



1-2 GRADES

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



UNDERSTANDING YOUR LESSON

The prophet Elijah had a powerful ministry, boldly calling out Israel's kings for their continued rebellion against the one true God. He confronted the idolatry that was so prevalent in Israel's leadership. The people had fallen prey to the worship of Baal and had turned their backs on God. After years of faithful ministry, it was time for Elijah to pass on the mantle of leadership to the young Elisha.

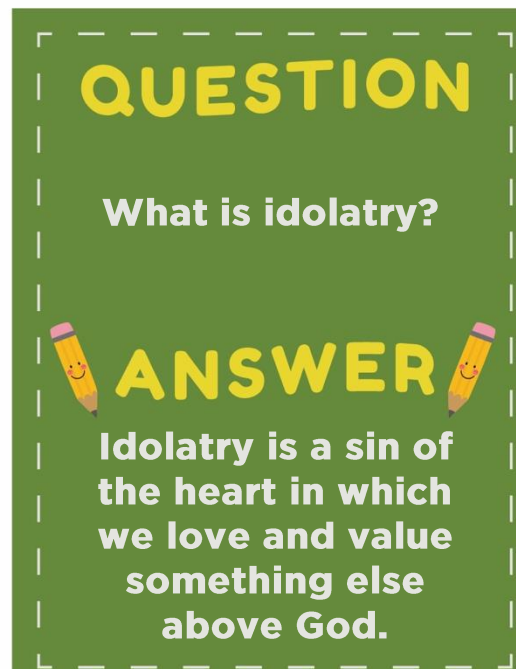
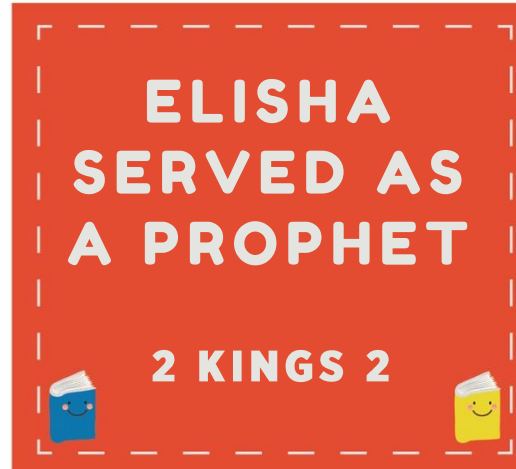
Elisha was faithful to God's call. Both Elijah and Elisha knew that the time had come for Elijah to be taken up into heaven. Three times Elijah tested Elisha's faithfulness by telling him to stay behind, and three times Elisha passed the test. He refused to leave his mentor's side and desperately wanted to continue the work he had started.

Elisha received power for the call. When Elijah asked him what he wanted, Elisha answered that he wished to receive a double portion of the spirit that Elijah had. Elisha was eager to follow God's leading and continue the work of ministering to the people of Israel by calling them to return to their love and obedience of God.

Elisha was equipped for the call. When Elijah was taken up into heaven in the whirlwind, Elisha tore his clothing in mourning. He then picked up Elijah's cloak and struck the water with it, dividing it in two just as Elijah had done. This was proof that God had indeed given Elisha His spirit and power to continue the work of the ministry.

In this session, help the kids understand that Elisha received power from God to carry on the work of the prophetic ministry. Elisha was ready for the work God had prepared for him, but he also recognized the fact that he was completely dependent on God's presence to fulfill the calling. Today, we also depend on God's spirit to give us power to obey His calling in our lives. When we trust Jesus, we are given the promised Holy Spirit to help us share the gospel with boldness and step out in faith as we do God's will.

PEOPLE TO KNOW Elisha: a ninth century BC Israelite prophet. The name Elisha means "my God is salvation."





BUSY HANDS

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

When you arrive in the classroom introduce yourself to the children from first service. As children arrive for second service, introduce yourself, welcome them to the class, and invite them to engage with the other children. When most kids have arrived for second service and you are ready to begin the lesson, ask them to find a seat at the tables.

FOUR CORNERS // Words on 4 papers: Bethel, Jericho, Jordan River, Heaven, white wall tape

Tape the papers in four corners of the room. Read each sign to the kids. Choose one child to be “It.” “It” will stand in the middle of the room and close her eyes while the rest of the kids will go to a corner in the room. “It” will count backward from 10 to 0 and then name a corner: Bethel, Jericho, Jordan River, Heaven.

All the kids in that corner will sit in the middle of the room. Continue playing until only one child remains in the game. The kid left standing will become “It.” Continue playing as time allows.

SAY: You all went to many places today: Bethel, Jericho, the Jordan River, and heaven. These are all places that the people in our Bible story today went to as well. Let’s read from God’s Word to learn more about who went to heaven.

