

Unit 13 • Session 3 Elijah and Elisha

BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Kings 2

2-3's Lesson

STORY POINT: God chose Elisha to be His prophet after Elijah.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How many gods are there? There is one true God.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

(30 MINUTES)

Opening Activities



TEACH THE STORY

(15 MINUTES)

Large Group



EXPERIENCE THE STORY

(15 MINUTES)

Small Group



Opening Activities Supplies

No supplies needed

Large Group Supplies

Bible
Bookmark
Key Passage Marker
Elijah and Elisha
puppets

Small Group Supplies

Big Picture Card/Bible Story
Coloring Page, 1 per child
Crayons, Bible Story Picture,
Bible, Key Passage Card

LEADER Bible Study

Following God's great display of power at Mount Carmel, Elijah fled for his life and traveled to Mount Horeb where he encountered God in a soft whisper. God instructed Elijah to anoint a man named Elisha as his successor. Elijah found Elisha plowing a field. Elijah put his cloak over Elisha to show that Elisha would be a prophet like Elijah. Elisha followed Elijah and served him for many years. In time, King Ahab of Israel appointed his son Ahaziah as king. When Ahaziah died, his brother Joram became king.

Elijah's ministry came to an end, and God took him to heaven in an unusual way. First, Elijah and Elisha traveled from Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho and then to the Jordan River. Elijah met with other prophets and their families. Despite Elijah's insistence otherwise, Elisha did not leave Elijah's side.

A group of prophets watched as Elijah parted the Jordan River by striking the water with his mantle (cloak) so he could cross. In Elijah's final moments, Elisha requested, "Please, let me inherit two shares of your spirit" (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha wanted power to continue God's work and confirmation as Israel's next prophet.

A chariot of fire and horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the men. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha cried out after him. When Elijah was out of view, Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak and struck the water of the Jordan River. The water parted—a sign that Elisha had received power from God. Elisha would continue the work of Elijah as a prophet to Israel.

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.

The BIBLE Story

Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 2

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,** Elijah and Elisha went to Gilgal. 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 cloak and hit the water with it.** The water parted, and they crossed to the other side on **dry ground.**

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.

Christ Connection: 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.

INTRODUCE the Story



Opening Activities

SESSION TITLE: Elijah and Elisha

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 2

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KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

Welcome time

Intro Music

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.

Choose the action

Guide preschoolers to stand in a circle. Invite preschoolers to take turns selecting whether the entire group will jump three times, clap three times, or stomp three times. Continue playing until each preschooler has had at least one turn.

SAY • Did you enjoy making these choices today? In today's Bible story, we will hear about a choice God made. God chose who would be His prophet after Elijah! God's prophets were special men who God used to share His truth with the people. We'll find out who God chose as His new prophet in our Bible story.

Transition to teach the story

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group.

This is an optional activity to help you connect before worship

Video:
Countdown

TEACH the Story



Large Group

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[Song: Only One True God](#)

[Song: Isaiah 42:8](#)

Worship

I am so happy to see all of you today! We are going to stand up, dance, and sing now because our God is great!

Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark at 2 Kings 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • Today's story is from the Bible. Our story is in the Old Testament, which is the part of the Bible that tells what happened before Jesus was born. We know this story is true because all the stories of the Bible are true!

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant 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 people through His Son, Jesus.

Watch the Bible story

Show the video.

SAY • Being a prophet was an important job! Prophets told the people what God said. [*Use puppets to help you show that Elisha and Elijah are two different people.*]

God chose Elisha to be His prophet after Elijah. God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could do his work as a prophet. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives followers of Jesus the Holy Spirit so they can share Jesus' good news with the world.

Bible
Bookmark

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

[Video: "Elijah and Elisha"](#)

[CG: Story Point](#)
[CG: Bible Story](#)
[Picture](#)

Tip: Make sure preschoolers understand that though Elijah and Elisha's names are very similar, they are two different people.

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 42:8. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud.

SAY • Good job everyone! God wants to help us and that's why He has given us the Bible. We can remember what He says by practicing our verse.

**Bible
Key
Passage
Marker**
CG: Key
Passage

CG: Big
Picture
Question

Learn the big picture question

SAY • There were two prophets in today's story: Elijah and Elisha. [*Hold up puppets as you say their names.*]

But, *how many gods are there? There is one true God.*

The one true God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could tell people what God said. Now, God can give us the Holy Spirit so that we can share the good news about Jesus with other people.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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Work together

Assign each preschooler a partner. Lead preschoolers to hold both hands of their partner. Invite each pair to take turns walking around their small group circle while holding the hands of their partner.

SAY • You all worked together! Way to go. In today's Bible story, Elijah and Elisha did a lot of things together. **God chose Elisha to be His prophet after Elijah.** A prophet is someone who tells people what God says. Wherever Elijah went, Elisha went too.

Circle time (5 minutes)

Open the Bible to 2 Kings 2. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide preschoolers to say it. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the preschoolers.

Gospel Gems

- * Elisha was Elijah's helper.
- * God took Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind.
- * God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah.

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page. If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool Big Picture Card for families.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture
- Story Point
- Key Passage Card

- Big Picture Card/Bible Story Coloring Page
- Crayons