



3-4 GRADES

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



UNDERSTANDING YOUR LESSON

Elisha's incredible loyalty to the prophet Elijah is recorded in 2 Kings 2. He followed Elijah wherever he went. He committed to Elijah even when others told him that Elijah would soon die. And he stayed by his side to the very end.

Elisha saw something in Elijah that he himself wanted: his spirit. In fact, Elisha told Elijah that what he wanted from him most was "two shares of your spirit." Why on earth would Elisha desire this? Was it because he wanted God's Spirit to be accessible to him? Was it because he wanted the authority that Elijah carried? Was it because he knew the remainder of his life would be hard and he thought he could use some extra strength? We may not be certain of this; however, it is obvious that Elisha saw something in Elijah that he wanted.

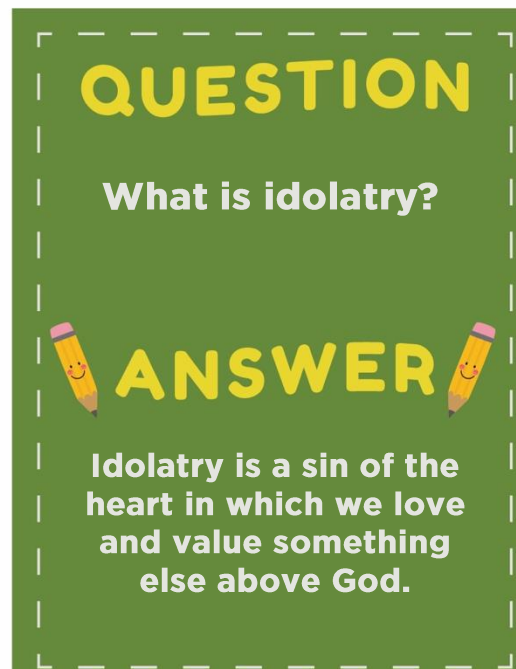
Have you ever observed the gifts of the people around you and desired them for yourself? Maybe you've been amazed by someone's ability to articulate the gospel with great clarity in a compelling way with thousands listening on and desired that gift. Perhaps you saw someone serving with great joy as they opened their home and pulled out every stop to make their guests feel loved and welcomed. Do you long for their gift of hospitality?

Though at times there is a selfish desire that drives our interest in someone else's gifts, we see in 2 Kings 2 that Elijah lived a life worthy of emulation. This thought recalls Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11, 'Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.'

Are you living the type of life that others see and long to follow? Is your use of the gifts God has given you one that draws attention and causes questions about where this gifting comes from? Does your faithfulness to the Lord stir an interest on the part of others around you?

When we run faithfully after the Lord, there is no doubt going to be others who see and desire to know more. And as the opportunity arises, take hold of those opportunities to bring others along to see what it looks like to remain faithful to the Lord and ultimately to show them that He is both your motivation and the source of all that is good in you.

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





BUSY HANDS

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class and invite them to engage with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

OPENING ACTIVITY // Activity page “Bible Verse Match,” pencils, Bibles

DISCUSS ASK: Is there someone you want to be like?
Why do you want to be like that person?

Invite kids to complete “Bible Verse Match” on the top of the activity page. Distribute the page and place the pencils on the tables. Make sure that each child has a Bible to find the references. Ask one of the children to read the directions: Match the following Scriptures to the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

SAY: The Holy Spirit plays an important role in the life of believers. God also gave His Spirit to the prophets in the Old Testament. In today’s Bible story, we will learn why Elisha wanted the Spirit of God.

SESSION STARTER // None

MIRROR ME Direct kids to find a partner. Ask each partner to face each other. Choose one child from each pairing to be the Leader. The Leader will perform movements, such as raise her right arm or touch her nose, that the other kid will need to mirror. Challenge kids to copy the movements at the same time so that it looks like they are the mirror image of their partner.

Lead the kids to repeat the challenge but switch up the Leader. Invite kids to share who was better at mirroring the movements.

SAY: Sometimes there are people we would like to be like. They may be really good at a sport or be very kind. In today’s Bible story, Elisha wanted to follow in the ways of Elijah and have the spirit of God on him.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY // Bibles, countdown video (optional) big picture question poster, small timeline in your classroom, giant timeline in the hallway (optional)

Show the countdown video on the USB as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins. (optional)

SAY: Welcome! I am so glad you are here today! Raise your hand if you need to borrow a Bible today. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

The Bible is God's Word and is the way God communicates truth to those who follow Him. That is why we believe it is so important to use our time together to study stories from the Bible.

Today, we will hear an incredible story of how the Holy Spirit empowered the prophets Elijah and Elisha to serve the Lord. We will also learn that God gives all believers the Holy Spirit so we can share the gospel with the others.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION SAY: We have been learning that only God deserves our worship and that we should love Him more than anything. What is our big picture question we have been learning? What is idolatry? [Allow responses.] Yes, the answer is, Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God. Note: Use the big picture question poster when needed.

God's people struggled with the sin of idolatry and so can we. But through Jesus, we can have hearts that want to worship God above all else. What are some things that could become idols to us if we do not stay close to the Lord and ask Him to help us?

REVIEW THE TIMELINE Show the small timeline for this unit found in your classroom. You may also go to see the giant timeline located in the hallway. Point to individual Bible stories as you review and the picture for the lesson for today.

