

9

Oil Unlimited

Grace
We extend God's grace to others.

POWER TEXT

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Kings 4:1-7
- *Reflecting Christ*, p. 269
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 69-73
- Student lesson on page 102 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 21, Stewardship
- No. 5, The Holy Spirit
- No. 18, The Gift of Prophecy

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God can supply all their needs.
- **Feel** grateful that God's supplies never end.
- **Respond** by choosing to be available to receive God's gifts of grace.



The supply of God's grace never ends.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A widow whose sons are about to be sold into slavery to repay her husband's debts comes to Elisha for help. All she owns of any value is a little oil. Elisha tells her to borrow as many jars as she can from neighbors and to fill them with the oil from her pot. She is able to keep pouring from the little bit of oil in her pot until all the jars are filled. Elisha tells her to sell the oil to repay the debt and to live on what is left over.

This is a lesson about grace.

God more than took care of this widow's problem. Not only was she able to sell the oil to pay the debt; she had enough left over to live on. The widow's oil would have kept flowing; she just ran out of jars. God's grace more than meets our needs. It never runs out. We just run out of room to accept His blessings.

Teacher Enrichment

"The widow received more from the Lord than she had asked for. Her request was only that her sons be delivered from lives of servitude. But in her poverty, she still had many needs. God undertook to supply those needs. He constantly gives to men blessings far greater than they ask for themselves" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 868).

"The golden oil represents the grace with which God keeps the lamps of believers supplied. Were it not that this holy oil is poured from heaven in the messages of God's Spirit, the agencies of evil would have entire control over men" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 4, p. 1179).

According to the historian Josephus, the widow in this story was the wife of Obadiah, the steward of Ahab in 1 Kings 18. The reason the family was in debt was that Obadiah had been supporting the 100 prophets of the Lord he had hidden from Ahab and Jezebel.

What needs do I have that I need God to fill? How can I help to fill others' "jars"?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Is It Full Yet?*	glass jars, rocks, gravel, sand, water
		B. Miraculous Multiplying Circle	paper strips; tape; crayons, markers, or pens; scissors
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 97. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks; world map; pushpins; ceramic OR earthenware bowl
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	for each student: small paper cups, larger paper cups, water, paper towels
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, glass jars, pitchers of water
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Needs and Blessings*	two empty cups, marbles or pebbles
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Circle of Grace*	three- to four-inch (seven- to 10-centimeter) circles from heavy paper, art supplies, magnetic tape
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ glass jars
- ☐ rocks
- ☐ gravel
- ☐ sand
- ☐ water

Is It Full Yet?

Keep all the materials except the glass jars and large rocks out of sight. Give each student a jar and as many rocks as it will take to fill the jar. When they've put the rocks into their jars, ask if the jars are full. (Encourage "yes" answers.) Bring out the gravel and pour gravel to the top of each jar. Ask if the jars are full. Bring out the sand and pour sand to the top of each jar. (You may need to shake the jars a bit.) Ask if the jars are full. Bring out the water and pour water to the top of each jar. Ask if the jars are full.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you think when the jars were full of rocks? How much more could the jar still hold at that point? What in this activity could represent our lives?** (the jars) **What could represent God's grace?** (the rocks, gravel, sand, and water) **God pours out more blessings on us than we even ask for. Sometimes we think there's no room for more grace, but He keeps pouring it in anyway. Our Bible story today is about a time God's grace kept flowing until there was no more room to contain it. Let's say our power text together, Philippians 4:19:**

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

As our power point reminds us, we can be assured that

The supply of God's grace never ends.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ 2" x 11" (5 cm. x 28 cm.) strips of paper
- ☐ tape
- ☐ crayons, markers, OR pens
- ☐ scissors

