



Pre-K / K

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 of 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."



September 25

1st Service

Elisha

Served as

a Prophet



2 KINGS 2



MEMORY VERSE

**Love the Lord your
God with all your
heart and with all
your soul and with
all your strength.**

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

QUESTION

What is idolatry?



ANSWER



**Idolatry is loving
something else
more than God.**



BUSY HANDS

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

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

A CHARIOT OF FIRE // “A Chariot of Fire” activity page, crayons

Distribute the activity page, “A Chariot of Fire”, to the children. *Note: There is a coloring picture on the opposite side of the page which will be used later in the lesson.* Place the crayons on the tables and ask the children to choose one crayon. Tell the kids to look at the 6 pictures of the chariots and circle the one which is different. If the kids are having difficulty, give them clues: It is in the second row. It is something on the horse, etc.

SAY: Have you ever seen a chariot? What about a chariot of fire? I have never seen anything like that. In today’s Bible story, God sent a chariot of fire with horses to the prophet Elijah. What do you think happened next?

TOGETHER OR APART // None

Gather children together in a group. Tell them that when you say, “Apart!” they should walk quickly to any wall in the room, separating from one other. Announce, “Together!” and instruct children to come back to the group. Repeat this process varying your speed or how you would like them to move. Remind children to be mindful of their friends and classroom equipment as they play.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, a man named Elisha would be the prophet after Elijah. God was ready to take Elijah to heaven, but Elisha did not want to be away from Elijah. Every time Elijah would try to leave, Elisha said, ‘I will not leave you.’ Elisha wanted them to be together, but God was ready for them to be apart.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY // Hand towel

Show the hand towel. Pique the preschooler’s attention by rolling it up. Smack the towel on the ground in the center of the group time area, being careful not to hit any of the children.

SAY: You are probably wondering why I smacked the ground with this towel. In today’s story, two men, Elijah, and Elisha, at different times, rolled up Elijah’s coat and smacked the water in a river. When the coat touched the water, something amazing happened. Listen to today’s Bible story to learn what it was.



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

ELISHA SERVED AS A PROPHET// Bookmark, Bible, small group timeline in classroom, Bible story printed below, Bible story video on USB "Elisha Served as a Prophet," large piece of blue paper for the river, Bible story picture poster, scissors, hand towel

Place a bookmark at 2 Kings 2 in your Bible. Invite a child to open it. Reverently display the open Bible. SAY: We have opened the pages of a very special book. This is a Bible. Every word in it is true. Today, we will hear a true story from the Book of 2 Kings. Point to the Bible story picture on the small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus. (The giant timeline is in the long hallway. You may take the kids to see it anytime to show the scope of the Bible and the story for the day.)

Tell the following Bible story or show the video. If you are reading the story, display the Bible story picture poster and use the blue paper to represent the river on the floor. Use with the story when appropriate. Cut the blue paper with the scissors when the water parts. You could also precut the paper and use the towel to help you split the waters in the story. Guide the children to travel with you as you tell the story.

ELISHA SERVED AS A PROPHET

God told Elijah (ih LIGH juh) to find a man named Elisha (ih LIGH shuh). Elisha would be a prophet after Elijah. So Elijah obeyed God. He found Elisha working in a field, and Elisha followed Elijah.

When the time came for God to take Elijah up to heaven, Elisha did not want to leave Elijah. Elijah said, "Stay here, Elisha. The Lord is sending me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "I will not leave you." So they both went to Bethel. Elijah said, "Stay here, Elisha. The Lord is sending me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "I will not leave you." So they both went to Jericho. Elijah said, "Stay here, Elisha. The Lord is sending me to the Jordan River." But Elisha said, "I will not leave you." So they both went to the Jordan River. A crowd of prophets watched Elijah and Elisha as they stood by the river. Elijah rolled up his coat and hit the water with it. The water parted, and they crossed to the other side on dry ground. (Pull the paper back together to prepare to part the water again in the story.)

