

Family Life with God



Core Bible

*Level 1, Quarter A
Teacher Guide Sample (Lesson 8)*



Big Idea *The home is God's safe place for children to learn and grow.*

Bible Passage *Elisha's Special Room—2 Kings 4:8-37*

Discover God *He Is a Refuge*

Lesson Summary

Bible-times homes were very simple. Typical houses had only one room where the whole family ate, slept, and spent time. Cooking fires made the air stuffy. In winter, many people moved sheep or goats into the house. Most homes were made of mud with brushwood roofs. Furniture was sparse, and beds were mats on the floor.

Still, homes were a refuge from the dangers of wild beasts and of other people. Some people added living space on their flat roofs, which is where the Shunammite woman made a room for Elisha. Children will see how important it was for Elisha to have a place to stay in his travels, and that God is always a “safe place” when they feel troubled. They will be inspired to use their homes to serve others, just like the woman from Shunem.

Bible Background

Shunem was north of Jerusalem, a bit south of the Sea of Galilee. The Bible tells us that Elisha, God's prophet and Elijah's successor, traveled through this town somewhat regularly. Travel at that time was never easy and could hold dangers. Besides the harshness of the elements, thieves and brigands could waylay a traveler. Elisha traveled with his servant, Gehazi. The childless woman in the passage rec-

ognized Elisha as a man of God. She desired to show him hospitality by providing a room for him to use whenever he was in the area. Elisha's gratitude shows the magnitude of what this woman did for him. Elisha promised the woman would have a son, whom he later brought back to life after the boy died from an illness.

Teacher Devotional

Have you ever locked yourself out of your house or car? Argh! It's so frustrating. In contrast, being handed the key to your first home—whether it's the first apartment you rented or the first house you bought—produces a sense of exhilaration and pleasure. Thank God for the home He has provided you today. One of your tasks as a teacher is to offer a refuge for your students—a safe place where they can come to know God. What a privilege!

My Lord and Father, the place we call “home” is just a temporary resting place. Our true home is in heaven, and we'll enjoy it forever as we worship You. Increase my desire to help my students find refuge in You and establish their heavenly home by acknowledging Jesus as their Savior. Equip me and prepare me for that job this week. In Christ's name, amen.



DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • God is a refuge—a safe place for people to dwell. (2 Samuel 22:3)
- N** • Most Bible-times people lived in tents or simple houses. (2 Kings 4:10)
- O** • The Shunammite woman used her home to serve Elisha. (2 Kings 4:8)

CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Safe knowing that they have God as their refuge.
- E** • Thankful God has given them a house in which to live.
- E** • Enthusiastic to show hospitality to others in their homes.
- L**

CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Compare Bible-times homes with modern homes.
- O** • Praise God for being their refuge.
- DiscipleSkill: Show hospitality in their own homes.

Make Disciples

Teacher—Decide where to place these elements into this lesson.

Opening Prayer

Thank God that each of the children has a home, which God has provided. Thank Him for being a safe place that we can go to in times of trouble.

WorldWatch

Missionary Biography 8 of 12—William Carey—Troubles and Joy *Missionary stories can have a profound impact on children. Take 1-2 minutes to read this brief narrative. Download discussion questions at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.*

Sigh. Sigh. Sigh. William Carey is 46 years old. He thinks back over the last fourteen years in India. He remembers how the missionaries gladly welcome the first two Indian Christians. They all sit down and eat a meal together. This makes their Hindu neighbors very angry. They have broken the strict Hindu religious laws. Still William is very happy. He baptizes Krishna Pal and his own son in the Hooghly River. Two months later the Bengali New Testament rolls off the press. Now, growing numbers of new Christians can read the Bible in their own language. William continues to translate Scripture and to teach and preach. As time goes by, his wife, Dorothy, becomes weaker and weaker. Finally, Dorothy dies seven years after the first Indian Christian is baptized. William grieves for Dorothy. He remembers the challenges she faced in India. Yet, he thanks God for giving her to be his wife and the mother of their children.

Missions Education—God’s Great Family

To add this component to the lesson, download the teacher script at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

DISCIPLESHIP TIP

Know your kids—especially in regard to health concerns. Ask parents to fill out an information card to be kept on file. Make personal contact with parents via phone to show them you are concerned for the whole child. You’ll learn about chronic illnesses, learning problems, or food allergies that would have caught you unawares. Be prepared and cautious, so you can keep all your children safe and healthy.

KeyVerse

Topic: Homes

Reference: *Joshua 24:15c*

Memorization Activity: Write the memory verse on the board and have children say it with you. Bring out your Shepherd’s Bag and have children guess what’s inside (small toy house). Bring out the small toy house. Connect the Bible memory time to the idea of God as a refuge by playing freeze tag. Make a “safe” zone where children can pause during play. Whoever is “It” tags a child. The teacher calls out “freeze!” and everyone freezes. The tagged child will say the reference and verse on the board, and that child becomes “It.” Explain that God can be like the “safe” zone. He protects us when things get scary.

God Is the Greatest!