Miraculous Multiplying Circle

Give each student a strip of paper and instructions to twist one end over (180 degrees) and tape the ends together. Give each student a crayon, a marker, or a pen and instruct them to begin drawing a line lengthwise down the strip of paper and to continue without lifting the pen. The line will go all the way around both sides of the paper. Give students the scissors and instruct them to cut along the line they just drew by first making a small slit and then continuing to cut down the middle. When they've cut all the way through, the circle will be twice as big.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you observe about our experiment?** (After we cut through the paper we ended up with a bigger circle.) Say: **We need to remember that God's grace is given to us in abundant measure. Let's say our power text together, Philippians 4:19:**

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Who do you think knows your needs better? This text says He will meet all our needs—even the ones of which we aren't aware. According to our power point, we can rely on the fact that

The supply of God's grace never ends.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"I Will Sing of the Mercies" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 15)
"God Is So Good" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 33)
"Think About His Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 40)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students mark with pushpins the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ ceramic OR earthenware bowl

Remind students that our offering supports the work of missionaries who tell people around the world about the endless supply of God's love and care for them. Collect the offering in a ceramic or earthenware bowl.

Prayer

Before you pray, ask each student to think about a need in their life. Pray that your students will trust God to meet that specific need along with all other needs, even the ones they don't know about. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

YOU NEED:

For each student
- ☐ small paper cups
- ☐ larger paper cups
- ☐ water
- ☐ paper towels

Give each student a small cup and a larger cup with just enough water in it to overflow the smaller cup. You'll want the larger cup to be big enough to disguise the fact that there's more water than will fit into the small cup. Ask the students to pour all the water from the big cup into the smaller cup. As the students begin to pour they will probably want to stop as they reach the top of the smaller cup. Instruct them to keep pouring until the water overflows the cup. Immediately hand out paper towels to wipe up the spill.

Ask: **What did you want to do as the water began to overflow? Why? What did you think when I told you to keep pouring anyway?** (We're going to have a mess, etc.) **Sometimes God pours out more blessings on us than we can even hold. Our story today is about someone who asked for a blessing. God poured out more of His grace on her than she even asked for.**

Experiencing the Story

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ glass jars
- ☐ pitchers of water

Have the students turn to 2 Kings 4:1-7. Ask for volunteers to play the roles of a narrator, Elisha, the widow, and her two sons. Everyone else will be a neighbor. Give the neighbors the glass jars.

The narrator will begin reading verse 1. The widow and Elisha will read/act out their roles when their turn comes. Stop after verse 4.

The widow will need to go "home" and tell her sons to collect jars from the neighbors. Have the sons collect the jars from the "neighbors" and bring them back to the widow. As the widow begins filling the jars, you will need to keep filling her pitcher to make sure it never runs out. Then continue through verse 7.

Debriefing

Ask: **How would you have felt if you were one of the sons who was about to be taken as a slave? What would have happened if the widow and her sons had been able to collect more jars? What would have happened if they hadn't collected very many jars? Who do you think was the most amazed at this miracle? Who do you think was the most relieved at the outcome of this story? Where or to whom do you think they sold the oil? Let's say our power text together, Philippians 4:19:**

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Let's remember our power point:

The supply of God's grace never ends.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Oil was an important commodity in Bible times.** Have the students look up the following texts and determine how oil was used.

Exodus 27:20 (burned for light)

1 Kings 17:12 (mixed with flour to make bread—in cooking)

Luke 10:34 (used to treat wounds)

Ask: **Who used oil?** (everybody) **How difficult do you think it would have been for the widow to sell the oil?** (not hard at all)

Say: **Olive oil is also used symbolically in the Bible.** Have the students look up the following texts and determine the symbolic uses of oil.

Exodus 29:7-9 (used to anoint priests)

1 Samuel 10:1; 1 Samuel 16:13 (used to anoint kings)

James 5:14 (used to anoint sick people and pray for healing)

Ask: **Why would God instruct priests and kings to be anointed with oil? What does oil symbolize? Find Psalm 23:5, 6. What does it mean when it says "my cup overflows"?** Guide the discussion to help the students realize the anointing with oil and the cup overflowing are part of the same sentence. It means God gives us so many blessings we can't hold them all. Verse 6 sums it up: His love follows us everywhere. Help the students recognize that oil is a metaphor for God's grace (see Teacher Enrichment). Anointing priests and kings with oil symbolically showed God pouring out His grace on them to enable them to do the work for which He had chosen them. Anointing sick people with oil is a request for God to pour His grace on them and heal them.

