*True and Lively Lessons*

*Precious Gems - Ages 2-5*

*The Law is Our Schoolmaster Leading Us to Christ*

Level 1 Lesson 8 Miracles - Faith

What Shall I Do For Thee?

Target: Have faith in The All Powerful God to provide a miracle when you need one.

Text: 2 Kings 4:1-7

**Memory Verse:** What shall I do for thee? 2 Kings 4:2

 Preface: Webster defines the word "miracle" as "*an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs; a wonder or marvel."* The literal translation of the word "*miracle"* is found 37 times in the KJV. For example, God told Moses in Exodus 7:9, "*When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent."* Moses did not have the ability to turn his rod into a serpent. That act required a supernatural occurrence, a divine intervention, to make it happen. Yet, miracles often do a poor job of convincing people to trust in God. Throughout scripture, God caused water to quench the thirst of millions as it came forth from a rock. God caused the Israelites' clothing and shoes not to wear out over a 40-year trek in the wilderness. He healed many sick, raised the dead back to life, turned water into wine, cast out devils, etc. Yet, many people still would not put their faith in God. For example, after Jesus miraculously fed the multitude by multiplying the loaves and fishes, Mark 6:52 says, *"For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened."* Yet, God is able to make provision for every one of our needs if we will only trust Him. In fact, in Genesis 22:14, Abraham ascribed God as Jehovah Jirah *(Yehovah yireh, meaning 'God sees') when God provided a ram in place of Isaac. Truly, as the woman in 2 Kings Chapter 4 learned, God sees our situations and is able to make provision for our every need. In seemingly impossible situations, God specializes in working miracles!*

**The dress-up activity below requires extra effort to gather the listed props, but it should be worth it. It would also be something to consider presenting for the church as part of a children's program.**

Activities and Materials:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Not Enough** | **I Need A Miracle/Testimonies** | **Songs** | **Story** | **Snack/Craft** |
| ingredients for a baked treat requiring oil **(but not nearly enough)** (brownies are easy), mixing bowls, spoons, measuring cups, baking pans, cooking spray or shortening | flash light, numerous items listed below for Bible characters and props | **"NO!"** sign, popcorn kernel, a popped kernel (to show that God turns a seed of faith into much more) | jars, cups, bottles, vases, bowls for vessels, 2 identical pitchers for pouring "oil," black veil, robe, powder for Elisha | baked treat, milk or water, cups, craft picture and memory verse (below), glue stick, crayons or markers  |
| **Schoolmaster**oil |  |  |  |  |

**Not Enough:** *(Children will need to wash hands upon arriving as they will be doing a bit of cooking)* Have items you need to make boxed-cake or brownies batter and let students help you with putting ingredients in the bowl. You can let them help as little or as much as you like, but know that cooking is among young children's favorite activities. If the class is big, have more than one bowl and batter going with helpers leading in groups with just a few students. *(At this point* ***Janitor Joe*** *enters as though he came to empty the trash. While working he notices how good something smells and casually becomes interested in what the class is cooking and makes informal conversation.)* Students can stir the batter after each ingredient is added. Put the oil in last of all and make sure there is only a fraction of the oil necessary for the recipe. At this point make sure everyone knows that it just won't turn out right without oil. Show your disappointment and declare, “**We need oil!!!!"** Teacher and helps must abandon the cooking, quickly clean up, and set cooking items and batter aside. Let students know that you will be able to get back to the cooking once there is oil. In the meantime, interest students in the next activity." *(****Janitor Joe*** *slips out once he sees the disappointment about there not being enough oil.)*

**Theme Song:** Tune: *The Farmer in the Dell*

*(form Bible with hands)* Verse 1:***The Bible is the way***

 ***The Bible is the way***

 ***The way to go to Jesus***

 ***Oh, the Bible is the way***

*(walk in place)* Verse 2: ***I want to go the way***

 ***I want to go the way***

 ***The way to go to Jesus***

 ***Oh, I want to go the way***

*(teacher leads one* Verse 3: ***Show me the way***

*student skipping in circle)* ***Show me the way***

 ***The way to go to Jesus***

 ***Oh, show me the way***

(skip in pairs) Verse 4:***Let's go the way***

 ***Let's go the way***

 ***The way to go to Jesus,***

 ***Oh, let's go the way***

**I Need A Miracle:**

 Teacher and helper distribute dress-up items for Bible characters as students are helped with clothing/props. (There are many potential participants (characters) listed below. Teacher can choose which characters and props from the list or add other Bible examples.)

