

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

SHUNAMMITE WOMAN

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 19 • March 13, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Zarephath Widow and Widow's Oil** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read 2 Kings 4:8-17

2. **1 Kings 19:19-21** depicts the prophet Elijah passing his baton of leadership to Elisha. From this passage and from **2 Kings 4:8-10**, what do you learn about Elisha?
3. What words would you use to describe the Shunammite woman from **V8-10**?
4. a) Summarize what she did for Elisha, the prophet.

b) Who routinely crosses your path while he or she is ministering for the LORD?

c) Where might God be calling you to generously provide for their needs? Be creative.
5. How did Elisha respond to the Shunammite woman's hospitality? What was her reply to him in **V11-13**?
6. a) What happens next? (**V14-17**) What impresses you about Elisha?

b) In your own words, what is the Shunammite woman's reaction?

c) In which situation in your life are you scared to entertain hope anymore? Please explain.

7. a) What did Elisha promise her, and what was the result in **V16-17**?
- b) To what amazing promise from Scripture are you clinging?
- c) Thinking question: What are ways that people can try to claim a “promise” that isn’t necessarily a promise from God to be claimed?

SECTION II: Read 2 Kings 4:18-37

8. a) What became of the son Elisha had promised her in **V18-20**?
- b) From **V21-26**, what do you think was unusual and possibly significant about how the Shunammite woman responded to her son’s death?
9. a) What is meaningful to you about the interchange between Gehazi, Elisha, and the Shunammite woman in **V27-28**?
- b) The Shunammite woman had an undivided focus in getting to the feet of Elisha. When crisis hits, how undivided are you in getting to the feet of Jesus and why?
10. a) What instructions did Elisha give to Gehazi, and what was the result in **V29-31**?
- b) What component to this woman’s character is magnified in **V30**?
11. Compare the raising of the son of the Zarephath widow in **1 Kings 17:17-24**, and the raising of the son of the Shunammite woman in **V32-37**. Note especially how the women reacted to this miracle.
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|--------------|-------------|
| Similarities | Differences |
|--------------|-------------|

SECTION III: Read 2 Kings 8:1-6

12. a) Summarize what takes place in **V1-3**, and what additional traits surface in her character?
- b) The Shunammite woman had a 7-year detour into enemy territory. What detour has God allowed in your life as a means of provision or protection?
13. a) In **V4-6**, who did the king happen to be talking to when the Shunammite woman happened to walk in? What was the topic and outcome of the conversation with the king?
- b) Recount some "God coincidences" you've experienced.
14. a) Amid some of "the bad, and ugly" events in the Shunammite woman's life, which one of her "good" character qualities inspires you most and why?
- b) Write a prayer asking God to grow that quality in you (or in a loved one).

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The Shunammite woman wrestled with holding onto hope. In fact, she said to Elisha, "Don't raise my hopes." (**4:28b**) Find a different aspect of biblical hope from each of these verses:

Psalms 130:5 _____

Psalms 147:11 _____

Isaiah 40:31 _____

Romans 5:3-5 _____

Titus 1:2 _____

2. Read **Romans 4:18**. Where do you need to hope against all hope?

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **Romans 15:13**

