

"That You May Believe"

Gospel of John

Week 9

Main Idea – Life is **given** by God's **power**. Jesus has the **power** to **give** life.

The goal of this week's lesson is to help the children understand that all life is given by God's power. God demonstrated this reality in the Old Testament by powerfully sustaining the lives of a widow and her son during a famine. Then, after her son had died, Elijah demonstrated God's power to give life by raising her son from the dead. This week's lesson culminates in the Person of the Lord Jesus. As the God man, Jesus has the power to give physical life to people who have died. Yet even more significant is Jesus' ability to give eternal life to all those who believe in Him.

Sunday School — 1 Kings 17:8-24

Preparation

Materials:

- What do they have in common?
- Two levels of word searches to emphasize main point
- Elijah Raises Boy Coloring Page

Set-up:

- Print out materials
- Print out "What do they have in common" or prepare for slideshow for use on the TV

Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) – "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing "It Is By Grace" (Pop Scripture Songs, NIV) at least once.

NOTE — Start the Bible Verse section at the beginning without waiting for students who may arrive late. This will preserve the allotted times for other sections.

Lesson (20-25 minutes)

Main Idea – Life is **given** by God's **power**.

Pray

Introduction (5 minutes)

We're going to start with a comparison game. Take a moment to look at the four photos, and tell me what they all have in common.  Reveal each picture in order so that it goes from hard to guess to easy to guess.

	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	Item 4	What they have in common?
Round 1	House	Church	Car	Lock	You need a key to open them!
Round 2	Oriole	Killer Whale	Lion	CBC Children's Minister	They need air to survive!

In both rounds, we saw that they all have something in common. Keys are required to open the items in round 1. If you want to open something, you need someone with the authority to give you the key. Without their help, you can't get those items open! In the same way, all the creatures in round 2 require air to keep living! If they want to keep living, they need to be able to breathe air. If someone took away their access to air, they wouldn't survive!

Today, we are going to look at an Old Testament example of when God's power was needed in order for a boy to live.

Body (15 minutes)

Main Point — Life is given by God's power. Life is impossible without God. If you want to have life, God must give it to you. Remember, because of sin, death is always a threat for human beings. Therefore, trusting in God is the only way that they can avoid death and have life. Let's look now at the problem of death and the provision of life by God.

Problem #1 — The Famine — Read 1 Kings 17:8-11

After Elijah prayed that it wouldn't rain, there was a terrible famine in the land. No water = no food = death! It is in the midst of this famine that God sends Elijah to live with a widow that will be his food source during the famine.

Read 1 Kings 17:12

There's only one problem with Elijah asking this woman for food. They only have one meal left! So Elijah arrives just as they are about to eat their last meal and then wait for death to come as there is no food left. This is a terrible situation! If God doesn't intervene, this widow and her son will surely

die, and possibly Elijah too! But Elijah is a man of faith, and He trusts in what the Lord has said about their situation.

Provision #1 — The Food — Read 1 Kings 17:13-16

 You might want to define ‘provision’ for the children. Provision is when God provides, when He gives resources to people to help them.

Even in the midst of a famine, Elijah and the widow are provided for with food that doesn’t run out until the famine is over. This is incredible faith on Elijah’s part as the messenger who obeyed God in going to the widow, but also incredibly faith on the widow’s part for believing Elijah! And the result of faith in God — trusting Him when it seems that death is the only option — is that God is able to provide life. Now, this is great news! God is able to provide when it looks like death will surely come. But what about when death has already happened? Can God provide then?

Problem #2 — Death — Read 1 Kings 17:17-18

After becoming very sick, the widow’s son dies. All the food in the world isn’t helpful after a person is dead because dead people do not need food! As her son lies dead in the house, the widow is very sad. In her grief, she blames the death of her son on Elijah — “what have you done to me?” Remember, without God providing for them through Elijah’s word, her son would have starved to death.

Even though she responds by blaming Elijah, Elijah trusts in God and does something truly incredible.

Provision #2 — Life — Read 1 Kings 17:19-24

Elijah doesn’t panic when the boy dies, but prays to the Lord! Listen to what Elijah asks for — “Let this child’s life return to him!” Elijah understands that life is given by God’s power. Even if a person dies, God has the power to give life to them again.

This was an incredible miracle, and the first time in the Bible that someone had been raised from the dead! But this wasn’t the last time that God would raise someone from the dead.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

Main Point — Life is given by God’s power. With God’s help, prophets like Elijah and Elisha brought people back to life. However, this was just a foreshadowing of God’s power over death. In the New Testament, we learn that Jesus — the God man — has the power to give life. Unlike the prophets, Jesus doesn’t even need to be in the same place as the dead person in order to raise them from the dead. Most importantly, Jesus’ own resurrection from the dead is the proof that He has power over death, and is able to give life.

