

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## Women of the Word

### The Shunammite Woman

Lesson 18

#### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review last week's lesson from Mark 5:25-34. What was the key to this woman's wholeness?
  - a. In what way has her faith inspired you this week?
2. You will be fascinated with this week's study of the Shunammite woman. We do not know her name. We do know where she was from. Briefly share how she met the prophet, Elisha. 2 Kings 4:8
3. This is such a dynamic account of God's miraculous work in a hopeless situation that you will not want to miss one event recorded in these verses. In recognition of this, begin your lesson by writing a prayer expressing your deepest desire and need through your study this week.

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me. . .  
open my eyes - illumine me, Spirit divine!*

-selected ♪

**SECOND DAY:** Read 2 Kings 4:8-17

1. You have already met this *great woman* of Shunem. The word great describing her refers to *wealthy, prominent or influential*. What other qualities of greatness do you discover from 2 Kings 4:8-10?

a. Stop and think a moment about what she perceived concerning Elisha. 2 Kings 4:9 Write it here.

b. How did this *great woman* include her husband in her plans?

(1.) What example could there be for a wife in this?

2. After the room was prepared and furnished for *the man of God*, Elisha, in his gratitude, wanted to do something for this kind and generous woman. From 2 Kings 4:11-13 briefly describe the interaction between Elisha, Gahazi and the Shunammite woman.

a. Notice her response in verse 13c. Some Bible scholars suggest that her statement: *I dwell among mine own people* meant she was *content*. This woman served Elisha expecting nothing in return, she was content. Why do you think contentment is so lacking in our culture today?

3. Read 2 Kings 4:14-16a. Elisha seemed compelled to bless this generous woman. Print Elisha's astonishing words to this childless woman. 2 Kings 4:16a

a. The Bible in just two sentences reveals how this once childless woman's life changed forever. Imagine the wonder and joy she must have experienced as you record the fulfillment of this promise from 2 Kings 4:17.

*Be content with such things as you have.  
For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."  
Hebrews 13:5b*

**THIRD DAY:** Read 2 Kings 4:18-26

1. Think of the extreme pleasure that must have filled this woman's heart and home watching this young son grow. Then suddenly tragedy struck! Read the account of this in 2 Kings 4:18-20. From verse 20 record what happened to him.
  
2. Read 2 Kings 4:21-25a. Observe this grieving mother spring into action. What stands out most of all to you through these verses?
  - a. Share why.
  
3. Even in her grief, we glimpse the hope and courage of this woman as she hurriedly embarked on the twenty-five-mile ride to Mt. Carmel with one intention. What was it? 2 Kings 4:25
  - a. Before she reached Elisha, his servant met her with three questions. Pause and think about her reply as you print it here from 2 Kings 4:26d.
    - (1.) She had said this before in verse 23. Some expositors have explained her unusual reply as indicating her great faith that all would be well. Others believe that she did not want to speak to anyone but Elisha. What did she know about Elisha that caused her to *run* to him? 2 Kings 4:22d
  
4. Where do you run when you encounter painful or tragic circumstances?

*In the shelter of Your presence, in the safety of Your arms.  
I will make your love my refuge from all harm.  
I will cast my cares upon You, find Your peace in every storm.  
In the shelter of Your presence, in the safety of Your arms.*  
-selected 🎵

**FOURTH DAY:** Read 2 Kings 4:27-37

1. Continue your study of 2 Kings 4:27-31 by observing the words and actions of the following people. Summarize what you see:
  - a. the Shunammite woman
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Gehazi
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. the man of God

Challenge: Trace the significance of the *staff* or *rod* and its association with the power of God. Use Exodus 7:19; 14:16 to help you with your answer.

2. From 2 Kings 4:32-36 recount the miraculous turn of events when Elisha was come into the house.
  - a. Notice that Elisha *prayed unto* the LORD. Whose will and power raised this child from the dead? Selah.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. From 2 Kings 4:37 record phrase by phrase this mother's response to this miracle.
    - (1.) Describe a few of the emotions you might have experienced if this were your son.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. With the miracle in mind read Hebrews 11:33a: *Who through faith*. What does Hebrews 11:35a declare?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How is the Shunammite woman's perseverance and faith an example for you?

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Romans 15:13 NKJV*

**FIFTH DAY:** Read 2 Kings 8:1-6

1. The Bible again picks up this woman's intriguing story in 2 Kings 8:1,2. Give a brief account of what happened to her at this time of her life.
  
2. Consider the challenges and demands this woman had already endured when she uprooted her household and moved into a strange land. Now travel with her as she faced another challenge when she returned to her homeland. What action did she take? 2 Kings 8:3
  - a. With this in mind what do you think she might have been feeling?
  
3. Look closely at 2 Kings 8:4-6 to view the supernatural - God's timing and sovereign hand over her life. Selah - pause and think about this as you note what you see.
  - a. What impresses you about this?
  
  - b. Notice the phrase *and when the king asked the woman, she told him.* verse 6a What opportunity did this give to her?
  
4. Rejoice in the glorious conclusion of the account of the Shunammite woman's life. Express your joy in all that God did for her.

*Our God is an awesome God.  
He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power and love.  
Our God is an awesome God.*

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**SIXTH DAY: Review**

1. What quality do you admire the most in the Shunammite woman?
  - a. Why?
  
2. In what way has your lesson this week affected your faith?
  
  
3. Share one thing you learned about the Lord through this week's study.
  
  
  
4. What has been the most profitable lesson you have learned from the Shunammite woman that you can apply to your life?

*And we know that all things work together for good  
to them that love God. . .*

Romans 8:28a