 Blind Bartimaeus - robe and sunglasses

 Lazarus, Mary, and Martha - tissue (weeping for Lazarus), apron for Martha, head coverings, TP wrapped Lazarus, (lying on the floor - unwrapped and upright for testimony time)

 The Shunemmite Woman - tissue, empty baby cradle, stroller, or carrier

 Captain Naaman - suit coat (too big, of course), metal bowl for military helmet, white paper circles of random sizes taped to Naaman's arms and face

 Young Prophet - tool handle to represent the ax with no head, because it fell in the river, ax head (for testimony time)

 Moses - (Up against the enemy at the shore of the Red Sea) shepherd's staff or long stick, robe, head piece, (Miriam with tambourine for testimony time)

 Peter, James, and John - fishing poles, fish net, or empty bucket, or boat oar, paper fish of different colors, open a can of tuna for effect (for testimony time)

 Jairus and his very sick daughter - priestly robe or headdress (a ruler of the synagogue), blanket, cloth (for her head)

 Man at the Gate Beautiful - blanket, cup for begging

 Woman with the issue of blood - (bent over with cane or stick)

Have dressed-up students make a circle and choose one student to be in the center who represents the voice of God. He flashes his light on one of the characters or group of characters. As the light shines on character(s) he leads the class saying, "**What shall I do for thee?"** The chosen character(s) declare their need (with the help of teacher and helper). Once all of the characters have had a chance to speak their need, sing "*Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?"*

**Song:** *(Hold up* ***"NO!"*** *sign on cue)*

 *Is Anything Too Hard for The Lord? (If this is not a familiar song, it could be chanted.)*

Is anything too hard for The Lord? (class and helper respond, **"NO!"**)

 Is anything too hard for The Lord? (**"NO!"**)

 Is anything too hard?

 Is anything too hard?

 Is anything too hard for The Lord? ("**NO!"**)

 No, nothing's too hard for The Lord (**"NO!"**)

 Nothing's too hard for The Lord (**"NO!"**)

 Nothing's too hard

 Nothing's too hard

 Nothing's too hard for The Lord (**"NO!"**)

**Song:** *(Hold up popcorn kernel and one that has been popped to show that God turns a seed of faith into much more.)*

 *Faith, Faith, Faith, Just a Little Bit of Faith*

 Faith, faith, faith, just a little bit of faith

 Faith, faith, faith, just a little bit of faith

 You don't need a whole lot

 Just use what you've got

 Faith, faith, faith, just a little bit of faith

**I Need A Miracle** (Testimonies):

With students still "dressed-up" have them take their places again in the circle with the student in the center with flashlight. This time it's time to tell the rest of their story about the miracle God did for them. One by one let them (with help from teacher and assistant, if necessary) declare their miracles.

**Worship:** Thank The Lord for His ability to provide all of the miracles that we read about in the Bible. Get excited, clap your hands and shout!!!! *After worship, have students place their dress-up items in a tote or box and gather in for prayer.*

 **Prayer:** Before prayer begins, ask students what needs they want to bring to God. Tell children to call this out to The Lord in prayer as the needs are lifted up to God. Tell children to raise their hands and heads and close their eyes as prayer is made.

**Schoolmaster:** *Schoolmaster enters with oil.*

Schoolmaster: **Bro. /Sis. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Janitor Joe handed me this oil and said that you needed oil for your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (brownies, cake, etc.).** *(Holds up oil)* **Will this be enough?**

Teacher: **Oh, yes, thank you, Schoolmaster. That was kind of you.** *(Teacher takes the oil and places it with the rest of the cooking project)*

Schoolmaster: **You know Bro. /Sis. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, there was a woman in the Bible who had some oil. In fact, that was about ALL she had. She REALLY needed God's help and, WOW, what a miracle God did for that woman!!!!! You should tell that story from the Bible today, Bro. /Sis. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** *(Begins to exit)*

Teacher: **Yes, Sir, that sounds like the perfect story to tell today! Thank you, again, Sir!**

*Teacher asks helper to add oil to the cooking mixture, assuring children that their treat will be just right now that it has oil in it. Helper can take the mixture out of the room for baking (or have treats already baked, waiting for helper to retrieve when needed).*

**Transition:** *Sound ring tone or other signal. Children turn chairs around to face the Old Testament scene*.

**Story:** *Prior to class, hide many vessels around the room. Hide paper cups, plastic bowls, small pans, vases, empty cans, etc.; anything that can hold water. Also have 2 identical containers for filling the vessels (so one can be swapped out and filled while the other is being used).*

