



3-4 GRADES

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



**OCTOBER 2
1ST SERVICE**

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LESSON

Miracles are often found in Scripture as a means of God doing what nature cannot explain to show His own power and authority over all things. This portion of 2 Kings 4-6 is no different. But these miracles don't just teach us about God; they also demonstrate our human nature by revealing doubt in our hearts as we encounter circumstances beyond our control.

Many of the miracles performed by Elisha in 2 Kings 4-6 come in moments when the human dilemmas of sin, death, fear, worry, and lack are realized and people are overtaken with doubt.

Have you ever felt this way? Have you ever felt as if your back was against the wall, your limits had been reached, and there was no way and no reason for hope in a particular situation? If so, you're not alone. We all have moments when it seems as if we're done and there's no way out.

The reason we all experience these things is because we are humans. Our limitedness leaves us lacking and in moments where that lack prevents us from saving ourselves, we cannot help but feel doubtful.

But God.

It is often in these moments that we are reminded of just how self-reliant we tend to be and just how God-dependent we truly are.

God in these moments of doubt becomes our only hope, our beacon, our help. And though we ought to have some sense of confidence in this all the time, the reality is that we often lose sight of how deeply we need the Lord until He is our only way out.

What if we lived dependent on God to this degree all the time? What if we lived knowing that our only hope was God's provision, even when it doesn't feel like we need it? What if we saw that even our own ability to find a way out of a dire situation was a gift from Him?

The mystery that God wants to make known to those around us is this: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). Is your confidence so firm in the Lord as provider and sustainer that it demonstrates the hope of Christ to those around you? If not, be reminded today that He isn't just your help from time to time, but your only hope time and time again.

PEOPLE TO KNOW Naaman: Syrian general cured of leprosy under the direction of the prophet Elisha. Following his cleansing, he professed faith in Israel's God.

ELISHA PERFORMED MIRACLES



2 KINGS 4-6



MEMORY VERSE

**Hear, O Israel: The Lord
our God, the Lord is
one. Love the Lord your
God with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your
strength.**

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

QUESTION

What is idolatry?



ANSWER



**Idolatry is a sin of the
heart in which we love
and value something
else above God.**



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 “Miracles,” pencils, Bibles

DISCUSS ASK: Have you ever swam in a river? What was it like?
How is it different than swimming in a swimming pool?

Invite kids to complete “Miracles” on the left side of the activity page. The children will complete the word search later in the lesson. Ask a child to read the directions on the page: **Miracles are a work of God’s power. Think of some miracles you have read about in the Bible (Joshua 3:14-17; Daniel 3; Luke 4:31-37; Mark 2:1-12).** Then choose a miracle to draw a picture of or write a few sentences to describe the miracle. You may either have 4 children find the references and read them to the whole class before they complete the activity, or ask each child to find the references by themselves.

SAY: The Bible has many stories about miracles. God is an amazing God who is able to do amazing things! In our Bible story today, we will learn about some miracles God performed through the prophet Elisha.

SESSION STARTER // Whiteboard, 2 dry-erase markers

GOD’S GOT THE POWER Form two teams of kids. Lead each team to line up on one side of the room across from the whiteboard. Challenge each team to choose one child to race to the dry erase board and write something that demonstrates God’s power, such as creating the world. Kids will run back to their team, hand the next child the marker and that child will race to the board. Tell kids that they cannot repeat the same answers as their teammates. Continue playing until all kids have raced to the board and back.

SAY: God has infinite power. Nothing is impossible for Him. We see His power in creation and we read about it in the Bible. We experience His power when He saves us from our sin. Today, we will read His Word to learn how God used Elisha to perform miracles.

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

Did you know that God created the world by only speaking? God is all-powerful and His words also contain power. When we read the Bible, God works through His words to transform us to be more like Jesus. Today, we will learn how God's power shows us He is the one true God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION SAY: Would anyone like to try to say our big picture question and answer without help and without looking at the poster? Give volunteers a chance to respond. Let's recite our big picture question and answer together. What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God. The Bible reminds us to flee from idolatry because it leads us away from God. Only God deserves our worship. (You may use the poster when needed.)

In today's story, we will see how God demonstrated, through the miracles He allowed Elisha to perform, that He is the one true God and the only One worthy of worship. Let's say our big picture question and answer one more time. What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.

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: Jeroboam Disobeyed God, Elijah Served as a Prophet, Elisha Served as a Prophet, and today, Elisha Performed Miracles.

SAY: Many prophets of the Old Testament were able to perform miracles. God gave the prophets His spirit to speak His words to the people and demonstrate His power. Last week, we learned how God gave Elisha His spirit. God's spirit allowed Elisha to part the water and demonstrate to the people that God's power had come upon him. Today, we will see how God used Elisha as he performed miracles to point others to God.

ELISHA PERFORMED MIRACLES // Bibles, printed story, video on the USB: Elisha Performed Miracles, Bible story picture poster, pictures of loaves of bread and the Jordan River

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4-6. 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 Performed Miracles." To enhance the story, show the pictures of bread loaves, and a picture of the Jordan River at the appropriate times in the story.

