

**SERIES: THE CHOICE TO REJOICE**  
**LESSON 4—ELISHA: THE WIDOW’S OIL IS MULTIPLIED**

**Bible Reference:** 2 Kings 4:1-7

**Key Verse:** 1 John 4:14—And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**OVERVIEW**

- Introduction Video
- Bible Story
- Key Verse
- Prayer Part
- Small Group Activities

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

- Signs that say: *Elisha the Prophet, Husband, Wife, Son, and Son.*
- A piece of blank paper for each student and something with which to write or color.
- Signs for: The Lord’s Prayer sign
- Each small group will need paint or markers to color and decorate Christmas ornaments.

**OPENING ACTIVITY**

As students arrive, give them each a piece of blank paper and ask them to draw or color a picture of what Christmas means to them.

*SAY:* Christmas may mean a lot of things to a lot of different people—Some of you may have drawn Christmas trees or gifts or food or family, but for the next few weeks we are going to be celebrating the Real Meaning of Christmas.

**ASK—What is the real meaning of Christmas?** (Jesus’ birth. Everything else about Christmas is fun and great—seeing family, eating together, opening presents, and so forth, but these aren’t the heart of Christmas.)

**ASK—What does it mean to you that Jesus was born?** (If Jesus hadn’t come to earth to live a perfect life and die and rise again, none of us could be forgiven or go to heaven.)

**CONTROL TOOL**

*Anytime you say, “What’s Christmas all about?” your students should shout back, “It’s all about Jesus!” Feel free to have a boys vs. girls or a side vs. side competition to see who can say it the loudest. And remember that students are going to mimic how you say it--so be excited.*

Leader: *What’s Christmas all about?* / Students: *It’s all about Jesus!*

*SAY:* After everything I say, say NO!

Is Christmas about eating Turkey? NO!

Is Christmas about buying presents? NO!  
Is Christmas about ribbons and bows? NO!  
Is Christmas about family coming to town? NO!  
Is Christmas about egg nog and cranberry sauce? NO!  
Is Christmas about getting out of school for almost two weeks? NO!  
Is Christmas about the North Pole? NO!

#### CONTROL TOOL

Leader: *What's Christmas all about?* / Students: *It's all about Jesus!*

#### BIBLE LESSON

*(Based on 2 Kings 4:1-7)*

SAY: I want to read a Bible story to you that is NOT a part of the "Christmas" Story. We've been learning about Elisha and today will be our last story about his life. But in this story we'll also see something that will help us to rejoice that God sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

#### Read 2 Kings 4:1 from your Bible

*Choose five volunteers—Give them the following signs: Elisha the Prophet, Husband, Wife, Son, and Son.*

SAY: There was a women who was married to a prophet. We don't know his name but we do know that he died. *(Ask the Husband volunteer to lie down on the ground.)*

SAY: Sometimes bad things happen to good people and when bad things happen, we can know that God is with us and He will never leave us. We won't always have the answers to why things happen but we know we can always keep trusting and following God.

SAY: So a terrible thing happened in this family but to make matters worse, this family owed a great debt. The collectors came for the debt but the widow couldn't pay it.

ASK: **What did she say that they were going to do?** *(Take her two sons as slaves—It was legal in Bible times for someone who could not pay a debt to become a bondservant for up to seven years to pay it off.)*

ASK: **What do you think Elisha said or did? Take a guess.**

#### Read 2 Kings 4:2-7 from your Bible

*As you read help your students to act it out.*

ASK: **What did the widow say that she had when Elisha asked her what was in her house?** *(She said nothing at all except a little oil—the kind used in food. There was no hope for her. She had nothing to sell. What could she do to pay her debts?)*

ASK: **What do you think about how this story ended?** *(Amazing!)*

SAY: Our God is incredible. Nothing limits His power. We can rejoice in Him because no matter what happens, He takes care of His children. The same God in this story is still the same today. He still takes care of those who have no hope.

KEY: There was NO hope for this widow and her sons but God provided what they needed. In the same way, there was NO hope for us until Jesus came to be the Savior of the world.

ASK: I'm going to say that again and I want you to tell me what it means: *In the same way, there was NO hope for us until Jesus came to be the Savior of the world.* **What does that mean?**

SAY: Just like the women couldn't pay her debts, what she owed doesn't even begin to compare to the debt we owe for the wrong things we've done. Even one bad thing is enough to keep a person out of Heaven. But Jesus was born, lived a perfect life, died for our sins (in our place) and rose again to make a way for us to be "saved." Jesus did this to take our sins away so that we can know Him and follow Him and be with Him forever in Heaven. This is a gift that God gives to those who receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

#### CONTROL TOOL

Anytime I say, "*Rejoice!*" I want you to say, "*The Savior is born!*"

Leader: "*Rejoice!*" Students: "*The Savior is born!*"

SAY: We can rejoice because Jesus came to save us.

