

Overflowing Oil

There once was a poor widow. She lived alone with her two sons because her husband had died. She had a big problem. She owed someone money and she had no money to pay them. In that time, if you couldn't pay what you owed, the other person could take your children away and then your children would become their slaves. The other person would then own the children. They could make them do all their work for them or they could sell the children and then they would have to do all the work for someone else. It was a very bad situation for the children. The poor widow didn't know what to do to keep this bad thing from happening. So, she went to visit Elisha. Elisha was a prophet of God. God would speak to Elisha. Then Elisha would tell people what God wanted them to know. The widow knew God could help her and that Elisha could tell her exactly what God wanted her to do.

Elisha asked the woman what things she had in her house. She said, "I have nothing except a small pot of oil." Elisha told her to go to all the people she knew and borrow pots and jars and bring them back to her house. Then she needed to shut the door with only her and her sons inside. Once the doors were closed, she needed to pour the oil from her little pot into the pots she borrowed from her neighbors. The woman did exactly what Elisha told her to do. Her sons brought all the pots they could borrow into

the house, and she shut the door. Then she started to pour the oil from her small pot into one of the borrowed pots. She filled it all the way to the top and then called for her sons to bring her another pot. She filled it to the top and then called for another pot. Again and again, she filled the pots from her little jar of oil, each time calling for a new pot when she reached the top until her sons said, “we have no more pots.” When she stopped pouring, she looked at her little pot. It was still full!

She returned to Elisha to tell him about how her little pot filled all the vessels with oil. Elisha then told her to go and sell all the oil and to use that money to pay the person who was going to take away her sons. Not only was there going to be enough money to save her sons, but there would also be extra so she could continue taking care of herself and her family.

1. What does it mean to be a widow?
2. How many sons did the widow have?
3. Why did the woman need money?
4. Why did the woman go see Elisha?
5. What was the only thing the woman had?
6. What did Elisha tell the woman to borrow from her neighbors?
7. What did Elisha tell the woman to do with all the pots?
8. What happened when she poured her little bit of oil into the pot?
9. How many vessels did she fill with oil?
10. What did Elisha tell her to do with all the oil?
11. Who turned her little bit of oil into enough oil to save her son?