

WEEK 1 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God asks us to help each other.

BIBLE

Elisha and The Widow's Oil:
2 Kings 4:1–7; Galatians 6:1–10

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Art isn't just about putting colors on a canvas to make something beautiful—our creations can help people, too. This week, we'll hear about the time when Elisha worked with a widow to help get her out of debt. Elisha knew she had a need and used his creativity to help her because **God asks us to help each other.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome to the art classroom! Look at all the vibrant colors and touch the cool shapes of newly cut construction paper on every table. What do you want to create today? You can make anything you can imagine! This is a great place to learn about how God worked through the prophet Elisha and how God can work through us, too. *Imagine that!*

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Cup Creations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need one large plastic cup for each kid, scissors, and decorating supplies such as markers, glue, glitter, construction paper, etc. Give the kids seven to ten minutes to decorate their cups however they choose.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Give preteens paper and colored pencils. Designate a describer to describe how to draw an object without saying what it is or what it's used for. Feel free to give them an example beforehand. The group will do their best to draw what is described. Have a cup be the first object, connecting it to the Bible story.*
- These cups look incredible! **What would you choose if you could fill your cup with a never-ending liquid?** This reminds me of a miracle that God performed with jars in today's Bible story.

ACTIVITY | Yarn Painting Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need contact paper, painter's tape, and a bin of assorted yarn scraps. Divide kids into teams of five to eight. Tape one sheet of contact paper per team onto the wall, sticky side out. At your starting signal, one kid from each team gets one piece of yarn from the bin, attaches it to their team's contact paper, and then tags the next person. Continue until every team completely covers their sheet of contact paper with yarn. If you'd like, award prizes to the first team to complete their [yarn painting](#).*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *In the vein of helping others this week, recruit your preteens for various*

activities. They could help run games, tell the Bible story, or even assist younger kids in making the craft.

✖ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Have kids create splat art together. Follow instructions like [this](#), or something similar. Have them take turns choosing what color they want to add.

- Let's create a painting—without any paint at all. Check out the amazing art you all created together. It shows us everyone has something special to share, and it might be different for each person.
- Today's Bible story is all about how God worked through different people to give someone the help they needed. And guess what? It led to some incredible results.

QUESTION | What is something that helps?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to share their answers freely. Choose a few responses and discuss why that item might be considered helpful.
- **What are some things that help us in some way?** Let's name as many things as we can. So many things come to mind when we think about helpful things.
- Today, we will hear a story about a time when God decided to help someone through a special person named Elisha. We'll also find out how everyone around joined in to lend a hand.

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

SCRIPTURE | 2 Kings 4:1–7 (Elisha and The Widow's Oil)

- **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.
- ✖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Provide a sketch pad for preteens and invite them to draw along as you tell the Bible story. Have them draw images that stand out to them from the passage or depict some of the happenings of the story.
- Hello, artists! Welcome to the Imagine That! studio. We're going to create artwork inspired by Scripture.
- **We'll start by reading 2 Kings 4:1.**
 - Draw a stick figure with a simple cloak for Elisha. Elisha was a prophet or messenger of God. He would go where God told him to go and deliver messages God wanted him to deliver.
 - Draw a woman with a sad face to represent the widow. Draw two stick figures next to the widow. Elisha was approached by a widow who needed his help.
 - Draw a stick figure, as described, for the creditor. And then there's the villain—the creditor or a debt collector. **What kind of expression do you think he would have on his face?** Let's give him a mean face and make his hands reach out toward the widow, asking her to pay up.
 - The creditor was about to take the widow's boys away. That's why she was asking Elisha for help.
- **Then what? Let's read on in 2 Kings 4:2–4.**
 - Draw a house shape around the widow and her sons. Then draw a rectangle for a jar, with a line across it for the oil level. There's a house in the story. And inside the house is a jar of oil.
 - Draw more rectangles for jars but with no oil lines. Then Elisha told the widow to collect as many empty jars as she could.
 - He said to fill them all up with olive oil—but how could she fill them all if she only had one small jar of it?
- **Wait until you see what happens next in 2 Kings 4:5–7.**
 - Shade in all the empty rectangles. Every time she filled an empty jar, her one small jar didn't run out of oil. *Imagine that!*

- The oil only stopped flowing after every single jar was filled to the brim. The widow then had more than enough to pay off everything she owed the creditor. It was a miracle.
- God gave Elisha a creative solution for a major problem. The widow was in trouble because she didn't know how to pay the money her late husband owed. But thanks to Elisha, her sons, her neighbors, and most importantly, God, they all worked together to find a way to pay off the debts. Imagine that!

BIG IDEA | God asks us to help each other.

