint over it with watercolor paint and sponge brushes. The white crayon will show through the watercolors, revealing the Big Idea.*
- What Big Idea masterpiece awaits us today? Let's paint and find out.
- **God helps us solve big problems.**

ACTIVITY | Spin A Solution

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need paper plates, tempera paint, a hairdryer, and one [salad spinner](#) per station. Set up a few paint stations with a tarp to cover the tables. Give each kid a turn placing their paper plates in the salad spinner, spinning it, and squeezing different colors of paint onto the spinning plates. Use a hairdryer to dry the artwork.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Let kids have a sensory break while still relating it to the story about how God can spin problems into possibilities. If your ministry or families in your ministry have Sit 'n Spins or Dizzy Discs, have them available for kids to spin around in while you have a discussion. Consider heading to a nearby playground if it has spinning equipment.*
- We have another problem. We want to create an art piece, but we only have some paint and a salad spinner. That seems like a big problem, but here's a creative solution—Salad Spinner Art!
- What started out as a big problem spun into a wonderful possibility. In the story, Elisha doesn't see problems. He sees possibilities for God to do something. This led him to a tasty stew and never-ending bread!
- Maybe God is waiting to help you spin your problems into possibilities. Just like **God did with Elisha, God helps us solve big problems.**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 52:8-9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids close their eyes and listen as you read the Scripture passage. Stop after each verse or two and ask kids to call out some words that stand out to them. You may prepare an image of an olive tree painting (like [this one](#) by Van Gogh) as a visual.*
- **Have you ever seen an olive tree before?**
 - An olive tree can grow between ten and forty feet tall. It has leathery, narrow-shaped leaves that are dark green on top and silver on the underside.
 - Also, olive trees are tough! They can live through drought, below-freezing temperatures, frost, and even fire. The olive tree is a survivor. Its roots can even regenerate in really hard conditions.
- There is a reason why the writer of this psalm says, "I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God." The writer understands that life won't always be calm and sunny. There will be rain, storms, quakes, fires, and more.

But through it all, the writer wants to be like this olive tree and “trust in God’s unfailing love forever and ever.”

- They can say this because God has always been faithful. Elisha trusted God for the same reason. God had never let him down. Even when death was stewing in a pot, and there wasn’t enough bread for everyone to eat, Elisha knew God would help him find a way.
- **Can you think of anyone else in the Bible who fed a crowd of people with just a few loaves of bread? Jesus!**
- Jesus trusted God and helped others trust God, too. He helped people with big problems and often invited others to participate in the solution. In the same way, **God helps us solve big problems**, too.

VIDEO | *Imagine That!*, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Processing Through Process Art

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you’ll need a [rolling cart](#) or box of art supplies from previous weeks. Invite kids to reflect as they explore process art. This approach to art is all about freedom and independence, giving kids the space to unleash their creativity without the need for samples or strict guidelines. Allow kids to be as creative as they’d like to be.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Use the Reflection time to get preteens thinking about any problems they currently have. Maybe it’s something with schoolwork, a rift with a friend, figuring out what to get someone for their birthday, sibling fights ... whatever it is, have them ponder what it looks like to have God help them solve these problems. How can they lean on God more?
- Process art is such a fun way to do art. Instead of focusing on making something perfect, process art is all about having fun during the creative journey. The main idea is to experiment and find cool ways to use different art materials.
- Use the materials around you to make something that reminds you of today’s Big Idea: **God helps us solve big problems**. Later on, you can share a bit about what you made if you want.

RESPONSE | Collaborative Fixes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you’ll need art supplies like colored pencils, markers, crayons, or watercolor paint, and sheets of paper that have blemishes like a tear, an inkblot, a mug stain, a crinkle, or a hole. You can prepare these in advance or have kids make them. Create small groups of kids and place a blemished sheet of paper on a table or taped to a wall, one per group. Allow kids to creatively turn each blemish into art by drawing or painting around it. Have everyone sign their name at the end.
- Problems, big and small, can come out of nowhere. But with art, what some might see as a creative disaster might actually be the makings of a beautiful masterpiece.
- Out of problems can come a beautiful solution, even a masterpiece.
 - **What is a problem—big or small—that you’ve had recently? Did it get solved? How?**
 - **In the future, what can you do when you face a problem?**
- Remember, whenever you have a problem, you can always turn to God for help. It doesn’t matter if it’s a simple problem or something that might take a while to solve. We can trust God because **God helps us solve big problems**. And small problems, too.

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory](#)

[verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!

- **“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.”**

PRAYER

- Creative God, no problem is too big or too small for you. You want to hear about our problems because you care. Just like in today’s story, you want to help us tackle big problems and show us that your solutions are so awesome there’s even extra good stuff left over. Please turn our problems into possibilities for us and for others. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

● SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- **Why was it a big challenge for Elisha’s servant to gather food for a stew?** *Because there was a famine in the land.*
- **What happened to the stew when Elisha added flour?** *It became safe to eat.*
- **In the second story, why did the servant wonder if giving bread to the people was a good idea?** *There didn’t seem to be enough to feed everyone there.*
- **Read Psalm 52:8. What does it mean to be like an olive tree flourishing? Possible answer: To withstand life’s problems and keep trusting God. To have our roots in God.**

● APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Who do you go to when you have a problem?**
- **What are some big problems that you need God’s help with?**
- **Can you think of a big problem where you can be a part of the solution? How?**

ACTIVITY | Stew Together

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you’ll need a set of [food stencils](#) along with colored pencils or markers and safety scissors. You’ll also need to outline a large pot on poster paper. Have kids use the stencils to trace and cut out different shapes of food on construction paper and decorate them. Then they can glue their food item anywhere on the poster to create one big pot of stew together! For individual take-home versions, provide [veggie stickers](#) or have them make their own out of paper and attach them to the inside of a paper bowl. If there’s time, have them decorate the outside of their paper bowl and write the Big Idea on it.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have preteens make shaving cream marbled art, like [this](#), to show how something inedible can be used to make something beautiful with God in the mix.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Have kids glue foam food shapes, like [these](#), into their bowl instead. Or have precut shapes or pictures of food available.*
- Elisha shared a small amount of stew and bread to feed a whole bunch of people. God helped Elisha fix a really big problem. And guess what? God is still super creative at solving problems even today. **God helps us solve big problems.**