Until Jesus returns, every one of us will die someday. The good news for us is that death doesn’t have to be the end. Jesus died and rose again so that He is able to give life to all who come to Him. Just like our Bible verse for the month says — believe in Jesus so that you won’t perish, but will have eternal life. Jesus is the only one who has the power to give life. Come to Him, so that death will not be the end for you, but just the beginning of eternal life with Him forever.

Pray

Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)

Children's Church — John 4:43-54

Preparation

Materials:

- Who's got the power — Pictures
- Two levels of word searches to emphasize main point
- Jesus talking with Official with sick child coloring page

Set-up:

- Print out materials

Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing “It Is By Grace” (Pop Scripture Songs, NIV) at least once.

NOTE — Starting with the Bible verse in Children's Church will help the children get some movement in before the lesson starts.

Lesson (20-25 minutes)

Main Idea – Jesus has the **power to give life**.

Pray

Introduction (5 minutes)

This morning in Sunday school, we learned that life is given by God's power. Apart from God's power, a person cannot have life. This was true for the widow's boy who died while Elijah was living with them. But death would not be the end for this boy. God used Elijah to bring the boy back from the dead. Therefore, if we want to live, we need to understand that life is given by God's power. Only God can give you life so that death will not be the end for you.

Today, we are going to learn more about the power of God over death. But first, we will play a short game — Who's got the power? — In this game, I will show you a power source and you will tell me everything in your house that relies on this power to work properly.

Electric outlet (representing electricity) — Television, Microwave, Vacuum, Computer, iPhone, Blender, Refrigerator, Lights, Hot water heater, etc. There are so many things in your house that would not work if you didn't have electricity.

Batteries (of all kinds) — Toys, Alarm clock/Wall clock, TV remote, Car keys, Smoke detector, etc. Without batteries to power these things, they would not work.

Now we are going to look at a time when another boy was in need of life from God.

Body (15 minutes)

Main Point — Jesus has the power to give life. Today's story will teach us more about who Jesus is, the One who has the power to give life to sinful humans who are facing death.

The Problem — Read John 4:46-49

What is the problem? The son of a government official was so sick that he was about to die. They had probably tried to help the sick boy in any way they could, but nothing they tried was healing the boy — he was only getting more sick. This would have put the father in a very desperate situation — his boy needed help or he would die.

What does the father do? He hears that Jesus was in town, goes to Him, and begs Jesus for help.

How does Jesus respond? Jesus responds with a question. Will people always need to see signs in order to believe that Jesus is who He says He is?

How does the father respond to Jesus' question? "Lord, please come before my little boy dies!" This man will do whatever it takes to save the life of his little boy. Which brings us to our next section.

The Promise — Read John 4:50

How does Jesus respond the second time the father asks him to look at his boy? He makes him a promise — your son will live! Now, if you were a father, that would be the best news that you could ever hear — the promise that your sick son would live and get better. But it brings up an important question — would his son actually live? In other situations, Jesus was physically there to touch people and they were healed instantly in the sight of everyone. But here, Jesus tells the man to go home without him with the promise that his son would live. If you're the father, it's possible that is kind of scary — he won't get to have Jesus there with him and he won't see Jesus heal him with his own eyes.

But how does the father respond to Jesus' promise? It says he *believed* what Jesus said and went on his way! That is incredible! It would have been easy to doubt Jesus, to tell Jesus that He needed to physically come to the house to make sure the boy lived. But instead, the father chooses faith over fear, and believes what Jesus said. Which brings us to our final point.

The Proof — Read John 4:51-54

What happens as the father goes on his way? His servants come out to meet him and tell him the good news that his son has recovered! He is going to live!

How does the father respond to this good news? He asks what time his son recovered. When the servants confirm the time, he understands that his boy was healed the moment Jesus said that his son would live.

And what was the result of Jesus' miracle of healing the boy? It says that the man's whole household believed in Jesus! They recognized His power over life, and they believed in Him as the only One who is able to give life to humans.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

Main Point — Jesus has the power to give life. When the boy lived, it was proof that Jesus is God, and that He has the power to give life to those He chooses.

The passage closes by saying this was the second of seven signs that John chose to write down in his gospel that could cause you to believe! Each time we see one of these signs, our responsibility before God is to believe in Jesus — believe that He is who He says He is, believe that He is the Savior of the world, and believe that Jesus has the power to give life to sinners who are going to die because of their sin.

Put your faith in Christ — come to Him as the only One who can give you true life so that you will escape the judgment of death that awaits every sinner who doesn't believe.

Pray

Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)