

## Unit 3: Harvest

**Faith Focus:** God provides for our needs.

*The LORD bless you and protect you. (Numbers 6:24)*

### SESSION 12

## GROW IN FAITH

### God Provides More Than You Can Imagine— 2 Kings 4:1-7

In this story, a recently widowed woman comes to Elisha asking for help with a debt. According to the laws of the time, the woman is about to lose everything. Elisha asks the widow what she has left. The only thing she has is a small jar of oil. Elisha tells the woman to borrow jars from neighbors and pour oil into the jars. Somehow, the widow suddenly has an abundance of oil. Every jar is filled.

In this story, you will notice that no one says thank you. However, it kind of feels like gratitude seeps out of the Scripture. There seems to be a sense of hopeful urgency in the demands, anticipation in the collection of jars, and great enthusiasm for the final results. When we are experiencing God's provision and protection, we might not always notice. But if you can pause for just a moment to feel God's goodness, these moments might become even greater.

- Explore gratitude for help and support from others.
- Name moments or experiences of thankfulness and gratitude.

## SUPPLIES

*colored pencils*

*sticky notes*

*crayons*

*mason jars*

*glue*

*water*

*paintbrushes*

*plastic cups*

*small tissue paper squares*

*stickers*

*glitter*

*smocks*

*four large buckets*

*tape*

*plastic jars*

*device to play "We Gather Together" hymn*

*TV and DVD player or streaming device*

## SESSION OUTLINE

### COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Provides for Our Needs

How Many?/Gratitude Jars (Math/Gratitude)

### FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 7–12  
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

### FUN WITH FAITH

Decorate a Jar (Art)

Word Search (Puzzle)

Relay Jars (Game)

### SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

# COME TOGETHER

## Prepare to Learn

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers*

*Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20) to use later in the session.*

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Fall Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the jar of oil sticker on the Session 12 space.

**SAY:** When things feel hard, it can be difficult to have hope. In today's story, a woman is very sad and does not have much hope. But God uses Elisha to give her more than she could even imagine.

## Faith Focus—God Provides for Our Needs

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack*

*Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20).*

- Show children the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster.

**SAY:** We know that God can provide for many different needs in different situations. Today, we will see God provide for a widow who has lost all hope.

**ASK:** What is the coolest way you can think of to help someone?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

## How Many?/Gratitude Jars

*Supplies: Activity Sheets, colored pencils*

*Prepare Ahead: Tear out "How Many?/Gratitude Jars" (Session 12 Activity Sheet) for each child.*

**SAY:** In today's Bible story, God uses a little bit of oil to create more and more oil.

- Give each child the activity sheet.
- Invite the children to answer the questions on the front of the page.
- After the children have solved the equations, have them turn the paper over and write things they are grateful for on the jars.

# FAITH CONNECTIONS

## Read the Story

*Supplies: CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read 2 Kings 4:1-7 in a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

**ASK:** What did Elisha do for the widow? How did the widow respond?

## Big Faith Video

*Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device*

- Watch the Session 12 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

**ASK:** What was your favorite part of the Bible story?

## Faith Response

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons*

*Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) if you haven't already.*

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

**SAY:** Every good thing comes from God. We know that God loves us. We also know God sends people to us to help us. Elisha, one of God's servants, took care of a widow so that she could keep her sons in her home. Without God's love and Elisha's obedience, the woman would have had to give up her family. Instead, God provided more than she could imagine.

**ASK:** How does God take good care of you?

- Place the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

**ASK:** What do you see on our poster?

- Instruct each child to write on the sticky note one thing he or she wants God to do for those who are hurting in the world and stick the note on the poster.

# FUN WITH FAITH

## Decorate a Jar

*Supplies: mason jars, glue, water, paintbrushes, plastic cups, small tissue paper squares, stickers, glitter, smocks*

**SAY:** Let's decorate our own jars to remember that God provides even more than we can imagine.

- Give each child a jar and a paintbrush.
- In plastic cups, combine equal parts glue and water.
- Paint the jars with the glue and stick the tissue paper squares to the jar.
- Decorate the jars with stickers and glitter.
- Set the jars aside to dry.

**SAY:** You can add an LED tea light at home to make your jar a candle, or put the jars in the window to remind you that God provided the widow with more than she started with, and God gives us more than we can imagine.

## Word Search

*Supplies: colored pencils*

*Prepare Ahead: Make copies of "Word Search" (Leader Guide—p. 82).*

**SAY:** Elijah helped the widow find a solution to her problem. Help find all the words in our word search!

- Give each child a copy of the "Word Search" reproducible.
- Encourage the children to find all the words.
- Once a child finishes, encourage the child to write a new story on the back of the paper using the words from the word bank.

