

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

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.**

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Find The Jars

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, hide as many [paint jars](#) filled with water and food coloring that match the color of the lid. You can also line the inside of the containers with matching colored paper for a mess-free option.
- Thank you for helping me find all my paint jars! I'm going to need them to create all kinds of art ... there are so many possibilities!
- In today's Bible story, the people in the story needed to collect a lot of jars. God is going to do something amazing with the prophet Elisha.

ACTIVITY | Match The Colors

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, use the [paint jars](#) from the "Find The Jars" activity. Set up the jars on a flat surface. Give each kid a small bag of [counting tokens](#) ("paint drops"), and have them drop these into the corresponding jars.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of using plastic tokens that may pose a choking hazard for toddlers, simply use colorful paper wadded up for toddlers to put in large buckets of matching colors.
- Thanks for helping me match all the paint drops to the right paint jars! It's wonderful to get help, and it's even more wonderful to give help.
- Our Bible story for today is all about how God helped the people in a big way and helps us help others, too!

STORY TIME

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

- **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 a woman and two boys, all with sad faces.*
 - Our story begins with a woman who had two sons. Their father was gone, and they were sad.
 - But what made things more sad was that their family had to borrow money from people, and now the people they borrowed from wanted their money back.
- *Draw a man with an angry face.*
 - The person who lent the money to the woman wanted her to pay him back right away. He said that he would take her sons and make them work for him if she didn't pay him back.
 - The woman did not know what to do! She decided to ask Elisha for help.
- *Draw another man with a happy face.*
 - Elisha was a prophet who worked for God. He listened to God, told people how to obey God, and showed how great God's power was.
 - When the woman asked him for help, this would be one way people would see God's power.
- *Draw one jar.*
 - Elisha asked the woman what she had. She told him that all she had was one jar of oil. It wasn't enough to sell and make money.
 - So Elisha told her to go ask all her neighbors for more empty jars. Once she collected as many jars as she could, she was to go back inside her home with her sons and shut the door.
- *Draw lots and lots of jars.*
 - Now, they had a bunch of jars.
 - **What do you think Elisha did with the jars?**
 - God did something amazing! Each jar kept filling up with oil. Now, she had so many jars of oil she could sell. She would have money to pay back what was owed. She and her sons would be safe!
- God helped the woman through this amazing miracle but also through the help her neighbors and Elisha gave her. God helped them all help each other. *Imagine that!*

BIG IDEA | God asks us to help each other.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On a roll of large [white kraft paper](#), use a white oil pastel or crayon to write the letter "H" 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.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Naturally, toddlers will make a mess as they play and create artwork. Give them safe, washable materials as they explore and discover new abilities. Supervise carefully, as toddlers will want to put everything in their mouths. Ask families to supply a change of clothes or provide ponchos to protect their clothing.
- What Big Idea masterpiece awaits us today? It starts with the letter H!
 - **What words start with the letter H?**
 - There's another word that starts with H ... help! That's a word in our Big Idea.
 - **God asks us** (Point up to the sky.)
 - **to help each other.** (Point to each other.)

VIDEO | *Imagine That!*, Episode 1

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

ACTIVITY | Help Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have kids play a game of "Freeze Tag," where kids should spread around the

room to avoid getting tagged by the kid who is "it." Once tagged, kids must freeze. In order to unfreeze, another player must help them by giving them a high-five. After a minute, have a new person be "it." Before gameplay, demonstrate light touch tagging for kids. For smaller spaces, play "[London Bridge Is Falling Down](#)" using the Big Idea words instead of the nursery rhyme: "God asks us to help each other, help each other, help each other. God asks us to help each other, starting right now!"

- Just like Elisha did, we can always turn to God for help. God will send people to help us or send us to help others.
- **How can you help someone this week?**
- Tag, you're it! Remember, **God asks us to help each other.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for being so creative and loving. You ask us to help each other. Teach us how to be good helpers to those in need. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Pretzel Paintbrushes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For [this snack](#), you'll need pretzel rods, [candy melts](#) in assorted colors, microwave-safe bowls for each color of melts, and access to a microwave. Carefully microwave candy melts for a few minutes until completely melted. Dip the pretzel rods in each color to create a variety of "paintbrushes" you can have kids choose from once the chocolate is no longer runny. Alternatively, you can provide snacks like [Yan Yan](#) or [Nutella & GO!](#) for kids to create their own dipping snacks.
- **What are your favorite colors? What are some things that are that color?**

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.
- **Who did the woman ask to help her?** Elisha.
- **Who did Elisha work for?** God. He was a prophet.
- **What did Elisha ask the woman to go and get from her neighbors?** Jars.
- **What did they fill the jars with?** Oil.
- **Who does God want us to help?** Everyone! God asks us to help others.

ACTIVITY| Calming Oil Jars

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need small plastic jars (or used but clean water bottles), baby oil, water, funnels, different glitter colors, and food coloring. Fill the bottom half of the bottle with baby oil. Top the baby oil with a decent amount of glitter, covering the surface of the oil. Add water to the top. Drop a few drops of food coloring. Seal the lids well. Kids can take home their [new jars](#) or [bottles](#) to help them remember the Bible story.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Create several of these sensory bottles ahead of time and allow toddlers to shake and play with them. Make sure you have enough for each toddler as they may not share very easily.

- Our new jars with oil remind us of how the woman in the Bible story got help from her neighbors, Elisha and God.
- **God asks us to help each other!**

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 | Paint With Oil

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, prepare individual containers of liquid watercolors mixed with water and separate containers of cooking oil. Have kids place watercolor or cardstock paper in a tray or box lid (this can get messy). Have kids use pipettes to drop watercolors on their paper. Then, using a different eyedropper, have them drop oil onto the paper and see the watercolors disperse. Set it aside to dry. Check out more detailed instructions [here](#).
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** For toddlers, place white paper inside a zip-top bag and add a dollop of glitter paint. Seal the bag closed with duct tape. Let the toddlers push and squish the glitter paint around the paper from outside the bag.

ACTIVITY | Fill The Oil Jar

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, set up large bins with plastic bottles, jars, scoops, funnels, and cups and allow kids to have fun transferring water into different containers. It will increase their fine motor and visual perceptual motor skills. You can use uncooked or coffee beans instead for a dry option.