Download the entire recitation at DiscipleLand.com/downloads. Build from the previous lessons and teach children the following:

God is our Refuge

He shelters us from harm. (cover head with arms to form shelter)

Bonus Resources

Access free downloads for this lesson at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

- Contemporary Dee Cy Paul Chip (Discipleship) story
- More activity ideas

SUPPLIES

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides (pages 29-32)
Pencils, markers, crayons
Paper, scissors, tape, glue

Make Disciples

Shepherd’s Bag, small toy house

Spark Interest

- BIBLE-TIMES HOMES: camping tent or sheet
- HOUSES, HUTS, & HOSTELS: no additional supplies

Explore Scripture

Blanket, chair, small table, candle or oil lamp
Teaching Picture 1A.15—Elisha’s room
Teaching Picture 1A.16—Elisha Heals Boy

Inspire Action

- DOOR DECOR: butcher paper, crepe paper strips, big bows, other art supplies
- DOOR NUMBER ONE: large cardboard box, various small prizes, various small gag prizes

Spark Interest

Teacher—Choose one activity that will involve students and grab their attention.

Bible-Times Homes (10 minutes)

This discussion activity compares homes of today with those in Bible times. Supplies: camping tent or large sheet

Before class, set up a large camping tent or rig a sheet to make a tent—large enough for the whole class, if possible. Invite students to enter the tent and pretend what it would be like to live there permanently. Make motions—sweep, roll up a floor mat, start a cooking fire, knead bread, pour oil from a jar, stir food in a pot, shoo out small animals—and have the children imitate you. Discuss the differences between homes in Bible times and homes today. Explain that just like now, homes in Bible times were places where people could be safe from dangers. God wants to be that safe place for us as our refuge.

OR

Houses, Huts, & Hostels (10 minutes)

This group drawing activity introduces the topic of homes and of God as refuge.

In this activity all the kids will draw at the same time. They can stand at the boards, sit on the floor or at tables, and use whatever medium you've chosen. Brainstorm about different kinds of houses, such as houses in other countries they've seen in pictures, apartments, castles, igloos, teepees, and so on. Have each child draw one type of house. Allow three to five minutes as everyone draws, then let everyone take a "home tour" to see what was produced.

Comment on the different features you see. Talk to children about their own homes too—help them relate what others have and don't have. **I imagine there are even more kinds of houses than what we have drawn here. People in other places live very differently than we do. But houses all do the same thing, whatever they look like. They give us a safe place to live. Homes keep us safe from dangerous storms and strangers who might want to hurt us. God is like that. He is a refuge, a safe place, for us to go to whenever we need Him.**

OR

"Home Sweet Home" Snack (10 minutes)

This edible craft reinforces the Bible lesson and gives the kids something to munch on. Supplies: graham crackers, soft cream cheese or canned frosting

Challenge the kids to use graham crackers and frosting or cream cheese "mortar" to build a simple boxy Bible-times house. Once the houses are finished, they may eat their creations.

Disciple Guide—page 29

Be sure to explain what a refuge is to your students. Complete this page at the beginning of class or after a *Spark Interest* activity.

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Homes

God is our Refuge. He protects us from danger and shelters us from harm. Elisha needs a safe place to stay! Help him safely reach his special room.



God is like a safe place where we can always go!

How does God keep you safe?



Explore Scripture

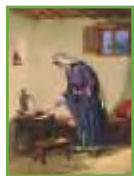
Teacher—Teach the Bible lesson. Include Teaching Pictures and exercises from the student Disciple Guides.

2 Kings 4:8-37

Create the scene of the simple room the Shunammite woman made for Elisha. Lay out a blanket/towel as a sleeping mat, place a table and chair next to it and a candle/lamp on the table. Use a tent from the “Bible-Times Homes” activity in *Spark Interest* if appropriate. Gather for the lesson near this “room” and refer to it during the lesson. Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4:8-37.

Samuel grew up serving God because God planned for him to be a prophet. A prophet gives people God’s messages. Today we’re finding out about another prophet named Elisha. He traveled around Israel to do God’s work. Sometimes he traveled through a town named Shunem. A kind woman in this town would invite Elisha to her house to eat. She was always glad to share some food with him in her house.

Then this woman had another idea. Show an expression that suggests you have a good idea. She said to her husband, “This man who regularly passes through our town is a holy man of God. Why don’t we make a little room for him on our roof? We can give him a bed, a table, chair, and a lamp. Then he can stay with us whenever he comes this way!” So that’s what they did! Point to the “room” you created and/or show the Teaching Picture 1A.15 of Elisha’s room.



Elisha was very happy to have a safe place to stay while he traveled. One day he was resting in the new room they made for him. He thought about how kind the Shunammite woman had been to him. She was sharing her house with him, and showing hospitality. Do you know what hospitality is? It is when you make people feel welcome in your home. Elisha wanted to give this woman something for being so nice. He asked her, “Would you like me to say something good about you to the king so he can reward you?” The Shunammite woman said, “No, thank you.” She was happy living just as she was.

Elisha still wanted to do something nice for her. Since this woman didn’t have any

children, he could ask God to give her a baby. Elisha told the lady that next year God would give her a son. She was surprised and afraid that it would not happen. But, what do *you* think God did? That’s right, God gave her a little boy the next year!

