

## Bible background

2 Kings 4:1-7

## Aim of lesson

To show how God cares for poor people.

## Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Tell the children of the poor woman. Explain how her husband had died and her two sons have to leave home and become slaves. Encourage the children to realise how sad she would be.
2. Talk about her visit to Elisha to ask for help. Ask the children what the woman said to Elisha. Talk about Elisha's reply.
3. Give out the activity sheets and get the children to hunt for as many jars and pots as they can find in the picture. Have them count the jars and colour them as they fill up each one with oil. Ask how the lady must have felt - astonished - happy.
4. Sing the song 'I have oil in my jars'.
5. Tell how the lady sold the oil and therefore had sufficient money to live on, and the children did not have to be slaves.

## Alternative activities

1. Cut out large oil jar shapes from card or draw the outline on paper. (There are some jar outlines in the CSSU Year 4 Infant Colouring Book) Help the children to decorate them using crayons, sticky paper or printing patterns with sponge shapes, cotton reels etc.
2. Make simple jars from Plasticine, clay or salt dough and decorate them with patterns using old toothbrushes, forks, cocktail sticks etc, (Watch the children with sharp objects) A simple way to make a jar shape is to get a ball of modelling material and push your thumb into the middle, then pinch up the sides. Alternatively, coil long 'sausages' around a base.
3. Role-play. Get the children to gather 'sticks' like the widow to make a fire. Give them some plastic cooking utensils to they can make a pretend meal for Elisha. Get them to gather as many 'jars' as possible and mime filling them with oil. (If you've got room you could hide some unbreakable containers for them to find.)
4. Water play. If you have access to a suitable area and equipment, provide the children with a water tray, baby bath or large washing up bowl of water and lots of plastic bottles, jugs and containers of various sizes to be filled. You can make special 'oil' by adding a couple of drops of food colouring to the water. Sing the song from the lesson notes while filling the containers.  
  
You will probably need: another adult to help, protective aprons, a waterproof covering for the floor e.g. a groundsheet, a mop or floor cloths, towels for drying hands.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they care about poor people. Is there any way they can help poor people? Often infants will have seen news or appeals about poor areas of the world.

## Prayer

Ask who wants to say thank you to God for helping the poor lady.

## Verse

'A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.' Proverbs 22:9.

# Song

I have oil in my jars (Tune: Sing Hosanna)

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the first line of the melody with chords D, D7, G, D, Em, A7, D, and D7. The second staff contains the second line of the melody, starting with a 'Chorus' label, with chords G, D, A7, D, D7, G, and A7. The third staff contains the final line of the melody with chords D, G, D, D, D7, G, A7, and D.

I have oil in my jars, I will praise God.  
I have oil in my jars today,  
I have oil in my jars, I will praise God,  
I will praise him till the break of day.

Chorus: Sing Hosanna

Music: Traditional.