In the story of the widow, the oil was both a literal and symbolic expression of grace. The oil flowed until she had no more jars to hold it, providing enough money to solve her financial problems. But it also symbolized the grace God poured out, giving her more blessings than she had asked for or expected.

Accommodations for students with special needs

If there are students with visual impairments in your class, prepare for them in advance a handout in large font with the Bible references and the questions for this activity.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ two empty cups
- ☐ marbles OR pebbles

Needs and Blessings

Set two empty cups at the front of the room, one labeled "needs" and the other labeled "blessings." Hand out several marbles or pebbles to each student. Ask the students to think of both unmet needs in their lives—something they need God to do for them *now*—and blessings that God either provides regularly or has provided. As you go around the circle, ask students to name either a need or a blessing as they drop a marble into the appropriate cup. (Point out that something could be either a need or a blessing, depending on a student's circumstances. For example, shelter would be a need for someone who is homeless, but for students with a home, it would be a blessing.) Stop when one of the cups begins to overflow with marbles.

Debriefing

Ask: **Which of our cups was full first? How many of the blessings in our life do we take for granted? How many true needs do we have that God hasn't supplied? Let's say our power text together, Philippians 4:19:**

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

No matter how it seems to us right now, we can be assured, as our power point reminds us, that

The supply of God's grace never ends.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Circle of Grace

YOU NEED:

- ☐ three- to four-inch (seven- to 10-centimeter) circles cut from heavy paper
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ magnetic tape

Allow time for students to share what they did during the past week to tell someone about God's abundant blessings that they had experienced in their lives. What experiences did they share? How did the people with whom they shared respond?

Give each student a circle. Have them decorate it with the power text and appropriate designs. Put a piece of magnetic tape on the back. Ask them to give their creation to someone who needs to understand and believe in God's never-ending supply of grace.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think we chose a circle to illustrate the power text?** (A circle has no end, just as the supply of God's grace has no end.) **According to our power point, we can rely on the fact that**

The supply of God's grace never ends.

Closing

Pray and closing comments:

Pray that your students will remember that the supply of God's grace never ends. Ask God to help them trust Him for all their needs, including the ones they may not even know about. Pray that God will give them eyes to see His grace and blessings in their lives, and for the capacity to accept more blessings than they think they can hold.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **No room for Jesus? We worship God when we accept Him and make Him first in our lives.**

Notes

Student lesson

Oil Unlimited

What birthday or Christmas present have you wanted that you were afraid you might not get? How did you feel when you considered asking your parents for that gift? Did you get it?

The Spirit of the Lord was upon Elisha and worked great miracles through His faithful prophet. Elisha continued the work started by the prophet Elijah to restore the worship of the true God in Israel. His influence for good spread throughout the land.

The sons of the prophets were a group of men who remained faithful to God even during times of widespread apostasy. They did not bow their knee to Baal, but worshipped Jehovah, the true God. These faithful men mingled with the people, helping those in need and spreading the knowledge of the living God.

During the time of Elisha a man from the company of the prophets passed away, leaving behind a wife and two sons. Sadly the widow had no means of paying back the debt that her husband had incurred while he was alive. Soon the creditor would come demanding the payment and threatening to take the widow's sons as his servants. In her despair the widow remembered the man of God, and she went to share the burden of her heart with the prophet Elisha:

"'Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.'

"Elisha replied to her, 'How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?'

"'Your servant has nothing there at all,' she said, 'except a small jar of olive oil.'

"Elisha said, 'Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.'

"She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son, 'Bring me another one.'