11:00 – Move to the Large Group 2 space for the Kids’ Worship.

INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION // Big picture question poster

SAY: Hello everyone! Thanks for joining us to hear another story from God’s Word. Over the last two weeks, we’ve heard stories about how the nation of Israel was divided into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The kings of both kingdoms were evil and turned the people away from worshiping God. Instead, they began to worship idols and the false god Baal.

Our big picture question is, what is idolatry? Do you remember the answer? [Accept answers.] That’s right, idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God. (Use the big question poster when needed.) The people of Israel and Judah didn’t fall into idolatry overnight. It happened over time as they allowed other things in their lives to crowd out the love for God they had in their hearts. The evil king Jeroboam in Israel worshiped power and control. He set up temples for the people to worship golden calves rather than travel to Jerusalem to the real temple. What things in our life can crowd out God? Discuss.



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

When we fall into sin, God often uses other people to remind us what is true about Him. God sent the prophets to Israel to speak truth and challenge the people to return to worshiping the one true God. Last week, we heard the story of the prophet Elijah and how he initiated a contest between the one true God and the false god, Baal. God sent fire from heaven to show the people His power and glory. Today, we'll hear about another prophet named Elisha who wanted to follow in Elijah's footsteps. Who and what can help us to stay focused on God and turn from making a wrong turn? Discuss.

ELISHA SERVED AS A PROPHET// Bible story printed below, Bibles, Bible story picture poster

TELL THE BIBLE STORY Open your Bible to 2 Kings 2. Tell the Bible story using the script provided or use the "Kids Sermon Outline" to teach a more in-depth message. You may use the underlined text to retell or review the story. Reference the Bible story picture poster.

ELISHA SERVED AS A PROPHET

Elijah was a powerful prophet to Israel, but God had a plan for another man to be a prophet after Elijah. That man's name was Elisha (ih LIGH shuh). Elisha followed Elijah and served him for several years.

When the time came for the Lord to take Elijah up to heaven, Elisha did not want to leave Elijah. Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As long as you are alive, I will not leave you." So they went together to Bethel.

At Bethel, Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "As long as you are alive, I will not leave you." So they went together to Jericho. At Jericho, Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to the Jordan River." But Elisha said, "As long as you are alive, I will not leave you." So they went together to the Jordan River.

A crowd of prophets watched Elijah and Elisha as they stood by the river. Elijah rolled up his cloak and hit the water with it. The river parted, and they crossed to the other side.

Elijah asked, "Is there anything I can do for you before I go?" Elisha said, "I want a double portion of the spirit that you have." Elijah said, "If you see me go, you will have it."

Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and drove between them. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Elisha watched as Elijah went away. Then he picked up Elijah's cloak and went back to the river. He hit the water, and it parted for him to cross to the other side just as it had for Elijah.

The crowd of prophets was there watching, and they saw that the spirit that was with Elijah was now with Elisha. The prophets searched for Elijah, but they could not find him since God had taken him up to heaven.

KIDS OUTLINE:

Elisha was faithful to God's call (2 Kings 2:1-6): Elisha followed Elijah everywhere God led him and learned from him.

Elisha received power for the call (2 Kings 2:7-8): God gave Elisha a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

Elisha was equipped for the call (2 Kings 2:9-15): After Elijah was taken up to heaven, the people realized that the spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha.

REVIEW AND BIBLE SKILLS // Bibles, Old Testament Kingdoms Map

SAY: Elisha saw God's power displayed in Elijah and he wanted to experience God in the same way. Elisha asked for a double portion of the spirit that was within Elijah to come upon him when Elijah was taken into heaven. God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could carry out his calling as a prophet. Elisha then walked faithfully with God, confronting sin in Israel's leaders and challenging the people to return to the one true God.

Years later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share the gospel with the world. We can be bold in our faith because we know that it is God who gives us power to tell others about Jesus. Apart from God we have no power on our own. It is God who helps us grow in our faith and tell others about the incredible things He has done.

REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 2. Remind kids that 2 Kings follows the story of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Show the kingdoms on the map. Tell kids that Elijah and Elisha served God as prophets in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 2:14-15 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY: God's power in Elijah was known among the people of Israel. They could see that Elijah had the spirit of the Lord. Elisha also wanted to have the spirit of the Lord.

Continue



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, God gave Elisha His spirit. Elisha continued the mission of sharing God's words with the people of Israel. We, too, can continue the mission of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit helps believers to share the good news of Jesus with others.

GROUP ACTIVITY: CLOAK RELAY // 3 jackets

SAY: Are you ready to play a game? We've heard the story of Elijah passing on his ministry to Elisha. Do you remember which article of clothing Elijah gave Elisha? [Accept answers.] That's right, a cloak. Let's get ready to play a fun relay game.

