

**How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?**

Happy  
*Mother's*  
Day

**A Child's Best Gift**

2 Kings 4:8-37

Sid Niemeyer • May 12, 2013

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**The Shunammite woman—an example of godly mothering**

**The best gift you can give your child**

# Happy Mother's Day

## A Child's Best Gift

2 Kings 4:8-37

Message-based Group Lesson

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### Overview

This story is about a woman from the town of Shunem, in Israel. Her life changes dramatically when she meets and cares for the prophet Elisha. She experiences tremendous joy at the birth of a long-awaited son, but it is followed by bitter distress when he dies.

### Engaging with each other

1. When you were a child, whose visits did you look forward to the most?

### Engaging with the Bible

1. Read 2 Kings 4:8-37. What does this story teach us about godly (healthy) mothering?
2. How does the life of the Shunammite woman help us to understand the relationship between our faith and our actions?
3. Read 4:15-16 again. How do these verses reveal a woman with a "hidden heartache," (a desire long unfulfilled but not expressed much)? What does the story show us about responding well to a hidden heartache?

4. Read 4:20-30 again and evaluate the woman's interactions with her husband and the prophet Elisha. What do these interactions reveal about her faith?
5. Discuss this statement: "To make children the singular focus of your marriage leads to unhealthy parenting." Do you agree or disagree and why?

### Engaging with our lives

1. How does this story encourage you to trust in God's grace *for you personally*, regardless of your circumstances?
2. What does godly, healthy, mothering teach you about God, his character and his ways of growing you?
3. The goal of parenting is often viewed as raising children who are "self-reliant." Do you agree or disagree with this?
4. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. In light of this verse, what should my parenting goal be as a follower of Christ?