

One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she urged him to come to her home for a meal. After that, whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for something to eat. Eventually, she and her husband built a small room for him to stay whenever he was in town.

Out of thankfulness, Elisha asked the woman one day if there was anything she needed. She said no, I have a house among my family. However, Elisha's servant noted that she didn't have a son and her husband was old.

So, Elisha said to her "Next year at this time you will be holding a son in your arms!"

The woman said "Oh, don't get my hopes up!"

⁷ But sure enough, the woman soon became pregnant. And at that time the following year she had a son, just as Elisha had said.

¹⁸ One day when her child was older, he went out to help his father, who was working with the harvesters. ¹⁹ Suddenly he cried out, "My head hurts! My head hurts!" Soon after that the boy died.

The woman went straight to Elisha to seek his help. But when anyone asked if there was something wrong, she said "all is well"

But when she came to the man of God at the mountain, she fell to the ground and begged for his help.

²⁸ Then she said, "Did I ask you for a son, my lord? And didn't I say, 'Don't deceive me and get my hopes up'?"

²⁹ Then Elisha said to Gehazi, "Get ready to travel^[a]; take my staff and go! Don't talk to anyone along the way. Go quickly and lay the staff on the child's face."

³⁰ But the boy's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and you yourself live, I won't go home unless you go with me." So Elisha returned with her.

³¹ Gehazi hurried on ahead and laid the staff on the child's face, but nothing happened. There was no sign of life. He returned to meet Elisha and told him, "The child is still dead."

³² When Elisha arrived, the child was indeed dead, lying there on the prophet's bed. ³³ He went in alone and shut the door behind him and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ Then he lay down on the child's body, placing his mouth on the child's mouth, his eyes on the child's eyes, and his hands on the child's hands. And as he stretched out on him, the child's body began to grow warm again! ³⁵ Elisha got up, walked back and forth across the room once, and then stretched himself out again on the child. This time the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes!

³⁶ Then Elisha summoned Gehazi. "Call the child's mother!" he said. And when she came in, Elisha said, "Here, take your son!" ³⁷ She fell at his feet and bowed before him, overwhelmed with gratitude. Then she took her son in her arms and carried him downstairs.