

Scripture reading: 1 Kings 17 (Do the reading in *Together*, p. 21 or the skit in “Fun Bible Skits” 1, #7).

Sermon seeds: (See *Connect* and *Youth* for additional inspiration.)

When did God provide for you, physically or spiritually? There is a balance between waiting upon God and being proactive. God always provides, even if it isn't in the time or way we wish or expect. Trust God in difficult times.

This is an opportunity to assure people of God's love and care. It is also a time to encourage sensitivity and action for those in need. Proverbs 15:17 in *The Message* says, “Better a bread crust shared in love than a slab of prime rib served in hate.”

RESPONDING TO GOD

Song of response: SJ 103 *Why should I feel discouraged*

Prayers of the people

SENDING

Song: SJ 29 *You are all we have*

Benediction:

God is generous and gracious. Go into a world of need trusting God to bless you and then empower you to bless others.

Session Five

Elisha and the Shunammite Woman



Text: 2 Kings 4:8-37

Focus statement: God hears our cries in times of troubles.

Visuals: Bottle of oil, cross, prayer, candles – lit just before or during anointing

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to worship: *Words for Worship* 2, #11 or Psalm 18:1-3, 6, 16-19, 46

Prayer: (alternate singing and scripture reading)

HWB 25, verse 1 *Jesus, stand among us*

Psalm 13:1-3a

HWB 25, verse 2

Psalm 13:5-6

PRAISING

Song suggestions:

- HWB 377 *Healer of our every ill*
- HWB 26 *Holy Spirit, come with power*
- HWB 110 *Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing*

Praise song: “I waited for the Lord on high,” Bill Batstone (Maranatha Praise)

Praise song: “Blessed Be,” Matt and Beth Redman (Sixsteprecords)

OFFERING

LISTENING TO GOD

Children’s time:

Bring a prayer shawl, special blanket or a comforter from home and some soft toys.

Invite the children to tell about a time when they felt sad (or tell of a time you felt sad as a child and what you did). What do we do when we are sad? Invite responses (sit on a parent’s lap, curl up in a blanket, lay in bed, hold on to a special toy). These are some ways we can comfort ourselves.

Tell how some churches (maybe your own) have a special toy like a soft lamb that they give to children when they are sick or feeling sad because someone they loved died. Some families have a prayer shawl or special blanket they use to remind them that God is with them in their sad times.

If possible, curl up with or under the blanket. Remind the children that God is with us just like being wrapped in a blanket or hugging a soft toy. Give a prayer of thanks to God for being with us when we are sad.

Song: HWB 11 *Sweet hour of prayer*

Scripture reading: 2 Kings 4:8-37 (For a dramatic reading of this story, see the *Multiage Leader*, p. 36.)

Sermon seeds: (See *Connect* and *Youth* for additional inspiration.)

Elisha means “God is deliverance.” Even when bad things happen to good people, God is there and feels the pain. We can’t take away the problems, but we can trust that God hears our cries of despair, guides us to the light and will deliver. If there has been the death of a child or young person in the congregation, acknowledge that journey.

Mennonite Women USA has offered Sister Care events as a way for women to walk with and encourage each other. What are you doing to respond to grief and despair? Lead into the anointing service, inviting those who are crying out, to be anointed as a symbol of God’s power filling and healing them.

RESPONDING TO GOD

Anointing service:

- HWB 348 *O Lord, hear my prayer*
- SS 50 *Waza nomthwalo wakho (Come, bring your burdens to God)*
- HWB 558 *When the storms of life are raging*
- HWB 559 *O thou, in whose presence*
- SS 45 *Calm me, Lord*

Prayers of the people:

(If you choose not to do an anointing service, use SJ 146, otherwise have a brief prayer at the conclusion of the anointing.)

SENDING

Song: HWB 596 *And I will raise you up*

Benediction: Isaiah 40:28-31

Session Six

Naaman and Elisha



Text: 2 Kings 5:1-19

Focus statement: We humbly accept God's way of caring.

Visuals: Clear container of dirty water, praying hands, remedies for ailments

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to worship: Psalm 103: 1-5, 10-13

Prayer:

Tender God, thank you that you have compassion for your children. Help us to have child-like faith in you believing that you know us intimately and will heal us in whatever way that is needed. Caring and powerful God, receive our worship as we gather in your presence.

PRAISING

Song suggestions:

SS 1 *Praise the one who breaks the darkness*

HWB 546 *Guide my feet*

HWB 143 *Amazing Grace*

HWB 627 *There is a balm in Gilead*

OFFERING

LISTENING TO GOD

Confession: HWB 818 (verses from Psalm 51)

Sing *Create in me a clean heart* (SS 62) after segments 1 & 3 found in the HWB confession. Read the last segment in unison.

Children's time:

Talk about skin rashes like poison ivy or even mosquito bites or scrapes. Show examples of creams or other remedies that are used to make them better. Some rashes don't go away easily and are very noticeable. People may not want to come near for fear that they will get a rash too. God can give people courage to care for people who have diseases.