- **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 just the 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 asks us to help each other.**

ACTIVITY | Pass The Water

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need two large buckets of water, two empty buckets, one plastic cup for each kid, and optional tarps or towels. Have two teams stand in parallel lines, with each player holding a plastic cup. On "Go," the first player from each team scoops water from their bucket with their cup and passes the water to the next player's cup. Continue down the line to the last player. Once everyone has a full cup of water, they must empty them into the empty bucket. The team with the most water collected wins.
- ✳ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** If a kid is not physically or otherwise able to participate in more active activities, give them a helper role. You can have them pass out supplies, assist the storyteller, or help with set up or clean up.
- Didn't it feel like there was endless water? It was awesome to see how much water we gathered together.
- In today's Bible story, amazing things happened when people worked together with God's help. God could have just made a thousand jars of oil appear to the woman, but instead, God gave the people around her a chance to help and be a part of the miracle. **God asks us to help each other.**

OBJECT LESSON | Paintbrush Talk

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this object lesson, every kid will need paintbrushes. Otherwise, you can hold one paintbrush up for all to see.
- **What can this paintbrush do?**
- Paintbrushes are really cool and enjoyable. They feel a bit ticklish when you gently touch the bristles to your cheek. But, by themselves, paintbrushes can't do a whole lot without paint, water, a canvas, or something to paint on.
- Imagine if we took away the paintbrush—what amazing artwork could we make using just water, canvas, or paints? Each of these things needs the others to create something really beautiful.
- We also need one other to do what God wants us to do. We can't do everything by ourselves. When we work together and share the special talents God gave us, we can create something amazing! **God asks us to help each other.**

SCRIPTURE | Galatians 6:1–10

- **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.
- **What words or images stand out to you in these verses?**
- In this passage, we find different ways to help each other.
 - We can pray for people who need help following God (Verses 1–2).
 - We can help people be confident in who they are, just the way God made them (Verses 4–5).

- We can share good things with everyone, including those who usually give us things (Verse 6).
- We can keep doing good to others every chance we get (Verses 9–10).
- We can help one another in big things and little things. We can also call in trusted adults for help with the heavy lifting. When we think about what Jesus did when he was on earth, we remember that he did many good things to help people.
- Like fixing a problem at a wedding or performing miraculous healings. But the most important thing he did was show everyone how much God cares for us just by being here.
- When Jesus died on the cross and came back to life, he made a special way for all of us to be connected to God and to the “family of believers” these verses talk about. **God asks us to help each other**, just like Jesus helped everyone.

VIDEO | *Imagine That!*, Episode 1

- **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 you have such as paints, sponges, painter’s tape, masking tape, craft paper, pipe cleaners, clay, toothpicks, craft sticks, mixed-media paper, stickers, felt paper, tissue paper, buttons, tinsel, foil, markers, colored pencils, crayons, gel pens, and glitter. 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!
 - ✦ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Kids with disabilities can become easily overwhelmed or overstimulated when given too many options. Consider choosing a smaller selection of art supplies and changing it up each week for this module.
- 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 asks us to help each other**. Later on, you can share a bit about what you made if you want.

RESPONSE | How To Help Together

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you’ll need poster paper, sticky notes, and pencils or crayons. Before your program, write the word “help” in large bubble or block letters on poster paper. Give each kid a few sticky notes and have them write or draw their responses to your questions. Invite them to place their sticky notes inside the block letters (overlaps are okay).
 - ✦ **PRETEEN HACK:** For an added challenge, have kids think of ways they might help someone or ask for help related to something that starts with each of the letters in the word “help” (homework, extracurriculars, lawnmowing, practicing an instrument).
- Before we go out and help each other the way God wants us to, why don’t we think of some ways we might help? **What is one way God might be asking you to help someone this week?**
- Look at all the different ideas we came up with together. **Based on what your friends have said, is there something else you might want to try?**
- Whatever you decide to do, the important thing is to take that first step and start. Remember that **God asks us to help each other** in both big and small ways.

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

- God, thank you for being our Creator. We can see how creative you are in the tree leaves, a puppy’s nose, and the cool shape inside our ears. Please help us use our creativity to help others, just like you want us to. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **What was the problem the widow needed help with?** *A creditor wanted to take away her two sons as payment for her late husband’s debts.*
 - **Where did the widow get the jars for the oil?** *The widow’s neighbors helped her by giving her their empty jars.*
 - **What did God do with all the empty jars they had collected?** *Filled them with oil from the widow’s small jar, which didn’t stop flowing until all the jars were full.*
 - **Read Galatians 6:2. What do you think it means to “carry each other’s burdens”?** *Possible answers: We help each other out with whatever they’re going through. When someone shares their feelings or worries with you, you listen, love them, and help them if you can.*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **Do you find it easy or difficult to help others? Why?**
 - **What special skill or talent do you have that could be helpful to someone else?**
 - **What is one way (big or small) that you can help someone else today?**

ACTIVITY | Jars Of Clay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you’ll need [air-dry clay](#) and pencils. Have kids make their own jars like [these pinch pots](#). Kids can use pencils to inscribe the Big Idea on the sides of their jars or etch other designs.
- In today’s Bible story, Elisha helped a widow pay off her debt with God’s creative power, a few jars, and some oil. Let’s make our own jars of clay to remind ourselves that **God asks us to help each other.**