## KEY VERSE

**ASK:** *Who would like to share with us something you want for Christmas? (Choose three volunteers.)*

**SAY:** Jesus was born, died and rose again to make a way to forgive our sins. Jesus is the greatest gift of all because the gift of salvation only comes through Him.

**ASK:** *What do you do when you get a great gift? Do you ever want to tell someone about it?*

**SAY:** *I think we all want great gifts for Christmas and when we get a great gift, it's hard not to talk about it. That's why when you're excited about Jesus you want to talk about Him too because of all the gifts in the world, Jesus is the greatest gift of all.*

## **The Gift Game**

**SAY:** To discover our key verse today, we're going to have to play a game. We have two wrapped presents up here—one of them has our key verse inside and one of them is empty. This is a lot like people—some people have Jesus and those who don't are empty. It also like celebrating Christmas—If your celebration of Christmas isn't about Jesus, it'll just be empty.

*Choose one volunteer who thinks he's good at figuring out gifts—Let him feel, smell and shake the gifts. Then choose one. If he's wrong, have them open the second gift too.*

*Let the volunteer hold the paper with the verse on it while you...*

**Read 1 John 4:14 from your Bible.**

**ASK—What does “testify” mean?** (To tell or to be a witness to another. In court people testify for or against someone. They are witnesses.)

**SAY:** You can be a witness for Jesus and testify to others that He is the greatest gift of all.

## CONTROL TOOL

**Leader:** *What's Christmas all about?* / **Students:** *It's all about Jesus!*

**PRAYER PART—“Lead us not into temptation”**

*Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.*

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week using posters and again we’re going to say it two times—Once with the posters and once without the posters.

*Say the Lord’s Prayer together looking at the posters. Then hide the posters by having your volunteers turn around.*

**ASK: What are some ways that you can avoid being tempted to do wrong things?** *(Take a few answers.)*

SAY: In this prayer Jesus taught us that one way to avoid temptation is to pray that God will lead us away from it. This is something that a lot people don’t take time to pray and this week I want to challenge you to make this your prayer. In fact, we’re going to play a game with this—This week every time you see a Christmas tree, just whisper this as a prayer, “Dear God, lead me not into temptation...” Or, “Dear God, keep me away from temptation...”

SAY: Now I’m going to quiz you on this challenge...

**ASK: What do you say this week every time you see a Christmas tree?**

**ASK: You say this when you see a what?** *(A Christmas tree)*

**PRAY**

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed. I’m going to call out some of today’s prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

**Dismiss to Small Groups**

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I’m going to dismiss you one row at a time.

*Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.*

# Christmas Ornaments

## SMALL GROUPS

### Painting Ornaments

Help your students paint or use markers to color Christmas ornaments. While they are creating, if you want, you can tell them you want to find out how much they really know about Christmas. Use the questions below to quiz them. You can also use this for extra time if the students finish their crafts early.

### Discussion Questions

SAY: There are a lot of things people believe about the Biblical story of Jesus' birth that just aren't true but they've become a part of Christmas and every Christmas you see them on TV shows or Christmas cards and other places. So we want to find out how much you really know about the Bible's story of Jesus' birth.

1. Was Jesus born on Christmas Day or do we have Christmas Day because Jesus was born? *Answer: We have Christmas because Jesus was born.*
2. Was Jesus really born on December 25? *Answer: We actually don't know the date of Jesus' birth but for the shepherds to be so close to Bethlehem it would have likely been sometime in the spring. Christmas was put on December 25 as a celebration of Jesus' birth, not as a way of saying that it happened on this certain day.*
3. Mary and Joseph were already married when Mary became pregnant.
  - a. True
  - b. False*Answer: False. Remember, Joseph wasn't Jesus' real father. Jesus is God's Son. Joseph just had the honor of raising him.*
4. Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
  - a. The angel
  - b. Mary's mom
  - c. King Herod
  - d. Caesar Augustus
  - e. A Wise Man
  - f. The Bible
  - g. There's nothing in the Bible about this.*Answer: Caesar Augustus gave a decree for a census.*
5. What is a census?
  - a. Something you put a Christmas candle on
  - b. Something that you eat soup out of
  - c. Something like a calculator
  - d. A count of the people*Answer: A count of the people*
6. Where was Joseph from?
  - a. Bethlehem
  - b. Jerusalem
  - c. Nazareth
  - d. Egypt
  - g. None of the above*Answer: Nazareth*

7. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
- a. By Camel
  - b. They walked
  - c. By Donkey
  - d. Mary rode; Joseph walked
  - e. The Bible doesn't say
- Answer:* The Bible doesn't say how they traveled.

8. Where was Jesus born?
- a. Stable
  - b. Manger
  - c. Cave
  - d. Barn
  - e. Room
  - f. None of the above
- Answer:* A stable which was many times a part of a cave-like structure.

9. What is a manger?
- a. Stable for animals
  - b. Wooden hay bin
  - c. Feeding trough
  - d. Some kind of barn
  - e. Old hospital bed
  - f. We don't know.
- Answer:* A feeding trough.

**Prayer**—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.