*Helper gets students' attention by reviewing the memory verse as teacher assumes her position for the story.*

*Teacher is the widow woman – dress in black with a veil over your face. Select student to play the part of Elisha and place a robe on him and wig or dust his hair with a bit of baby powder. Elisha must say, "What shall I do for thee?" when it is time for him to answer the door. Woman is already knelt down clinging to a chair wailing/crying:*

**No, no, no. The bill collector has been here. He says he will be back to take my boys as servants because I cannot pay my bills. My husband has died. (Sobbing through all of this). I have no way to pay!! Oh, what will I do, what will I DO??? I need a miracle!!**

*Elisha goes outside the classroom and waits at the door.*

*The widow woman pauses for a moment.* *Sniffling, gasping for breath, this woman is desperate.* **Wait a minute. My husband served the man of God before he died. Elisha! Yes, Elisha is a miracle man! I will go see Elisha!** *She goes to the classroom door and knocks. Elisha answers.*

*Widow woman bows down to Elisha and begins to wail and beg regarding her plight.*

Elisha: **What shall I do for thee?**

**Please oh man of God, please help me. My husband who served you has died. And now the bill collector has come to take my two boys because I cannot pay my bills.** *(Cry and wail and beg)* **What’s that you ask? What do I have? I have NOTHING, I tell you, NOTHING. Except a small vessel of oil** *(show one of the 2 identical containers)* – **that’s all I have in my house! Vessels? Go borrow vessels, containers? And then pour the oil I have into them?? And then sell the oil? Sounds a little wild but I will do it! I will have faith in what the man of God is telling me to do! Let’s see what God will do.**

**I will send my boys to borrow containers.**  *Ask the children* - **Can you help gather containers?**

*Help children get the idea by finding the first few containers. When they have gathered all possible, widow woman begins to fill vessels with water. Have 2 identical containers (small pitcher, glass, vase, etc.) Set the pitcher down periodically between pouring to admire and be amazed. Draw attention to a certain vessel so helper can swap out the empty pitcher with a full one without being noticed. Fill all containers.*

**Widow woman – Look! I started out with this small container of oil and now I have ALL this oil! Surely I can sell it just like Elisha said and have more than enough to pay my bills.** *(Exit; Helper* *takes over class with the following)*

*Helper explains that in today’s Bible story it was actually oil, and that oil was very valuable because it was used for a variety of things Itwas a commodity of exchange, as a cosmetic, as a medicine, as a food, as an illuminant, religious rites (consecration, offerings, burials) and everyone needed it.*

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*Teacher returns to class and asks,”* **Have you ever needed a miracle?”** Have children share their simple needs (which are huge to them, by the way).Respond by applying the principle from today’s Bible lesson. For instance, what if the widow woman would have just pouted and not tried to do anything? The hope is to get the children to understand that if they give what they have, do what they can, God will multiply and supply the need through His miraculous ways.

 **Prayer:** Take time to pray for students' miracle needs and for God to help their faith to believe God is going to provide a miracle.

**Snack/Craft:** Serve the baked treat that students had helped prepare with milk or water. Have students color picture craft (below) and glue the memory verse (below) onto picture.

**Dismissal:**

Line students up with craft in hand and have them call out the memory verse. Ask them, **"Who is asking you, "What shall I do for thee?"** (Students let teacher know that **Jesus** is asking.) Remind children to talk to Jesus because he **LOVES** them.

**Optional Additional Activities:**

• Use something that expands in water. (Dry sponge, novelty sea creature, gel crystals or other items. *When we give God what we have He multiplies it!*

• Little scoop, big scoop. Use a bowl of whatever. Take a teaspoon and add some ‘whatever’ to the bowl. The bowl already has a lot in it. Use a big scoop and dip a large amount from the bowl to give back. (This could be used at snack time with a bowl of ice cream, pudding, or jello, etc.

• Make popcorn for snack. Show the small kernels prior to popping. God takes our small efforts/contributions/abilities, etc. and makes them bigger, better.

**Song:**

There’s a joy in giving, and I’ve found it to be true

 The more you give to Jesus, the more He’s gonna give to you.

 So give till you can’t give anymore, give more than you can afford.

 And you’ll find your cup will overflow ‘cause you can’t out-give the Lord.

**Appendix:**

**Picture Craft:** (below - enlarge to desired size)

**Memory Verse:** (to be glued onto picture)

What shall I do for thee? 2 Kings 4:2