



3-4 GRADES

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



**OCTOBER 2
2ND SERVICE**

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LESSON

Elisha boldly asked for God's Spirit to be upon him as he fulfilled his mission as prophet to Israel. His task was not an easy one. He would challenge the idolatrous king and urge the people to turn back to the one true God. Though it was a difficult job, God was faithful to work in and through His servant. Through God's power, Elisha performed many miracles that would point the people back to God.

God partners with people to accomplish His plans. God doesn't need us to fulfill His plans on this earth, but He chooses to use us so we can bear witness to His amazing power. We are blessed to have a front row seat to see what God is doing. What are the ways God is using you this week to bless others and bring Him glory?

God heals and gives new life. It might have been easy for Elisha to take credit for the miracles he performed, but instead he gave glory to God. In fact, for Naaman's healing, Elisha wasn't even there. This miracle was clearly the work of the one true God. God blessed Naaman with a new life just as He gives us new life when we give our lives to Jesus.

We respond to God with gratitude. Naaman was certain that it was by God's grace and power that his leprosy was healed. He gave glory to God and vowed to only worship Him from that day forward. God is constantly at work in the life of a believer. It often doesn't look like healing from a visible skin disease, but it is true that God is healing us and forming us into the image of Christ. Like Naaman, we can respond with gratitude for what God is doing in us.

In this session, help the kids see that God performs miracles to demonstrate His power. In a similar way, Jesus performed miracles to show that He is God the Son. The miracles of God remind us that God is in authority over His creation. He has the power to heal and restore the brokenness in the world. God wants us to bear witness to His power and love, and then respond to Him with thankfulness and praise.

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 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.

WILL IT FLOAT // 4 clear small plastic bins, water from sink, 4 of each: toothpick, metal spoon, coin, small piece of paper

Form kids into three or four groups. Provide each group with a small plastic bin of water. Then give each group the following objects: toothpick, metal spoon, coin, and a small piece of paper. Lead groups to discuss which objects they think will float and which will sink. Then, allow groups to place each object, one at a time, in the water. Invite groups to share whether their predictions were right or wrong. Note: You may also have the children do this activity as they arrive for class.

SAY: After performing this experiment, do you think a big metal ax would float? [Allow responses.] We will read today's Bible story to learn what the prophet Elisha did when an ax fell in the water. What do you think would happen if we dropped an iron ax in water?

11:00 – Move to the Large Group 2 space for Kids' Worship. Continue with the lesson when you return to the classroom.

INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION // Big picture question poster

SAY: It's great to see you all today and worship God together. We worship the one true God who is real and at work in us today. His Spirit is always with us. I'm so grateful for the way that God is at work in my life and your lives, too. We might not always be able to see what God is doing, but we can trust that He is always there and working in our hearts to make us more like Jesus.

Over the last few weeks, we've been learning about the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Do you remember what a prophet is? [Accept answers.] That's right! A prophet is a messenger from God. They would speak to the people and tell them what God said. The prophets told the people to stop worshiping false gods and turn back to the one true God.

Today, we'll hear some exciting stories about Elisha's ministry. Remember, Elisha asked for a double portion of God's Spirit to be with him as he completed his mission. Elisha wanted to confront the idolatry that was so common in the kingdom of Israel. What is idolatry? Let's answer our big picture question together. Point to the poster. Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God. Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

The people of Israel were worshiping false gods, but the one true God still loved them and wanted what was best for them. God wanted them to turn back to Him and worship Him alone. God would use Elisha in big ways to demonstrate God's power. In many cases, the people responded to God with gratitude and praise. Let's get ready to hear more from God's Word.

ELISHA PERFORMED MIRACLES // Bible story printed below, Bibles, Bible story picture poster

TELL THE BIBLE STORY Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4-6. 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 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." 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.

Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

KIDS OUTLINE:

God partners with people to accomplish His plans (2 Kings 4:43-44): God spoke to Elisha and gave him instructions to share with the people.

God heals and gives new life (2 Kings 5:13-14): God completely healed Naaman's leprosy and restored him.

Review the three miracles in the story: Feeding 100 men with 20 loaves of bread, healing Naaman, using a stick to make the iron ax float to the top of the river.

We respond to God with gratitude (2 Kings 5:15): Naaman acknowledged that there is only one God, the God of Israel.

REVIEW AND BIBLE SKILLS // Bibles, Old Testament Kingdoms Map, modern day map

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 5. Point out the Jordan River (F6) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Remind kids that the Jordan River is where Naaman was healed.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around the modern-day Jordan River.)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 5:11-17.