## Relay Jars

**Supplies:** four large buckets, tape, two plastic jars, water

**Prepare Ahead:** Fill two large buckets with water. Inside the two empty buckets, tape a line a few inches up.

**SAY:** The widow's jars were full of oil. Let's play a game to remember all the ways that God blessed the widow.

- Have the children split into two groups.
- Set the two filled buckets on one side of the room and the two empty buckets on the opposite side of the room.
- Have each group line up behind a filled bucket.
- Give each group a plastic jar. Have the members of each group take turns filling their jar and running to pour the jar into the empty bucket. The first team to fill their bucket to the line wins.

## SHARE YOUR FAITH

### Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack, phone or other device to play “We Gather Together” hymn

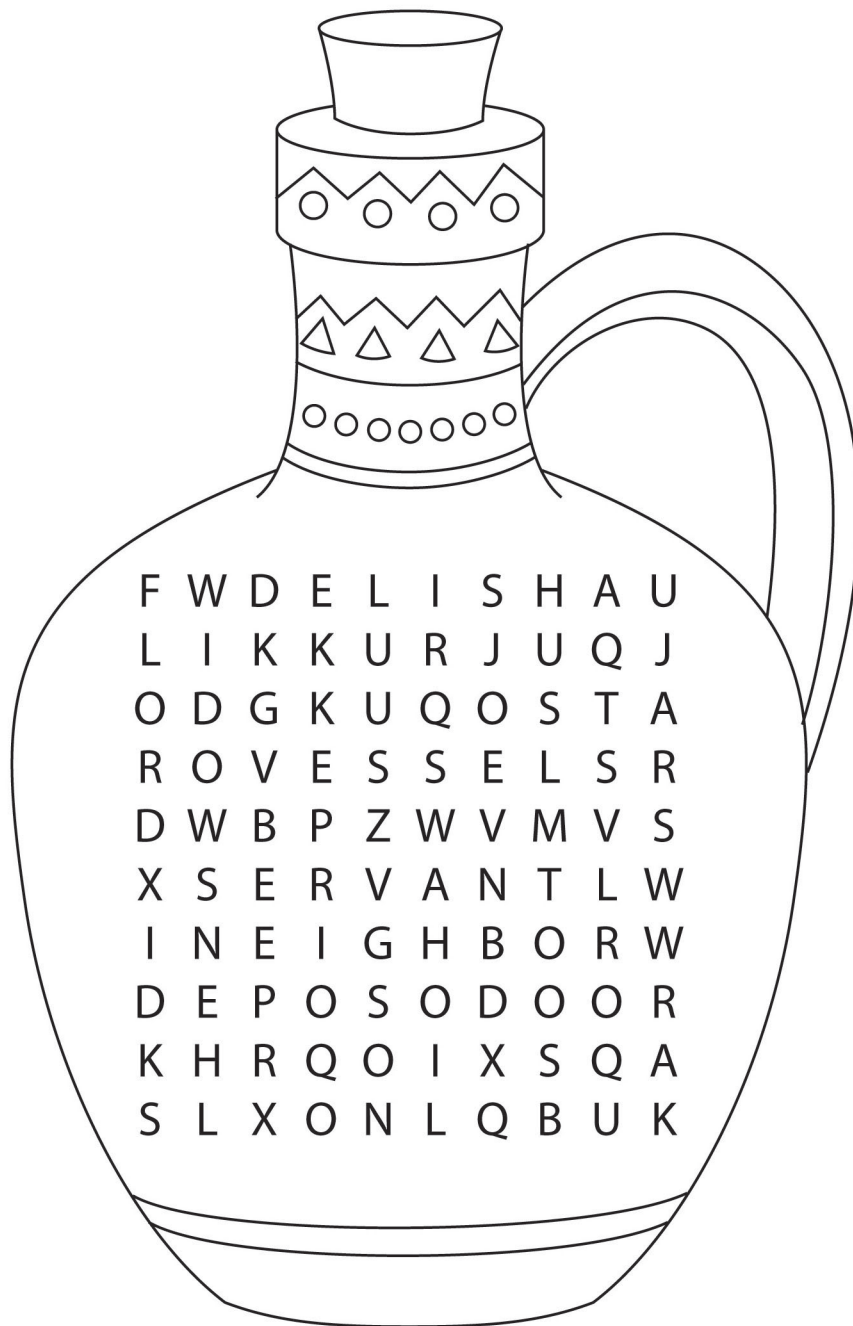
**Prepare Ahead:** Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Photocopy the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) if needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.
- SAY:** We have faith that God provides. God provides when we least expect it. Sometimes God gives us people to help us. Sometimes God gives us food or shelter or resources to help us survive. We are grateful for the ways that God helps us.
- Have the children gather in a circle.
  - Invite the children to listen to a recording of the hymn “We Gather Together” using your smart phone or other device.

**PRAY:** Dear God, thank you that you gather us together. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn't received one.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

Find the words from the word bank.



NEIGHBOR  
ELISHA

VESSELS  
WIDOW

SERVANT  
DOOR

JARS  
LORD

OIL  
SON