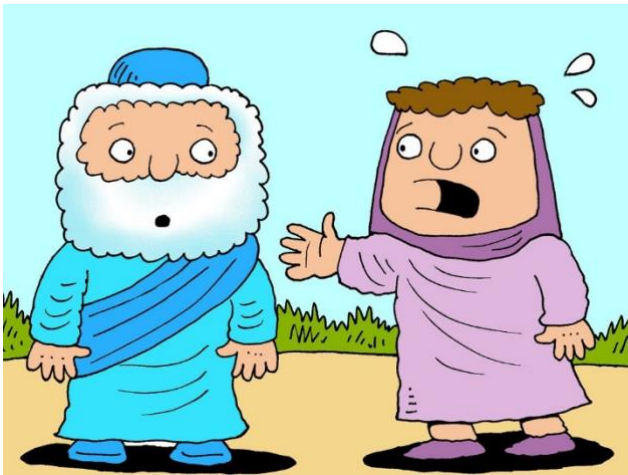


## 'Elisha and the widow's oil' 2 Kings 4:1-7

[Elisha and the widow and the oil == Read by Heather](#)

*(Click on the link)*

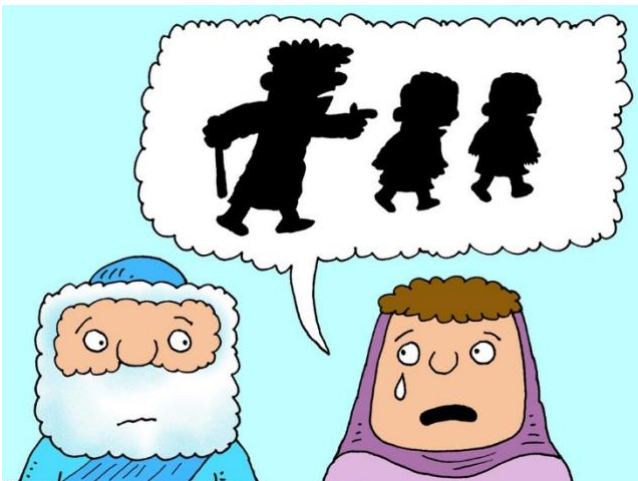


Elisha was a prophet, a man who spoke for God. He lived about 3,000 years ago in Israel.

One day, a woman, the wife of one of the prophets of God, came to see Elisha. She was clearly upset and needed help.



'My husband is dead,' she cried out. 'As you know, he was a believer in the one true God. He was very poor and when he died he had many debts.'



'One of the men he owed money to wants his money back. As I cannot pay, the man is threatening to take away my two sons and make them his slaves.'



Elisha asked the Lord for guidance. How could God help this poor woman? 'Tell me, what do you have in your house?' Elisha asked.



'Only one small pot of oil,' the tearful woman replied.



'Here's what you must do,' said Elisha. 'Go home and gather all the empty vessels you can find. Borrow empty jars from your neighbours too. You need to gather as many jars as you can.'

'Why? What for?' the woman asked. Elisha then told her what to do once the jars had been collected.



The widow went home and she and her two sons gathered as many empty vessels as they could find. They borrowed bowls and jars from their neighbours and friends. It made quite a collection!



Then the woman went into her house and closed the door, just as Elisha had told her. Then she started tipping the oil from her one small jar of olive oil into the first large bowl. She poured and poured and the little jar did not empty. The oil kept flowing and flowing until the big bowl was filled.



Then she tipped the small jar of oil into a big bucket. Wow! The whole bucket filled up, right to the top.

The woman looked into her small jar of oil, it still wasn't empty. So she poured it into another large jar.



And when the jar filled, she kept pouring the olive oil into basins, bowls, jugs and pots. All of them were filled right up to the top.



'Are there any containers left to fill?' the woman asked her sons.

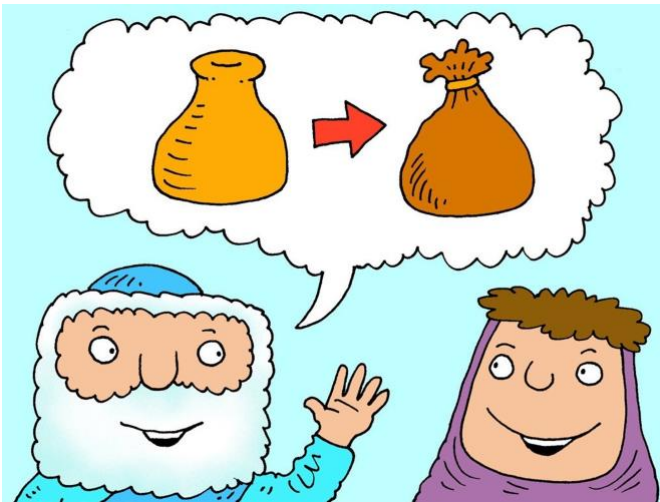
'No,' they replied, 'You have filled them all.' As soon as the woman heard this the oil in her pot stopped coming out. It was totally empty.



The happy woman ran to find Elisha. 'I did everything you told me and now I have masses and masses of olive oil.'



