LEFC KIDS

Pre-K / K

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH

October 2
2nd 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—to doubt when circumstances appear to leave us with little to no 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

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 second 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 second service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

GUESS THE COLORS // Half sheets of paper (4 each of green, light green, yellow, red, tan, dark brown, light blue and dark blue)

Scatter colored paper on the floor. Tell children that when you call out an item, they should quickly move to stand near the piece of colored paper that matches the color of the item. Call out items such as a frog, the sun, or a stop sign. Include story-related items such as bread, and water. Keep in mind that there may be more than one color for an item.

SAY: **Have you ever seen a river with blue water or tasted yummy brown bread? In today's Bible story, we will see why a river and bread are important parts of the story.**

SHOW EMOTIONS // White paper plate per child, crayons

Give each child a paper plate and place the crayons on the tables. Instruct the children to draw a happy face on one side of the plate and a sad face on the back.

Tell the children they will use the plate while you tell the story, showing whether the events in the story are happy ones or sad ones

Note: At 11:00 the 2 kindergarten classes will proceed to the Large Group 2 space for Kids' Worship. Continue the lesson wherever you stopped when you return.

The pre-k class will continue with the lesson.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY // Various types of bandages

Show the preschoolers various types of bandages, including different size adhesive bandages and gauze. Comment that we can put a bandage on our skin at times when needed. Ask the kids when they may need a bandage.

SAY: **A miracle is an unusual event that only God can cause to happen. Today we will hear about Elisha, a prophet to the people of Israel. God used Elisha to heal a man of a terrible skin disease. Listen to hear more about this miracle and another miracle in our Bible story.**

ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

ELISHA PERFORMED MIRACLES // **Spark Story Bible (on the counter), paper plates with happy face and sad face**

Ask the children to bring their paper plates with them to the Bible story area. Instruct them to display the plate while you tell the story, showing whether the events are happy or sad.

There are two separate stories in the Spark Story Bible: Elisha Feeds 100 on pages 144-147 and Naaman is Healed on pages 148-151. You may read both stories as written or shorten them by reading portions of both. If you choose to shorten the stories, one suggestion is to read pages 144, 145, 147, 148, 151. The abbreviated stories are printed below. Show the pictures to the kids as you read the stories.

Elisha Feeds 100

The prophet Elisha worked for God. He gave the people messages from God. Elisha prayed for people and helped them give their offerings to God. A man went to see Elisha. "I hope Elisha will help me," the man thought. He was carrying a special bag. The bag was special because he used it to carry his offering to God. Inside the bag were 20 loaves of bread. The bread was made with the first grains of barley that were grown in the man's field. The man walked up to Elisha and gave Elisha the bag. "This is my offering for God," the man said. (Page 144)

Elisha peeked inside the bag. When he saw what was inside, Elisha said a surprising thing. "Take this bread and give it to the people to eat." The man looked confused. He thought he was bringing his bread for God. "Give it to the people?" he asked. "There are 100 people wanting to eat! How can 20 loaves of bread feed 100 people?" (Page 145)

The man finally listened to Elisha. Carefully, he opened the bag and gave the people the bread. He waited. Would there be enough? Could all 100 people eat? YES! All 100 people are bread until they were full! When they were through, the man helped clean up. Then he noticed a wonderful thing: there were leftovers, just as Elisha had said! (Page 147)

Naaman Is Healed

Naaman was in charge of a very big army for the king of a place called Aram. He was a big, strong, and important man in his country. Sadly, Naaman had a disease called leprosy, which gave him painful sores on his body that would not go away. A young Israelite girl was a servant in Naaman's household and knew of a prophet named Elisha in her country who could heal Naaman's leprosy. When Naaman heard this, he asked the king if he could go to Israel to be healed. The king liked Naaman, so he told him he could go. Elisha heard that Naaman was coming, So Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman and told him to go wash seven times in the river to heal the leprosy. (Page 148)

Naaman washed himself in the river seven times, just like Elisha said to do. (Last sentence of page 150)

After the seventh time, Naaman looked down at his skin. It worked! Naaman was shocked. Now he knew that God was amazing. He went home praising and thanking God. (Page 151)

ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

REVIEW AND PRAY // Bible story picture poster, giant timeline in the hallway (optional), small group timeline in the classroom

Show the Bible story picture and lead the children to identify Naaman as the man who is washing in the river. Also point to the picture on the small group timeline or take the kids to the giant timeline in the hallway. Ask the following questions.

