

Background:

The name *Elijah* means “my God is Jehovah or my God is Yahweh.” Very little is known about this ninth century B.C. prophet. All the personal history known about this great man of God is stated in 1 Kings 17:1 “Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead.” Elijah prophecy during the reigns of Ahab and his son Ahaziah. The last prophet of the New Testament, John the Baptist, is associated with Elijah because of his apparel and mainly because he came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Matt. 11:14).

The name *Elisha* means “God is salvation.” Not much is known about this prophet that succeeded Elijah the Tishbite. Elisha was the son of Shaphat who lived in the Jordan valley and it appears that he was a farmer (1 Kings 19:16, 19).

Although there is very little personal information about these two men, the impact they had in biblical history still speaks today.

Lesson Outline:

Elisha Raises the Shunammite’s Son: 2 Kings 4: 8-11

vv. 12-23

vv. 24-37

Key Themes:

- Shunammite woman shows great kindness to Elisha
- Elisha promises a son
- The promised son dies
- Elisha’s miracle

Summary:

2 Kings 4:8-37 tells the story of the Shunammite woman, a woman who showed great hospitality to the prophet Elisha, and how he miraculously raised her young son from the dead, demonstrating God's power to restore life even in the face of immense grief; this passage highlights the woman's unwavering faith and Elisha's prophetic abilities.

Small Group Discussion:

1. What kindness did the Shunammite woman show to Elisha?
2. Describe the reason the woman spoke to her husband before proceeding with her plan and the reason for the conversation.
3. Was faith involved in the woman's seeking for the prophet?
4. Discuss how Elisha's prophetic ability demonstrates the power of God.

5/7 – 2 Kings 5