

magine 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.

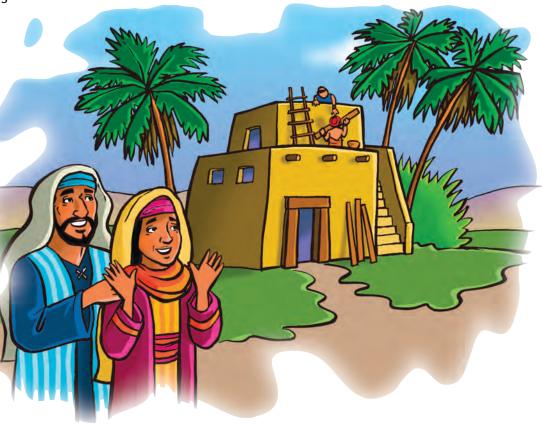
woman from the town of Shunem often fed the prophet Elisha when he visited there. She knew that Elisha often passed through town. One day she and

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!



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The Message God gives me blessings, more than

l ask or imagine.

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

Memory Verse

"[He] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20, NIV).

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





THURSDAY

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

1. meoh _____

2. odof

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

FRIDAY

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.

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.

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.



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.