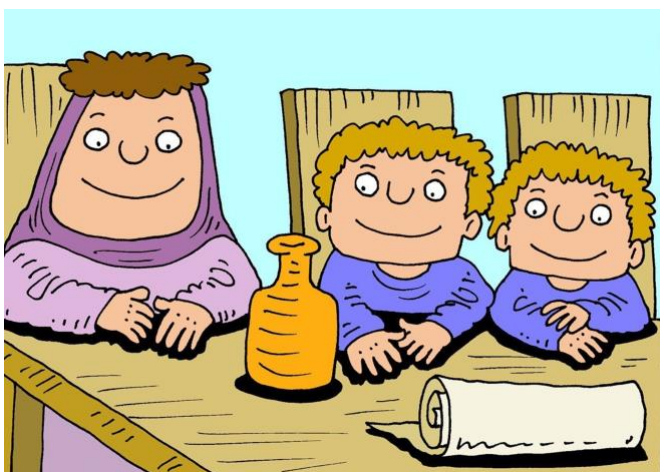
Elisha was pleased. 'Now, go and sell the oil and use the money to pay your husband's debts. There should be enough money left for you and your sons to buy the food, clothes and the things you need.'



The woman was so pleased at the way God had provided for her. Most of all she could keep her two sons and they could all look after each other.



The woman returned home very happy. God had looked after them. Why? She had trusted and obeyed God. Faith and obedience always go together like that.



Oil was precious in Elisha's times, used for all sorts of things, to rub into sore skin, to make soap, to light lamps; it was a precious substance. The miraculous oil could be sold to make money.

Why did the woman do what Elisha said? Why do you think God wanted her to get out her oil jars; couldn't God have just given her some oil? What do you think? Maybe God wanted her to show her trust in God through her actions?

Psalm 37.3 says...

*'Trust the Lord and do good.'*

When I was a little girl, at Sunday School, we would sing this chorus,

*'Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way,  
To be happy with Jesus,  
But to Trust and Obey.'*

The widow in the story did both... let's pray.

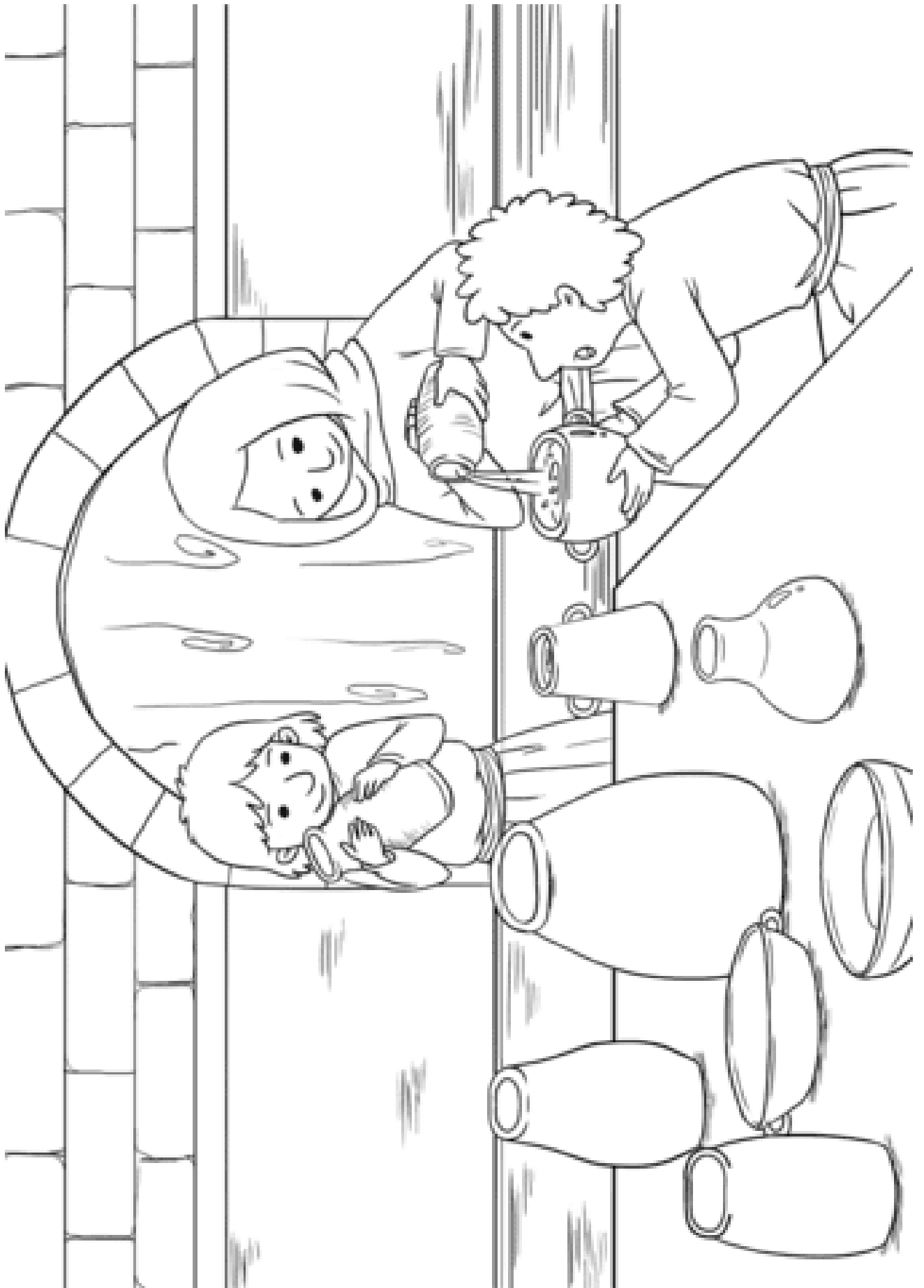
Dear Jesus,

Help us to trust you every day. Help us to hear your voice and do what you ask.

Thank you for your love.

Amen





How many jars did the widow fill from her own small jar of oil?

The Bible doesn't say but it was probably a lot!

How many jars can you find hidden in this picture.

Find the jars and colour them in.



## The Pot of Oil

In 2 Kings 4 we read the story of a poor woman whom Elisha helped with a pot of oil.

How many times can you find "POT OF OIL" in the word search?