SAY: As God's people continued to turn away from Him and worship false idols, God sent prophets to tell the people to turn back to Him. Last week, we heard the amazing story of how God displayed His power through Elijah's prayer. God sent fire from heaven to show He is the one true God. He proved that He, alone, is worthy of worship. Today, we will learn how God called another man, named Elisha, to serve Him as a prophet.

ELISHA SERVED AS A PROPHET // Bibles, printed story, video on the USB: Elisha Served as a Prophet, Bible story picture poster, Old Testament Kingdoms Map

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 2. Have the children find the passage in their Bibles. Display the Bible story picture poster as you read the printed story or show the Bible story video: "Elisha Served as a Prophet." To enhance the story, move to different parts of the room as you teach that Elijah and Elisha traveled to different places. You may also point out Bethel, Jericho, and the Jordan River on the map as they are mentioned in the story.

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.

Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

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. 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.

Christ Connection: God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could carry out his mission as a prophet. 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

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION // Bibles, "Secret Message" on the activity page, pencils, questions from kids video on USB, 2 sets of glow sticks with the key passage, song: The Lord Our God on USB, key passage poster

SAY: Elijah had served the Lord and now it was time for God to bring him to heaven. What did Elisha say to Elijah as Elijah moved from place to place serving the Lord? Look at 2 Kings 2:2b. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 2:2b.] Elisha was a faithful friend and helper to Elijah and wanted to remain with him wherever the Lord took him. God was preparing Elisha to be a prophet after Elijah was gone.

Continue



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Before the Lord took Elijah to heaven, Elisha asked for the same spirit that filled Elijah to fill him. Elisha and many other people saw that Elijah's power came from the Lord and Elisha knew he needed this power to serve the Lord as a prophet. How much of the spirit did Elisha ask for? [Allow responses.] Elisha asked for a double portion of God's spirit.

What did Elijah say would be the sign Elisha would receive the double portion? [Allow responses.] Elijah told Elisha that if he saw Elijah taken up to heaven, then his request would be answered. After Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha took Elijah's coat and hit the water, causing it to part.

There were people watching Elisha when the water parted. What did they say after seeing this? Look at 2 Kings 2:14-15. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 2:14-15.] The people saw that God had given Elisha the same spirit that Elijah had.

Did you know that all believers have the Spirit of God within us? God equips all believers with the Holy Spirit. Let's find out why God gives us the Holy Spirit.

REVIEW ACTIVITY Each child will have the activity page from the opening activity. Distribute the pencils and direct the kids to complete the "Secret Message" portion of the page. Read the directions: **Decode the message to learn another way the Holy Spirit helps believers.** Give the children a few minutes to find the answer.

SAY: What is the answer? Helps us to share the Gospel. Yes! The Holy Spirit helps us to share the Gospel – the Good News - with our friends and neighbors and people all over the world. We need God's power and strength to live for Him and serve Him.

QUESTIONS FROM KIDS Show the "Unit 13, Session 3" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What should we do when we feel lonely?
2. How can you look for ways to be a friend to others?

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY Divide the class into 2 groups: blue team and yellow team. Darken the room slightly, if possible, and ask the children to close their eyes. While their eyes are closed, hide the glow sticks with the card attached. Each card will have a word/phrase from the key passage. When you are ready, challenge the kids to find the glow sticks with the words for their team and place them in the correct order. The team to complete the task first wins the challenge.

Show the key passage poster to the class and repeat it several times together.

Continue



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Lead kids to sing “The Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

PRAY Invite kids to pray. SAY: Thank You, Lord, for speaking to us through Your Word and for sending the Holy Spirit to empower us as we live for You. Help us to share the gospel with those You place around us and those all over the world. Amen.

Also include praying for our missionary family at this time.

GROUP DISCUSSION // 3 papers each with one question and one passage for each team, Bibles, pencils

Divide the class into 3 groups. Give each group a paper with the question and passage to read. The group should choose one person to write the answer to the question and one person to read the verse to the class. Provide Bibles and pencils.

Give several minutes for the groups to complete the assignment. One group at a time should read the question, read the Bible passage, and give their group answer to the question.

1. **How did Elijah follow the Lord, and how can we follow the Lord?** Discuss how Elijah followed the Lord by being obedient to do what God told him to do. We can also do what God tells us by being obedient to His Word. Explain that the Holy Spirit helps us to walk in God’s truth. (Read John 16:13.)
2. **How do we know if we have the Holy Spirit living in us?** Remind kids that anyone who trusts in Jesus is given the Holy Spirit. Discuss how we can see the Holy Spirit at work in our lives by how we live. God uses His Spirit to bear good fruit in our lives such as kindness, love, and patience. (Read Gal. 5:22-25.)
3. **What role does the Holy Spirit play in a believer’s life?** Discuss how the Holy Spirit plays many roles in a believer’s life. He empowers us to live for the Lord and share the gospel with others. He also helps us remember and understand what the Lord tells us through His Word. Encourage kids to follow the Spirit’s leading in their lives. (Read John 14:26.)



EXTRA IDEAS

JOURNAL AND PRAYER // Journal Page (on reverse side of the opening activity page), pencils

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God that He hears us when we pray and asking Him to help us follow Him .

REMINDERS: The VIP meeting will be 8:30-8:40 in the Puddle Room. Attend for: Vision/Information/Prayer. Pick up your supply bin before going to class.

REVIEW the items in your bin, place the chairs around the tables, and be ready to greet the parents and children at the door.

FOLLOW protocol for sanitizing hands and cleaning large surfaces.