

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God helps us
solve big problems.

BIBLE

Elisha and the Famine:
2 Kings 4:38–44

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.**

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Pass The Stew

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, play a game similar to "Hot Potato." Listen to a fun song (like [this one](#)) as kids pass around a pot or bucket filled with play [vegetables](#). When the music stops, the person holding the pot gets to remove one of the items. Keep playing until the pot is empty. If you have a large group of kids, split up into multiple circles.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Music can help provide a great way to welcome the toddlers into the room at drop-off times. By playing a happy song, you can encourage kids as they arrive or even distract a toddler who is feeling separation anxiety. Try using the same songs each week so the kids become familiar with them.
- Wow, we ran out of food after a while. In today's Bible story, we find out that there was not enough food for the people. But God was with Elisha and helped solve this really big problem.

ACTIVITY | Hungry Hungry Kiddos

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, prepare four [laundry baskets](#) and a bag of [colorful ball pit balls](#). Spread out the balls across the middle of your space, and have the kids sit at the perimeter so they get a good view. Choose four kids to pick up one ball at a time and put it in their designated basket. See who has the most balls in their basket at the end of one minute. For smaller spaces, either have two kids go at a time or spread out into groups of four and play the game "[Hungry Hungry Hippos](#)."
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide an inflatable kiddie pool or [pop-up ball pit](#) filled with balls where toddlers can play.
- In today's Bible story, there were lots of hungry, hungry people. There was not enough food in the land. But Elisha trusted God. Get ready to see, hear, and taste God's problem-solving power!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 2 Kings 4:38–44 (Elisha and the Famine)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below. To add to the theme, set up an easel or tape a piece of butcher paper on the wall. Draw stick-figure images with a bold marker as you teach the story.
- Welcome to the Imagine That! studio, where we get to imagine what it was like to be where the Bible stories took place! Let's see if we can paint a picture as we listen to what God wants to teach us today.
- Draw various foods and draw an X over them when you mention the famine.
 - Our story begins with a big problem—a famine. A famine happens when there is not enough food growing for people to eat. People were going hungry and getting sick.
 - It was terrible. Their tummies must have grumbled nonstop!
 - God saw what was happening and helped Elisha feed people two different times.
- Draw a pot (rectangle) with various plants and vegetables inside. When you talk about the flour, draw dots on top of the pot.
 - In the first story, Elisha and his helper decided to cook a large pot of stew for his friends.
 - **What do you think was in the stew?**
 - They made the stew out of vegetables and leafy herbs. But when it came time to eat, it was no good! They could not eat it.
 - Elisha added some flour to the pot. All of a sudden, it was okay to eat!
 - **Did the flour make the food okay?** No! It was God!
- Draw a loaf of bread and lots of sad faces. Then, draw lines from the bread to all the faces and turn the sad faces into happy ones ([like this](#)).
 - In the next story, a kind man brought twenty loaves of bread to Elisha to give out. The problem was, there were a hundred people who were hungry!
 - **How many loaves of bread do you think a hundred people would need?** At least one hundred. Twenty was not enough.
 - But God told Elisha it would be enough. Elisha trusted God. When they passed out the bread, everyone ate until they were full, and there were leftovers!
- The famine was a very big problem. But it was not a problem for God at all! Imagine that!

BIG IDEA | God helps us solve big problems.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On a roll of large [white poster paper](#), use a white oil pastel or crayon to write the letter "B" so that it appears "invisible." Invite the kids to come around and paint over the white paper in watercolors. Lay out a tarp below the paper to catch drips. Once the letter is revealed, teach kids the Big Idea by having them repeat the words after you, along with the hand motions provided.
- **What Big Idea masterpiece awaits us today?** It starts with the letter B!
 - **What words start with the letter B?**
 - There's another word that starts with B ... big! As in Big Idea!
 - **God helps us solve** (Point up to the sky.)
 - **big** (Open your arms wide.)
 - **problems.** (Scratch your head.)

VIDEO | *Imagine That!*, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Connect The Food

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, prepare a giant piece of [white poster paper](#) on the wall or on a table. Have kids put [fruit and vegetable stickers](#) all over it. Make sure there are at least two of each sticker on the paper. Afterward, invite one kid at a time to draw a line connecting two of the same foods on the paper using a crayon. They can be any distance apart. Continue until all foods are connected and all kids have had a chance to try.
- Even though there was a famine going on, Elisha fed a lot of people with just a little bit of stew and bread. God helped Elisha solve these big problems. It shows us God cares about our problems and helps us find a way to solve them.
- **God helps us solve big problems.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, you help us solve big problems. No problem is any problem for you! Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Bread And Stew

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this snack, serve a small cup of butternut squash soup (or any other flavor your kids will enjoy) along with a dinner roll or a piece of [Hawaiian bread](#). Notify parents of ingredients ahead of time in case of allergies or dietary restrictions.
- **Doesn't this snack remind you of the food in today's Bible story? What are your favorite foods to eat?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For Circle Time this month, have kids sit on [colorful spot markers](#) or make some out of construction paper or foam. You can also have them sit in "rainbow order" according to their shirt color. Pass around preschooler-safe art tools or toys ([like these](#)) as you review what you learned together.
- **What was the big problem in today's Bible story?** A famine. There was not enough food in the land.
- **What did Elisha do when the stew tasted bad?** He added flour.
- **How many people did Elisha feed with twenty loaves of bread?** One hundred.
- **Who helped Elisha with these problems?** God.
- **Who can help us solve big problems?** God! God helps us solve big problems.

ACTIVITY | Stencil Stew

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, provide vegetables (some cut in half), glue, washable paint, glitter, and a [paper plate](#). Have the kids use stencils to trace and color different shapes of food that they can draw on their plates. Then have them pour a little liquid glue over everything and sprinkle a pinch of glitter on top of the glue (or directly on top of wet paint). Guide kids to a trash can to discard the excess glitter. See a worked example [here](#).
- Elisha put a little bit of flour in his stew so everyone could eat it. But it wasn't the flour that solved the problem ... it was God! God helped Elisha solve the big problem, and **God helps us solve big problems, too.**

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words and Scripture reference to the tune of "[This Is The Way](#)." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Oops Art!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, leave out multiple copies of the [printable](#), crayons, and markers for kids to turn each of these "problems" into works of art. You may want to read the book "[Beautiful Oops](#)" with the kids before they begin.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide stamps, dot markers, and stickers for toddlers to stick on the printables to create their art.

ACTIVITY | Pretend Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, place a bunch of [plastic toy food](#) in a large bin. You can also reuse the ones from the "Pass The Stew" game. Provide ladles and bowls where kids can take turns scooping out food and pretending to serve and eat stew.