

Twice Blessed

2 Kings 4:8-37; 8:1-6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 237-240

Imagine the most wonderful gift that could ever be given to you. Imagine the excitement of opening a present and finding the one thing you have wanted your whole life!

Now imagine getting double what you expected. God enjoys giving us gifts. He often gives us more than we ask or imagine. Let's read about a woman who would agree.

A woman from the town of Shunem often fed the prophet Elisha when he visited there. She knew that Elisha often passed through town. One day she and her husband talked about the prophet's visits. "I think we should have a place for Elisha to stay," she said. "What do you think?"

So they decided to add a room to their house. A place on the rooftop with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Elisha was so thankful to have a place to rest. He wanted to do

something for the family. So he asked the woman to name anything she wanted. But the woman said she wanted nothing.

Elisha's servant remembered that the woman had no children. When Elisha heard this, he knew just what to do. He knew that God loves to give gifts. So he called for the woman. "One year from now," he said, "God will give you a child to hold in your arms."

One year later, Elisha returned to the woman's house in Shunem. Smiling at the door were his friends, and in the woman's arms was a baby boy!



The Message

God gives me blessings, more than I ask or imagine.

Memory Verse

“[He] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”

(Ephesians 3:20, NIV).

The boy grew into a fine lad. One day he was helping his father in the fields. Suddenly the boy's head began to hurt, so his father called for a servant to carry him home. His mother did everything she could, but the boy grew sicker. Finally, he stopped breathing; he had died.

God's gift to the Shunammite woman—the most wonderful gift she could imagine—had been taken away. The woman ran to find Elisha. “I didn't ask for anything,” she cried as she shared her grief. “But God gave me a son, and now my son is gone!”

The prophet hurried to the Shunammite's house. He went into the room where the boy was laying and prayed to the Lord. Elisha covered the boy and the boy's body began to get warm. Elisha covered the boy again and the boy sneezed seven times. Seven times the boy sneezed. On the seventh sneeze, he opened his eyes, awake, and alive!

Elisha called the boy's mother. When she saw her son, she immediately knelt to thank God. She had been given one of the greatest gifts in life—twice. There was no doubt that God loved her. God is so good! He gave her more than

she asked or imagined. And God will give you great blessings too—more than you can imagine.



S A B B A T H

READ Read your Bible lesson with your family. Read Ephesians 3:20 together. Remember that God is able to take care of you and bless you more than you can ask or imagine. Thank Him for His gifts to your family.

DO Tonight, go outside and look at the sky. Do you really know what is up there? More than you can imagine. Look up at the stars and try to count them. Or look at a book about the universe. What does the universe tell us about God?

M O N D A Y

DO Together with your family, read 2 Kings 4:11-17. Does your family have a baby? Or do you know a family with a baby? What is the baby's name? Write it here. _____ What was the Shunammite's son's name? What name would you give him, if he was born in your family? Ask God to bless a baby you know.

SING Sing "God Is So Good" (Sing for Joy, No. 13).

DO Say your memory verse.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read 2 Kings 4:18-21.

DO If you have a garden, be like the Shunammite's son and help do some garden work. Don't forget to wear a hat and drink enough water if the weather is warm. Thank God for things that grow.

SING Make up a tune for your memory verse.

S U N D A Y

READ For worship, read about Elisha's new room in 2 Kings 4:8-10.

DO Take a small box and make a model of Elisha's room on the rooftop. What four things were in the room? (See 2 Kings 4:10.) Write them here.

_____, _____, _____, _____. Make cutouts of these four things and put them in the "room" that you made. Thank God for your home.

DO Review your memory verse; then say it in your own words.

Israelite women thought God was angry with them when they couldn't have a baby.



W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Read 2 Kings 4:22-27 with your family. Talk about a time when you had a big problem and "ran" to God for help. Draw a picture about it. Draw a face on the other side of the paper to tell how you felt after giving your problem to God. Thank God for hearing your prayers.

DO Say your memory verse together.

THURSDAY

DO With your family, read and discuss 2 Kings 4:28-37. After the boy was restored to life, how did his mother thank God? Ask two people to tell about an unexpected gift they received from God.

DO God gives us many gifts. Can you unscramble two of them?

1. meoh _____

2. odof _____

DO Say your memory verse. Then thank God for three gifts He has given you today.

FRIDAY

DO For worship, tell your Bible lesson story as a family. Have someone begin by telling the first part, someone else the next part, and so on until the story is finished.

DO Ask each family member to name a gift from God that they have received recently. Which were more than asked for or imagined? Write them in a "Blessing Book." Add to this book as time passes.

DO Sing "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings" (*The SDA Hymnal*, No. 694) before prayer. Thank God for all His gifts. Then say your memory verse together.

Twice
Blessed

PUZZLE

Directions: Elisha helped bring a blessing to the Shunammite woman who fed him. First, a son and then restoring that son's life. Help this woman through the maze to find her son, the gift of God's love.