Elijah asked, "What can I do for you before I go?" Elisha said, "I want the same spirit that gives you power." Elijah said, "If you see me go, you will have it." Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire came 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. The crowd of prophets was watching, and they saw that Elisha now had the spirit that was in Elijah. The prophets searched for Elijah, but they could not find him because God had taken him up to heaven.

Continued



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

CHRIST CONNECTION SAY: God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could do his work 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 Jesus' good news with the world.

REVIEW AND PRAY // Bible story picture poster

SAY: God wanted Elisha to be the prophet after Elijah because it was time for Elijah to go to heaven. Elisha followed Elijah to Bethel, Jericho, and the Jordan River. Elisha wanted the same spirit that gave power to Elijah. Did Elisha get the same spirit? Pause for answer. Yes, God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah after Elijah was taken away in a whirlwind. Reference the Bible story picture poster.

Years later, Jesus told His followers that the Holy Spirit would come and give believers the power to share Jesus' good news with the world.

ASK: What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?

ASK: What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?

ASK: What did Elisha want Elijah to do for him before Elijah left to go to heaven?

PRAY Invite the children to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

SAY: God, thank You for giving Your followers the Holy Spirit to help them share Your good news about Jesus. Amen. (Also include prayer for our missionary family during this prayer time.)

KEY PASSAGE AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION // Key passage marker, Bible, small squares (4" x 2") of fabric with each word of the key passage/placed in a bag, key passage on a large piece of posterboard, white wall tape, white glue, key passage song on USB, big picture question poster

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE Place the key passage marker at Deuteronomy 6:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Place the poster of the key passage verse on the wall. Lead children to choose a fabric piece from the bag. Read it and guide them to discover the matching word on the poster. Apply glue to the poster and attach the fabric.

Continue



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

SAY: Our verse tells us that we should love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and strength. The prophet Elijah loved God most of all. God helped Elijah show Elisha how to have the same spirit to do God's work as a prophet. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share the good news of Jesus.

Sing the key passage song, "Love the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:5)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER SAY: We have learned how important it is to love God most of all. When someone loves something else more than they love God, that is idolatry. What is idolatry? Idolatry is loving something else more than God. You may refer to the poster in the classroom.

Elisha wanted to have God's spirit so he could do His work as a prophet. When Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind, God gave that same spirit to Elisha.

BUILD A CHARIOT // Cardboard box with top and one end removed, markers, stickers, gold pieces of paper, glue sticks, 8 paper plates, masking tape, heavy yarn (8 pieces 3 feet long)

Give each table a box and tell the children they will be decorating the box to look like a chariot. Refer to the Bible story picture poster. Encourage kids to decorate the chariot with markers, stickers, and gold pieces of paper.

Also have two children at each table decorate two paper plates and tape them to the sides to represent wheels.

Attach heavy yarn where the horses would be (front, both sides). Show a child how to carefully pull the yarn to move the chariot across the floor. Encourage children to work together and take turns as the chariot driver.

SAY: Elisha would be the prophet after Elijah, but Elisha was not ready for Elijah to leave, so they stayed together. But Elijah knew that Elisha could only have God's power only after Elijah left. When it was time, God sent a fiery chariot pulled by horses of fire. It came down between them and Elijah went to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha now had the spirit that was in Elijah so he could work as God's prophet. Later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit that would help them share the good news about Jesus with the world.



EXTRA IDEAS

SING A SONG ABOUT GOD // Coloring page, crayons

Guide children to think about the things that they love. Direct conversation so that children conclude that they love God most of all.

To the tune of “Are You Sleeping (Brother John)?” lead children to sing, God or pizza? God or pizza? Which do you / love the most? God wants me to love Him, Love Him most of all. I love God / most of all.

Ask children to think of other things that children enjoy and sing the song again, replacing the word pizza with the children’s suggestions.

SAY: Pizza is great, but if we love anything more than we love God, that is called idolatry. What is idolatry? Idolatry is loving something else more than God. Elisha loved God and wanted to do His work, so he learned from Elijah. When God was ready for Elijah to go to heaven, God gave His spirit to Elisha.

If there is time, the children may color the back of their activity page from the introductory activity.

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.