Elisha Performed Miracles

Elisha was a prophet to the people of Israel. One day, a man brought him 20 loaves of bread. Elisha told the man to give it to a crowd of 100 men. The man was confused, but Elisha said, "The Lord says there will be enough."

Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

So the man gave the bread to the crowd, and everyone ate. They even had some left over.

Another time, Elisha healed a man named Naaman (NAY muhn) of a serious skin disease. Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army. He had gone to the king of Israel to ask for healing. The king of Israel said, "Am I God? Do I have the power to give life and take it away? Why does this man think I can cure a skin disease?" The king of Israel could not heal Naaman. The power to heal comes only from God.

Elisha the prophet called Naaman to his house. Naaman stood at the door, ready to be healed! But Elisha didn't come to the door. Instead, he sent a message to Naaman: "Go wash seven times in the Jordan River." When Naaman went to the Jordan River and dipped himself in the water seven times, his skin was healed!

Naaman and all the people with him went to Elisha. "I know that the God of Israel is the one true God," Naaman said.

On another day, Elisha met with a group of prophets at the Jordan River. The prophets were cutting down trees by the river when an iron ax head fell into the water and sank. Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water, and the iron floated back to the top.

Christ Connection: Elisha's miracles showed that he was a prophet of the one true God and that God's words were true. In a greater way, Jesus' miracles show that He is the true Son of God.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION // Giant Game Floor Mat with answers and points, questions on index cards, Questions from Kids video on the USB

Divide the class into 2 teams. They do not need to be even. Place the Giant Game Mat on the floor. SAY: We are going to play a game and see how much you remember from the story. There are 16 answers on the game board. 12 of the answers are correct and there are 4 which are not correct. Each team will have 6 chances to pull a question card from my hand and tell me the answer from the mat. We will then pull that answer from the mat and keep track of the points. Whoever has the most points will win.

Questions:

- Why did God allow Elisha to perform miracles? (To show that He is the one true God.)
- How many loaves of bread were given to feed 100 people? (20)
- Why did Elisha know there would be enough bread for all the people? (The Lord said there would be enough.)



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Questions continued.

- Was there just enough bread or leftovers? (leftovers)
- What was wrong with Naaman? (He had a skin disease. Most likely leprosy.)
- How many times did Naaman have to wash his skin? (7)
- Where was Naaman sent to wash his skin? (The Jordan River)
- Was Naaman healed and what did Naaman believe after this experience? (Yes, he was healed and believed that God was the one true God.)
- What was the last miracle in our story today? (Elisha threw a stick in the water and made the ax float.)
- Why did Elisha have to get the ax from the river? (Prophets were cutting trees by the river and it fell into the water.)
- Elisha was a prophet to which people? (Israelites)
- Naaman was the commander of which army? (Syrian)

The incorrect answers on the mat are: 50 loaves of bread, Naaman had a broken arm, Naaman was commander of the Egyptian army, Naaman was sent to the Nile River.

Determine the winner and encourage the kids with what they remembered from the story. SAY: God's power is at work in our lives as well. When we believe in Jesus, we are raised from death to life. The Bible reminds us that we were dead in our sins, but through faith in Jesus have been raised to life.

QUESTIONS FROM KIDS Show the "Unit 13, Session 4" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Does God still heal people today? What if he doesn't?
2. What miracles did Jesus perform that showed He is God?

KEY PASSAGE AND PRAYER// Key passage poster, key passage song on the USB: 'The Lord Our God,' music on the USB or cell phone stopwatch, small ball

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Deuteronomy 6:4-5 together. Form kids into a circle. When you start the music, direct kids to pass the ball around the circle until the music stops. After 10 seconds, stop the music and challenge the child who is holding the ball to say the first word of the key passage. If he has trouble remembering the word, work together as a group to think of the word. Continue until the whole key passage is complete.

SAY: It's so important to memorize God's Word. As we treasure God's Word in our hearts and minds, we are better able to obey it. Show the key passage poster to the class and repeat it several times together.



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: God, thank You that we can be confident that anything You say is true and that You will always do what You say you will do. Help us trust You with every part of our lives. Amen.

Also include praying for our missionary family at this time.

GROUP DISCUSSION // Whiteboard and marker, Bibles

Write both questions on the whiteboard. Ask a child/children to read the questions. Instruct the children to take a few moments to think about their answers to these questions. After a few minutes ask for volunteers to share their answers and discuss.

SAY: How can you see God’s power in your life?

Help kids understand that God’s power doesn’t always come in the form of big miracles. Lead kids to understand that God’s power always works in the lives of believers to conform us more into the image of Jesus. Encourage kids that God promises His power to help us in our weaknesses.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 12:9-10)

SAY: How have you seen God work in your life or in the lives of others?

Answers will vary. Discuss how God is faithful to continue the good work He began in us when we placed faith in Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 1:6.)

WORD SEARCH // “Miracles Word Search” on the activity page, pencils

Place the pencils on the tables and ask the children to get their activity page from the opening of the class. Tell them to look at the right side of the page at Miracles Word Search. Mention that all the words are familiar to them from the Bible story and discussion. Give the kids a few minutes to find the words.

After several minutes children may work together to help one another find all the words. If needed, there is an answer sheet for you to help the kids with the answers.



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, another shepherd, or their parents 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.