SAY: God used Elisha to perform miracles. In verse 15, we read Naaman's response after he was healed. His miraculous healing caused Naaman to realize that God is the one true God.

What did Naaman promise? Look at verse 17. [Allow kids to respond.] Naaman promised to never sacrifice or worship any other god but the one true God who had healed him. Miracles are always intended to point people to God. When Jesus was on earth, He performed many miracles that proved He was the Son of God.



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

GROUP DEMONSTRATION // 11x17 piece of white paper, scissors

Today's story is a reminder that Jesus can do the impossible. In our object lesson today, we'll be doing something that appears impossible. Practice this several times beforehand, to make sure you get the cuts correct. *NOTE: I tried this object lesson, and it worked the first time. You can do it!*

Show the piece of paper and ask the kids if they think you can step through it. Then, fold it in half, lengthwise. From the folded side, horizontally cut the paper, but don't cut all the way to the other side. Alternate which side you cut from as you move down the paper. Make sure your final cut is also starting from the folded side. When you've finished making the cuts (you'll want somewhere between 15-20 cuts), cut through the folded part, except for the first and last loops. When you unfold the paper, it will be large enough to step through.

SAY: In today's story, we saw that God performed miracles through Elisha. For example, Elisha told Naaman to bathe in the Jordan River to be healed of his leprosy. Sure enough, when Naaman did what Elisha said, he was cured. Naaman realized that this was something that only God could do! Because of that, Naaman acknowledged that the God of Israel is the one true God. This story reminds us that nothing is impossible for God.

When we first looked at this piece of paper, it didn't seem possible to step through it. However, we realized that it was very possible to step through the piece of paper. Sometimes, that is how life feels, we look at a situation or a problem and feel like there is no solution, like it's impossible. That is probably how Naaman felt too. But, with God, the impossible becomes possible.

We see Jesus perform miracles all throughout the New Testament; He heals people, multiplies food, brings dead people back to life, and even more. But the biggest miracle of all is that Jesus frees us from our sin. We might not have leprosy on our skin, but we all have the sickness of sin in our hearts. We might think we can hide our sin, but God knows what is in our hearts. Even though we are sinful, God still loves us and wants to heal us. When we are washed by Christ, we are healed and made whole. Our sin is washed away and we have new life with Jesus.



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

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

SAY: God wants us to love Him with our whole selves. Our key passage reminds us to love God with our heart, soul, and strength. That means we can love and worship God with everything we have! Let's look for ways that God is blessing us and helping us this week and give thanks to Him.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and encourage the kids to read along. Display the key passage poster for kids to read. Note: This is the last Sunday for this passage. You may want to ask if any of the children want to say it from memory.

You may also sing the key passage song, "The Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)."

PRAYER SAY: God, we thank You for the many ways You are at work in our lives. It is amazing that You use people like us to demonstrate Your goodness and love to the people around us. Help us look for the ways that You are using Your power in our hearts and minds this week and help us to respond with gratitude and praise to You. Amen.

GROUP ACTIVITY // 5 small balls

GROUP JUGGLING SAY: It is so fun to learn more about our great God with all of you. Let's play a game to help us remember something important that we've heard today.

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle and give one child a ball. Explain that she will toss the ball to another child, and he will toss it to someone else. Continue tossing until each kid has had the ball. Start over, having the kids toss the ball to the same person as before. Once the kids get the rhythm, add another ball to the mix. Challenge the kids to see if they can keep the balls going before they break the pattern.

SAY: Great job, everyone! That was a really challenging game. It might have seemed easy at first, but the more balls we added to the circle, the harder it got. Eventually, we couldn't keep the balls going anymore because there were just too many. As humans, we have limited abilities. We can only do so much before we can't do any more. God is the only One who has unlimited power.



EXTRA IDEAS

“WHO AM I” CHARADES // 20 cards with jobs: baker, teacher, dog walker, construction worker, firefighter, policeman, preacher, etc.

Choose a volunteer to come up and pull a card out of the bag. Instruct her to act out what that person would do for the rest of the class to guess. Whoever guesses correctly first gets to pull the next card to act out.

SAY: You were able to guess who the person was by what they did. God used Elisha to perform miracles to prove that He is the one true God. Many years later, Jesus would do the same thing. He performed miracles such as multiplying bread and fish, healing sick people, and raising people back to life who had died. He did all this to show that He is the Son of God, and He has power over creation. God is at work in our lives today. Anytime God rescues someone from their sin when they trust in Jesus, He is demonstrating His power. Only God can save us and bring us into His family forever. We can respond to God with gratitude for what He is doing in our lives!

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.