GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

The Floating Axe Head

2 Kings 6:1-7



YOUR BIBLE READING

An honest cry for help can include an everyday trouble.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Shared Building Project

2 Kings 6:1-7



A group of prophets lived and met with Elisha. Their place had become too small for them. Rather than pretending there was enough room, they named the problem and proposed a plan. They wanted to go to the Jordan, cut timber, and make a larger place where they could live. The opening of this short account is about shared needs and ordinary work, not about a king or a battle.

The men asked Elisha's permission to go, and he agreed. One of them then asked him to come with them. Elisha said he would go, and they traveled together to the Jordan. The group would carry out the cutting themselves. Each man was to bring timber for the building. Their plan depended on people contributing effort to make a place that could serve the whole group better than the smaller one.

At the river, they began cutting trees. One man was chopping when the iron head of his axe fell into the water. An axe has a handle and a cutting head; it was the heavy metal part that had gone into the river. The useful tool could no longer do its work as it had before. A project that had begun with a practical plan now contained an unexpected problem.

The man cried out to Elisha. The axe was borrowed, he explained. That detail makes his distress easy to understand: he had responsibility for something that belonged to someone else. The passage does not give us his income or the lender's reaction, so we need not invent either one. It tells us enough to hear an honest concern. The man did not hide the loss or pretend the tool had never been in his care.

Remember: I can ask for help and be honest about borrowed things.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

The Iron Comes to the Surface

2 Kings 6:1-7



Elisha asked where the axe head had fallen. The man showed him the place. This small exchange keeps the problem specific. They were not speaking only about a general feeling of worry, but about a particular borrowed object and the water into which it had disappeared. Before the surprising event, the man was able to point out what had happened and let someone else understand the source of his distress.

Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water at that place. Then the iron axe head floated. The account presents this as something extraordinary. Heavy iron does not normally rise to the surface like a small piece of dry wood. The stick is part of what Elisha did in this particular event, but the passage does not teach that throwing sticks into water is a method for recovering lost metal.

Elisha told the man to take it up. The man reached out his hand and recovered the axe head. His own action belongs at the end of the account: the object did not simply disappear from the story once it floated. He took hold of the thing he had been so worried about losing. The borrowed tool's missing piece was back within reach, and the immediate trouble had been answered.

The passage stops there. It does not describe a finished building, a conversation with the lender, or the rest of the day's work. We can respect that ending and still understand why this little story matters. Among larger accounts of armies and rulers, Scripture makes room for a worker's distress over a borrowed tool. The concern was ordinary and specific. God's unusual help, shown through Elisha, met that concern without treating it as too small to notice.

Pause and think: How could you respond honestly and safely if something you borrowed were lost or damaged?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Honesty When Something Goes Wrong



A borrowed object carries a small trust. A book, a pencil, or a game belongs to another person, and we are asked to care for it. Accidents can still happen. The man in this account did not cover up his trouble. For us, an honest first step might be telling the owner or asking a trusted adult for help. Hiding a mistake often makes it harder to repair.

The floating axe head was a particular miracle, not a promise that every lost thing will reappear. Looking carefully, explaining where you last saw something, and accepting responsibility are sensible actions today. Children should ask adults for help around deep water, sharp tools, or other dangers. Retrieving an object is never more important than a person's safety, even when the object is valuable or borrowed.

Notice that Elisha first asked where the loss happened. Helpful care often includes a patient question. When someone tells you about a problem, listening to the details may help more than laughing or scolding. You do not need to perform a miracle to be kind. You can take an everyday worry seriously and help the person find an honest, safe next step.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Small, ordinary troubles can be named honestly and met with thoughtful care.

How could you respond honestly and safely if something you borrowed were lost or damaged?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Why was the man especially worried about the axe?

2. What did he do after the axe head floated?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ A borrowed axe head fell into the water.
- ☐ Elisha made it float, and the man recovered it.
- ☐ The group went to the Jordan to cut wood.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw the axe head floating near Elisha’s stick.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can ask for help and be honest about borrowed things.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: 2 Kings 6:5-7

A thoughtful conversation

Describe this as a particular miracle, not a method for finding lost objects. Children should stay away from axes and river edges and ask adults for help with lost property.

Activity answers

1. It was borrowed.
2. He reached out and took it.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us be honest when something goes wrong and ask for help. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on 2 Kings 6:1-7. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original DigiPick artwork made with AI assistance; an artistic interpretation.
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