1. **What did Elisha tell the man to give the crowd to feed 100 men?** (20 loaves of bread)
2. **Was there just enough bread or were there leftovers?** (leftovers)
3. **What happened when Naaman dipped in the Jordan River seven times, like Elisha told him to do?** (Naaman's skin was healed of the terrible skin disease.)
4. **Was Naaman surprised?** (Yes.) **What did Naaman do when he was healed?** (Praised and thanked God.)
5. **What do Elisha's miracles show?** (Elisha's miracles show he was a prophet of the one true God.

PRAY Invite the children to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him. SAY: **God, thank You for being the one true God. Thank You for Elisha who performed miracles to show he was Your prophet. Thank You for Jesus and His miracles that show He is the true Son of God. Amen.**

(Also include prayer for our missionary family during this prayer time.)

KEY PASSAGE AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION // Key passage marker, Bible, key passage song on the USB: "Love the Lord", key passage poster, big picture question poster

Place the key passage marker at Deuteronomy 6:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage.

Help preschoolers form a circle. Lead them in saying the key passage together. Say the first word of the passage. Guide a preschooler next to you to say the next word of the passage. Suggest children continue saying the next word of the passage around the circle. Assist children as needed. Say the key passage again as a group. (You may use the key passage poster and point to the words one at a time to help the children who are starting to recognize some words.) Note: This is the fourth and final Sunday for this verse.

SAY: **The key passage says to love the Lord with all your heart, your soul, and your strength. Elisha loved God with all his heart, soul, and strength. God allowed Elisha to do miracles. Elisha's miracles showed that he was a prophet of the one true God.**

Continue

OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

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 SAY: **The big picture question and answer is: What is idolatry? Idolatry is loving something else more than God.** You may point to the big picture question poster. **Elisha loved God more than anything.**

1. **Do you think it was hard for Elisha to love God more than anything?**
2. **Is it hard for you to love God more than anything?**

WALK TO THE WATER // Blue paper (3 feet long), white wall tape

Place the blue piece of paper on a wall at the preschoolers' eye level. Form two groups on the opposite side of the room. Explain to the children that one person from each group will walk to the other side of the room by the blue piece of paper and jump seven times. Then, he will come back to his group and another child from his group will walk to the other side of the room, do the action, and go back to the group. Repeat until each child has a turn.

If your class is large, consider forming more than two groups so the children will not have to wait long for a turn. Comment that the blue paper on the wall reminds you of water and the Jordan River we heard of in the story.

SAY: **We learned in the Bible story that Elisha healed a man of a terrible skin disease. Elisha sent a message to Naaman to 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 went to Elisha and said, 'I know that the God of Israel is the one true God.' Elisha's miracles showed that he was a prophet of the one true God.**

NAAMAN IS HEALED // "Naaman is Healed" coloring page, crayons, glue sticks, small pieces of green tissue paper and blue tissue paper

Place the crayons, glue sticks and small pieces of tissue paper on the tables. Give the coloring page to each child. The story about Naaman is on the reverse side of the paper.

Direct the children to color the picture. When they are finished coloring, they may glue small pieces of blue tissue paper to the water and green tissue paper to tree.

Encourage the children to take the picture home and ask a parent or sibling to read the story on the back of the paper.

EXTRA IDEAS

COUNT, COUNT, AND COUNT// Various classroom items:7 pencils or blocks, 20 crayons or pieces of paper, posterboard with 100 circles prepared for you

Gather various classroom items. Lead children to count seven pencils or blocks and place them in a pile.

Count out 20 crayons or pieces of paper.

Show the children the posterboard with 100 circles drawn on it.

Recall that in today's Bible story, the numbers 7, 20, and 100 are important numbers. Review parts of the story as children sort and arrange.

SAY: A man in today's Bible story brought 20 loaves of bread to the prophet Elisha, but there were 100 men in the crowd who needed to eat. How would 20 loaves of bread feed 100 people? God told Elisha that there would be enough, and there was! Everyone ate, and there were even leftovers.

Later, a man called Naaman had a terrible skin disease. Naaman wanted Elisha to heal him. Elisha told him to wash in the Jordan River seven times. Another miracle happened; Naaman was healed! Elisha's miracles showed that he was a prophet of the one true God. In a bigger way, Jesus' miracles showed that He was more than a prophet. Jesus is the true Son of God.

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.