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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1544 ~ Elisha Raises a Child to Life.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

One of the most popular hobbies around the world is catching fish with a fishing rod. There are many different ways and baits for catching fish, depending on the type of fish being sought. Some fish will snap at a lure or object being pulled through the water. These lures are usually made of brightly coloured plastic and don't have any likeness to the fishes' normal food.

People also can be lured into doing things, even good things, but realize later they should not have over committed themselves. A mother of school children was lured into a well-paid work contract for one year. She accepted it without praying about it or thinking through the consequences on herself or her family. She started the job and soon discovered that she had to leave for work before her children were awake. She often had to stay back at work and couldn't be there with her family at the end of the day either. The household chores piled up. Her daily quiet times with the Lord and Bible study were missed regularly. Over time, the mother discovered her talents and interests didn't really match with the job. At the end of the year, she gratefully resigned. She had learnt the hard lesson of not being distracted by financial lures that made her too busy to do the important caring role for her family.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, a lady from the city of Shunem, just north of Jezreel, had said "No" to the lures offered her by the prophet Elisha.

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DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

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The unnamed lady of Shunem was rich and influential. She graciously invited God's prophet Elisha to come to her home and eat. Not only was this lady generous with giving food but she also asked her husband to have a special room built just for Elisha so he could rest when he came to visit.

Elisha was so very pleased with this arrangement that he felt that he must pay her back in some way. Elisha offered her commendations to both the king and army commander. What could the lady hope to gain from accepting these lures? This lady declined both of Elisha's offers for she was happy and content living among her own people. The lady's reply endears her to many Bible readers. She rejected the lures of ambition, fame and control over other people.

Later, Elisha's servant Gehazi told him that the lady of Shunem was childless. Elisha went and told the lady that in a year's time, she would have a child. The lady didn't believe this to be possible as she had given up any hope for having a child. But Elisha's words in fact came true.

A medical missionary couple living in the small country of Nepal, north of India, were childless for many years. They too gave up hope of having their own child and looked at adopting a child instead. One day in his prayer time, the husband received a message from God that they would have a child in a year's time. On the exact day one whole year later, on the wife's third day of labour, the wife gave birth to a tiny baby boy. In the years that followed, the lady wrote stories of their missionary experiences into books so all could read what life had been like for them.

The lady of Shunem's baby boy grew up to be strong. But one day, he ran to his father out in the field with the harvest reapers. The child complained of a terrible headache. The Bible gives no reason why the child became so terribly ill but he died a few hours later back at the house in his mother's arms. God doesn't always explain why things happen to us. It's our part to trust that God is working all things together for good for us. The tests of our faith in Him are to make our faith grow stronger, not to weaken or damage it.

When the trials of life come, and they come to all of us at some point or other, we need to understand that God has a purpose in testing us. Although He has the power to prevent some tragedy, it's not always His purpose to do so. The story of the lady of Shunem would not be in the Bible if there hadn't been a major crisis in her life. How she handled that distressing situation can now be a lesson for all of us.

First, the lady was very careful about the words she said to others. Although she was very upset about the death of her only child, she did not take anger, bitterness or disappointment out on her family. She put the dead child on Elisha's bed in his room but believed in her heart that Elisha could raise him to life again. Secondly, she took action. She arranged for her husband to give her one of the servants and a donkey for the 20-mile journey to Mount Carmel to see Elisha.

Elisha was surprised to see the Shunemmite woman and her servant in the distance, riding hard towards them. Elisha sent Gehazi out to meet them and ask if all was well.

Again she didn't speak of her problem. Only when she came to Elisha she took hold of his feet and gave her problem to him. Elisha instructed Gehazi to take his staff and run and place it on the dead child's face. But the Shunemmite woman was persistent. She refused to return to home until Elisha went with her.

Running on ahead, Gehazi placed Elisha's staff on the dead child's face but nothing changed. Gehazi walked back to meet Elisha and reported no success. Elisha arrived at the lady's house and shut himself in his room with the dead child. There he prayed to the Lord. He warmed the dead child's body and in time, the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. When the mother saw him alive again, she bowed down before Elisha. Then she took her boy back into the main house.

To this day, no one criticizes the Shunemmite woman and how she handled things then. She is a beloved Bible person who came through her tough test of faith in triumph.

Are you lured into doing things without asking the Lord first if He wants you to do it? In the New Testament letter of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians, Chapter 5, we are instructed to pray with thankfulness, and continually and persistently. Effective prayer goes hand-in-hand with a willingness to obey the Lord.

Years ago, a godly man wrote this little piece to God: "My times are in your hands. My God, I wish them there. My life, my friends, my soul – I leave entirely in your care." And that's the place for all of us to be now and always. Have you ever thought that if you asked Jesus Christ to be your Friend and Saviour from sin, that He would take care of you through all the trials of life here on earth while He prepares a place for you in heaven?

Yes, just as there were for the Shunemmite woman, there will be times of suffering in our lives too. But in the end, there will be eternal bliss. The Apostle Paul said in the New Testament book of Romans, Chapter 8: "I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us." Commit your life and hold fast to the Lord Jesus. Live in hope that one day, you will see His smiling face and receive a welcome home into eternity with Him.

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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