The woman and her husband loved their son. One day this boy had an awful headache. Hold your head like it really hurts. A servant carried him from the fields to his mother, and she held him and rocked her little boy in her lap. She tried to make him feel better, but the boy died. The mother carried him up to the room where Elisha always stayed.

The boy’s mother remembered that Elisha was a man of God. She got on a donkey and rode a long way to find him. Elisha saw her coming. He knew something was wrong. The woman from Shunem fell at Elisha’s feet sobbing and told him her son had died. She knew Elisha could help her because he was a man of God. So Elisha went back to the woman’s house. He saw the boy was dead, and he prayed to God. Then he lay over the boy and he felt him coming back to life! While Elisha watched, the

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Elisha’s Special Room 2 Kings 4:8-37

The Shunammite woman welcomed Elisha into her home. What did she give to make him comfortable? Cross out the things that do not belong.



How did the Shunammite woman use her home to serve Elisha?



boy sneezed seven times (pretend to sneeze seven times) and opened his eyes. Show the Teaching Picture 1A.16 of Elisha and boy. When the Shunammite woman saw that her son was alive again, she bowed in front of Elisha. She was so thankful and happy to have her boy back.



This woman was wise. She used her house to serve others, and gave Elisha a refuge when he traveled. That's called hospitality. And just as Elisha had a safe place to stay, God is our refuge. We can show others our love for God by using our homes to serve and care for people. Safe homes are another gift from God.

Disciple Guide—page 30

Reinforce the concepts of hospitality and refuge as children complete this page.

Disciple Guide—page 31

This activity can be a discussion or something children work on individually. Complete the HeartBeat.

Inspire Action

Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.

Door Decor (10-15 minutes)

This group art project celebrates God's provision of homes and safety for us all. **Supplies:** butcher paper, crepe paper strips, markers, other art supplies

Before class, cover both sides of your door with butcher paper. Have children think of how decorations are used at birthdays and holidays. Explain that they will decorate the classroom door to thank God for providing homes and safe places. If you have a large class, encourage children to work on both sides of the door or more than one door if possible, or take turns decorating. Write "God is our Refuge" on the door and have kids make and decorate signs to mount on the door, as well as other art, crepe paper streamers and bows. Let them use their creativity to express themselves.

OR

Door Number One (10 minutes)

This game excites children about the lesson and reviews the Bible passage. **Supplies:** large cardboard box, small prizes and gag gifts

Before class, prepare a large cardboard box. Cut one of the four sides away and on the opposite side cut three flaps and label them Door #1, Door #2, and Door #3. Set this box on a table and have yourself or an assistant ready with small prizes (candy bars, small toys, etc.) and gag gifts (rocks, candy pacifiers, cans of sardines, etc.) Ask review questions about the Bible passage. If the contestant can answer correctly, he or she can choose whether they want what is behind Door #1, Door #2, or Door #3. Expand this game by asking ways children can show hospitality in their own homes.

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Bible-Times Homes

How is this Bible-times home different from yours? How is it like your home? Circle things you like about this home.



The home is God's safe place for children to learn and grow. God wants to use your home to serve others. Color the house to show you are ready to serve others.



Closing Prayer

Have the children thank God for their homes, remembering something about it that is special to them (their own rooms, a favorite spot, having fun in their houses, their yards, etc.). Lead the children in asking God to show them ways they can show hospitality. Let each child pray silently, while you pray in phrases or short sentences. Finish by praising God for being our refuge in times of trouble.

Closing Words

What's one thing we all do, usually three times a day? Look for an answer related to food and eating. **We're going to learn about food next time. Come back and find out what Bible-times people ate.**



Teacher—Children should complete this page on their own or at home with a parent.

DiscipleSkill How to Show Respect

During this quarter, your children will learn manner skills that will help them respect others. Be sure to explain any difficult words and concepts they may encounter.

Hospitality—Tell the children that when they're showing hospitality, they want people to feel welcome in their house. There are many ways to do that. Challenge them to think about ways to help visitors feel welcome.

DiscipleZone.com

Direct children to DiscipleZone.com/1A8 for:

XploreMore Discover more about God as a refuge.

SwordWork Read Mark 2:1-12.

WorldWatch Explore Rajput homes.

Dee-Cy-Paul Live! Dee's father shows the kids how houses are built.

KeyVerse Memorize Joshua 24:15c.

HymnNotes Meet Frances Havergal, writer of "Take My Life and Let It Be."

DiscipleSkill How to Show Respect

32 Class Code.

Show Hospitality
Hospitality means making guests feel special and welcome.

Homes
Joshua 24:15c

HymnNotes
What was the only kind of music Francis Havergal would sing?
Find the answer at DiscipleZone.com/1A8

arf!

Welcome to my home! I'm glad you came!

Disciple Guide—page 32

Encourage kids to complete DiscipleZone before the next lesson. Explain that activities are available at a special website—

DiscipleZone.com—where kids go to grow! Children should visit the website with their parents to complete the online activities.