

Use Week of: Sept. 21-22, 2019

## Unit 13 • Session 4

# Elisha and the Army

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Kings 6

### 2-3's Lesson

### STORY POINT:

God protected His people.

### 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 Activity Supplies

3-4 People figures per group

#### Large Group Supplies

Bible  
Bookmark  
Key Passage Marker

#### Small Group Supplies

Small group blanket, 1 per group, 2-3 foam swords per group, Bible, Bible Story Picture/Story Point, Key Passage Card

## LEADER Bible Study

After Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind, his successor Elisha continued Elijah's work as a prophet to Israel. God used him, like Elijah, to perform miracles—multiplying the oil of a poor widow, raising a Shunammite woman's son from the dead, purifying a poisoned pot of stew, and more.

At this time, Israel was ruled by King Joram. The land of Aram to the northeast (located in present-day Syria) was ruled by King Ben-hadad. In 2 Kings 5, Naaman—the commander of the army for the king of Aram—sought out Elisha for healing of a skin disease. Naaman recognized the one true God (2 Kings 5:15), but Aram was an enemy of Israel and waged war against the people.

Each time the king of Aram made plans to attack Israel, God revealed the plans to Elisha and he alerted Israel's king so Israel could thwart their enemy's plans. When Aram's king discovered Elisha was to blame, he was determined to kill God's prophet and sent an army to surround the place where Elisha was hiding. Elisha's servant saw the enemy army and was afraid, but Elisha could see something the servant couldn't see: an army of the Lord outnumbering the Arameans covered the mountain, ready to protect Elisha.

God blinded the enemy army, and Elisha led them to Samaria where the king of Israel could have killed them. Instead, Elisha told the king to feed the men and send them home. Those raiders did not come into Israel's land again.

This story in 2 Kings 6 reveals that the world is not limited to what is seen. As you teach preschoolers, emphasize that God is always with us, even though we can't see Him. Jesus came to earth so people could see God. (See Col. 1:15.) God protects us from sin and death when we trust in Jesus.

# The BIBLE Story

## Elisha and the Army

*2 Kings 6*

The king of Aram wanted to fight against the kingdom of Israel. He planned to move his army to a certain place. **But Elisha the prophet sent messages to Israel's king and told him where the Aramean (ar uh MEE uhn) army would be.**

The king of Aram was mad when he found out Israel's king knew his plans. Who had told him? Had one of his own soldiers told Israel's king? But **the soldiers said, "We did not tell! It was Elisha. He is a prophet in Israel. He knows what you say even though he is not with you."**

The king of Aram found out where Elisha was staying. That night, the king sent horses, chariots, and a large army to surround the city.

The next morning, Elisha's servant got up and saw the army. "What are we going to do?" he asked Elisha.

Elisha said, "Do not be afraid. **Our army is bigger than their army."**

The servant did not understand. He only saw the enemy army. Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, let my servant see Your army."

So God let the servant see the mountain covered with horses and chariots of fire—the army of the LORD!

Then Elisha prayed for God to not let the Aramean army see where



**they were. Elisha told the army, “You’re in the wrong city!” He led them away to the king of Israel.** Then Elisha prayed for God to let them see, and God did. Elisha told **the king of Israel** to give the army food and water. Then he **sent them home. That army did not come into Israel again.**

*Christ Connection: Elisha’s servant could not see God’s protection, so God let him see. God is always with us. Jesus came to earth so people could see God. God protects us from sin and death when we trust in Jesus.*

# INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Elisha and the Army

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 6

**STORY POINT:** God protected His people.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 42:8

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

## Opening Activities

### Intro Music

3-4 People  
figures

This is an  
optional  
activity before  
worship

### Welcome time

*Play intro music the background as you greet preschoolers.*

### Find the army

Hide three to four people figures together somewhere in the room. Invite preschoolers to search for the “army.” Give hints when a preschooler is close to help them find the army quickly. Then invite preschoolers to take turns hiding the people figures for the rest of the group to find. Occasionally offer hints. Play as time allows.

**SAY** • Good job finding the army! Was it easier to find the army when I gave you hints? In today’s Bible story, God’s prophet Elisha gave hints to the king of Israel. He told the king where the army of his enemy would be. We will hear more about it in our Bible story.

### Video: Countdown

### Transition to teach the story

*Show the countdown video to transition to Large Group.*

# TEACH the Story



Large Group

**SESSION TITLE:** Elisha and the Army

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 6

**STORY POINT:** God protected His people.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 42:8

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

[Song: Only One True God](#)  
[Song: Isaiah 42:8](#)

[Bible Bookmark](#)

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

[Video: "Elijah and the Army"](#)

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

## Worship

Hello friends! My name is [name]. We are going to stand up and sing songs about God. Let's sing!

## Introduce the Bible story

*Place a bookmark at 2 Kings 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.*

**SAY** • Today's Bible story is from the Book of 2 Kings. Like all the stories in Bible, today's story really happened!

*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** • Would you be scared like Elisha's servant if a whole army was coming for you? I would! But Elisha wasn't scared because he could see God's army protecting them. **God protected His people.** God still protects His people today. The greatest way God protected us was by sending Jesus. If we trust that Jesus died for our sin and rose again, then we are saved!

## 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. Invite preschoolers to try to say the key passage from memory. Provide assistance when needed. Applaud children's efforts.*

**SAY** • God is glorious, which mean He is amazing and beautiful. God doesn't share His glory, because it only belongs to Him. There is no one greater than God. Israel and Aram both saw God's glory when **God protected His people.**

**Bible  
Key Passage  
Marker**  
[CG: Key  
Passage](#)

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • There were many people in the king of Aram's army. There were even more in God's army. But ***How many gods are there? There is one true God.*** Our one true God is more powerful than any army!

[CG: Big  
Picture  
Question](#)

**Pray and transition to experience the story**

# EXPERIENCE the Story



Small Group

**SESSION TITLE:** Elisha and the Army

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 6

**STORY POINT:** God protected His people.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 42:8

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

Small Group blanket, 1 per group 2-3 foam swords per group

## Play out the story

Ask two or three children to stand up and hold up a blanket. Ask a few other children to stand behind the blanket, holding foam swords. When you say, "Let them see," direct the children to drop the blanket so the others can see the "army." Let all the children pretend to be in the army.

**SAY • There is one God.** God protected His people from the king of Aram. God protects each of us every day.

Bible Bible Story Picture Story Point Key Passage Card

## Circle time (5 minutes)

Have preschoolers watch you open the Bible to 2 Kings 6. 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

- \* God told Elisha the king of Aram's plans.
- \* God rescued His prophet from the king of Aram.
- \* God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin.

Big Picture Card/Bible Story Coloring Page Crayons

## 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 Cards for families.