"But he replied, 'There is not a jar left.' Then the oil stopped flowing.

"She went and told the man of God, and he said, 'Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left'" (2 Kings 4:1-7).

This story is rich in meaning, and the careful seeker after truth will glean important lessons from it.

It is clear from the conversation between the prophet and the widow that Elisha had a generous spirit. He was ready and willing to help anyone who came to him. Whether it was the king of Israel or a poor widow, he was always ready to lend his help and make a difference. He was a man of prayer. He pleaded with God on behalf of those who needed help, and the Lord performed miracles through His faithful servant.

It is noteworthy that Elisha asked the widow to bring what she had. Certainly God could have provided for the widow's needs without her contribution. Yet the widow had a part to play. By acting in obedience, she experienced in a tangible way God's miraculous power to multiply the supply of oil and to honor the prayer of faith. So it is with us today. God has given us spiritual gifts that He wants us to use as we serve Him and others. The oil is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The presence of God's Spirit in our hearts will produce fruit (see Galatians 5:22, 23). Whether we have the fruit of the Holy Spirit will be visible in the way we interact with others.

The widow was willing to do what the man of God had asked. She did not doubt that God could use even her small supply of oil. Her active response was a positive influence on her sons. When the widow asked them to help, they obeyed her. The two sons knew that they were in danger of becoming slaves to the creditor, so they had to do something to avoid such a predicament. Inspired by their mother's faith, they helped her carry out God's plan. As a reward of their obedience they became eyewitnesses to God's miracle of multiplying the oil. After the widow sold the oil, she was able to pay off the debt. Her sons were saved from a life of slavery! Meanwhile God supplied much more than what the widow had asked. She needed help only to pay off the debt and save her sons from servitude. But with the rest of the money obtained from selling the oil God provided for their daily sustenance. Truly God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

God is the source of every blessing. All that we are and possess come from Him. We are only stewards of the time, talents, health, and

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Kings 4:1-7
- *Reflecting Christ*, p. 269
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 69-73
- Our Beliefs, nos. 21, 5, 18

POWER TEXT

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

POWER POINT

The supply of God's grace never ends.

material goods we received from God. Our whole being—mind, body, and soul—belongs to God (see 1 Corinthians 6:19). How does that make you feel? Are you spending your time and resources to pursue your wishes or to please God? We express our gratitude to God by recognizing that all good things in life come from Him. We show our faithfulness to God by giving back to Him a tithe and offerings to support His work around the world. Let's be faithful to God, from whom we receive every blessing!







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

Sunday

READ Read 2 Kings 4:1-5 and this week's lesson, "Oil Unlimited."

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you trust Him with everything you need.

Monday

READ Read 2 Kings 4:6, 7.

WRITE Imagine you were one of the widow's sons. In your Bible study journal, write what you may have seen.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY With the faith of the widow's sons, pray for someone who is in need of God's grace.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 6:38.

DO Find an empty box. Decorate it and label it "God's Gift Box."

WRITE Write some of your needs on pieces of paper and place them in "God's Gift Box."

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to take care of your needs and help you leave the solution up to His perfect plan.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Kings 17:7-24.

THINK Why do you think God chose to use two different prophets to perform miracles with oil for two different widows?

SHARE Tell someone about God's blessings in your life.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Write the word "faith" on a slip of paper. Put the paper in "God's Gift Box." Ask Him to give you more faith.

Thursday

READ Read Psalm 37:3, 4.

REWRITE Rewrite the power text in your own words.

REVIEW Review the power text.

TALK Talk with an adult about what keeps us from accepting God's blessings.

PRAY Ask God for room to accept the blessings He has in store for you.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 7:7-12.

DO Give each family member several slips of paper. Ask them to write a blessing they have received from God on each slip of paper. Pass around the box you labeled "God's Gift Box." Each family member can share what they have written and then place their papers in the box.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Form a prayer circle around the box and thank God as a family for meeting all your needs and for His never-ending supply of grace.