Form two or three teams and instruct each team to line up on one side of the room. Give each team a coat. Explain that the first kid in each team will have to put on the coat, run down the room and back, take it off, and hand it to the next child. The first team to get all their players down and back wins.

SAY: Great job, everyone! In our story, Elijah passed on his cloak to Elisha as a sign that he was handing off the prophetic ministry to him. Elisha admired Elijah and his faithfulness to God. Elisha wanted to have a strong ministry like his mentor. God often puts people in our lives who can teach us and show us what a life of faithfulness looks like. Do you have anyone in your life that you look up to? [Accept answers.] We can thank God for the friends, teachers, and family members He has given us who point us to Jesus and remind us of what is true about God.

Not only did Elisha look up to Elijah, but they both worked together to fulfill the job God had given them. God knows that we need each other. In fact, that's how He created us! Way back in the very beginning of creation God said it wasn't good for people to be alone. It honors God when we work together and help one another accomplish His plans. When Jesus sent out His disciples to preach the good news of God's kingdom, He sent them out in pairs. He knew it was better when they worked together! Who are the people in your life that you enjoy working with? How can you team up to serve God together?

KEY PASSAGE AND PRAYER // Bibles, key passage poster, key passage song: "The Lord Our God" on the USB

SAY: Our key passage comes from the Book of Deuteronomy. In this passage, God wants to show His people how they can honor Him. It all starts with loving God more than anything else. He alone deserves our praise and worship, and we should love Him above all else. God blesses us when we trust and obey Him. He wants to protect us from the pain that sin brings into our lives.

Continue



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

When we cling to God, He is faithful to care for us and help us.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and encourage the kids to read along.

Display the key passage poster for kids to read. You may also sing the key passage song, "The Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)."

SAY: God, thank You for speaking to us through the pages of the Bible and for showing us how life works best. Teach us how to love, trust, and obey You in all things. We want to be bold in asking You to send us Your Spirit to help us complete the jobs You are giving us to do. Help us to serve You every day. Amen.

GROUP DEMONSTRATION// Box or bag of pictures of tools/equipment (hammer, screws/nails, whistle, scuba tank, helmet, saw, stethoscope, Bible etc.)

Place the box/bag in the front of the class. Choose volunteers to come up one at a time to grab an item or picture out of the bag without showing it to the rest of the class. The volunteer will give clues about what the object is, and the rest of the class will guess which tool or piece of equipment they have. Discuss with the class the different uses for each item.

SAY: What kind of job do you think you'd like to have when you get older? [Accept answers.] What kind of tools or equipment do you think you'll need for that job? [Accept answers.] There are many jobs that require specialized equipment to get the task done. Imagine a construction worker who doesn't have a hammer or screwdriver. He's probably not going to be very productive, is he?

Elisha knew that he would need help if he was going to be a faithful prophet like Elijah. He couldn't do this job on his own or in his own power. Do you remember what he asked for from Elijah? [Accept answers.] That's right, he wanted a double portion of the Spirit that Elijah had. Elisha wanted God's Spirit to be upon him, helping him remain faithful to his calling as a prophet.

In the Old Testament book of Ezekiel, God speaks to another prophet. God said: "I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances." When God gives us His Spirit, He enables us to obey Him. Elisha boldly asked for God's Spirit to be with him so he could follow God and serve the people as a prophet. He knew he couldn't do the job apart from God. God promised to equip Elisha for his ministry. We can also be bold in asking God to be with us so we can do the work He is calling us to do!



EXTRA IDEAS

HULA HOOP PASS // 2 hula hoops

Form two teams and instruct the teams to line up holding hands. Place a hula hoop on the arm of the first person on each team, then challenge the teams to work together to get the hula hoop down the line to the last person without letting go of the hand of the person next to them.

SAY: Today, we learned that Elijah passed on his ministry as a prophet to Elisha. Elisha was eager to have God's Spirit on him, helping him accomplish this difficult job. Elisha recognized the fact that he couldn't do this job without God's help. A prophet's job was to confront the sin of the people and encourage them to worship the one true God. Not everyone wanted to listen to what he had to say. Many people even hated him. It was a tough job! But no matter how hard things were, Elisha wanted to be faithful to do what God called him to do.

God calls each of us to a different task as we help build His kingdom. No matter what God has for you, He promises to be with you and equip you for the task ahead. We can obey God and have faith that He is always with us!

REMINDERS: The VIP meeting will be 10:20 – 10:30 in the Puddle Room. Attend for: Vision/Information/Prayer. Pick up your supply bin before going to class.

REVIEW the items in your bin. Be ready to greet the parents and children at the door and dismiss first service children. When you leave the classroom, stack the chairs in the designated area and return the bin to the Puddle Room.

FOLLOW protocol for sanitizing hands and cleaning large surfaces.