



Use Week of: Sept. 14-15, 2019

## Unit 13 • Session 3

# Elijah and Elisha

### 2nd-3rd Lesson

#### **BIBLE PASSAGE:**

2 Kings 2

#### **STORY POINT:**

God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.

#### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Isaiah 42:8

#### **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

#### **INTRODUCE THE STORY** (10 MINUTES)

##### Opening Activities



##### Opening Activities

No supplies needed

#### **TEACH THE STORY** (30 MINUTES)

##### Large Group



##### Large Group Supplies

Leader attire  
Bible, 2 office chairs that roll,  
2 cones, masking tape

#### **APPLY THE STORY** (20 MINUTES)

##### Small Group



##### Small Group Supplies

Key Passage Poster  
Journal/Activity Page, 1  
per kid, paper, pencils

## 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 the prophet Elijah** (ih LIGH juh) to find a man named Elisha (ih LIGH shuh). **Elisha would be a prophet to Israel after Elijah.** So **Elijah obeyed God.** He **found Elisha** plowing a field, and **Elisha followed Elijah and served him.**

**When the time came for the Lord to take Elijah up to heaven, Elijah and Elisha traveled to Gilgal. At Gilgal, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together to Bethel.**

**At Bethel, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to Jericho.” But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together to Jericho.**

**At Jericho, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to the Jordan River.” But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together 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 river parted, and they crossed to the other side.**

Elijah asked, “Is there anything I can do for you before I go?”



Elisha said, “I want a double portion of the spirit that you have.”

Elijah said, “If you see me go, you will have it.”

**Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and drove 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 just as it had for Elijah.**

The crowd of prophets was there watching, and they saw that **the spirit that was with Elijah was now with Elisha.** The prophets searched for Elijah, but they could not find him since God had taken him up to heaven.

*Christ Connection: 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.*

# INTRODUCE the Story



## Opening Activities

**SESSION TITLE:** Elijah and Elisha

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 2

**STORY POINT:** God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 42:8

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

### Welcome time

#### Intro Music

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss a time they had a friend who moved away. How did it feel?

**SAY** • Having a friend move away can be difficult and sad. It is common to fear you may never see your friend again. However, when friends who believe in Jesus move away, we can be 100 percent certain we will see them again. Today we will learn about a time Elijah went away; where might he have gone? We'll learn more soon!

### Optional Activity: Talents to teach

Invite each kid to brainstorm a talent that they have. Ask for volunteers to teach the rest of the group how to do whatever talent or skill they have come up with. Be prepared to help kids come up with talents and teach their talents to others.

**SAY** • Most talents and skills can be learned with good teachers and lots of practice, but today we will learn about a time God gave a man named Elisha special power just as God had given special power to Elijah. We'll talk more about that soon.

### Transition to teach the story

# TEACH the Story



## Large Group

**SESSION TITLE:** Elijah and Elisha

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 2

**STORY POINT:** God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 42:8

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

### Countdown

Video:  
Countdown

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

### Large Group game: Chariot race

*Set up one traffic cone at the back of the room. Use tape to mark a starting line at the front of the room. Choose two teams - one adult male Small Group Leader + three boys and one adult female Small Group Leader + three girls. Roll out the office chair. **Instruct everyone that the adults will take turns pushing one kid (sitting in the chair) across the room, around the cone (carefully!) and back to the starting line. Once they return, the first kid hops out and the second kid hops in for his/her ride etc...***

SFX: Game  
Music

*Instruct the teams that they will be timed with a stopwatch and whichever team completes all three laps (meaning all three of their kids) in the fastest time is the winner.*

**SAY** • What a fun game! In Bible times, chariots were a popular way to get around, especially for those who were wealthy or powerful. Today we will hear about a time Elijah rode in the back of an incredible kind of chariot. Where might a special chariot carry someone? We'll find out soon.

Song: Let  
Revolution  
Start  
Song:  
Wavewalker

### Worship

Sing "Let Revolution Start" and "Wavewalker".

## Introduce the Session (3 minutes)

*Leader enters wearing formal business attire.*

**LEADER** • Hello there loyal viewers! It's time for your daily Weather Wonderland forecast. My name is [your name] chief meteorologist here in KidCity, where no news is good news.

Thankfully, the record-breaking drought has recently ended with the downpour from a few days ago. Sadly, the huge amounts of rain have led to some unexpected flooding. The river has risen to historic highs and washed out the only bridge. No one is getting across any time soon, I'm afraid. But, the rain should let up by Tuesday, meaning we should see some water receding soon after. The city planners are already on the case and say the bridge should be rebuilt just a week or so after the rain stops. Until that time, please do not try to cross the river on your own! The waters look tamer than they are. Remember, if you can't see how deep standing water is, assume it's deeper than you can cross!

You know, all this talk of crossing rivers has me thinking about a Bible story. In it, a man crosses a river twice without a bridge. I'll tell you all about it.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • As we talk about this story, I want each of you to pay close attention. See if you can find evidence to support what we've been learning about our big picture question and answer.

***How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.*** Let's find out how this story proves this is true.

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

*Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.*

**LEADER** • The Northern Kingdom of Israel was ruled by an evil king named Ahab. Because of Ahab's evil choices, God withheld rain for three years. During this time, **God provided in miraculous ways** for His prophet Elijah, as well as a widow and her son. When it was time for rain to fall again, **God showed that He is the one true God.** God completely burned up Elijah's altar when Baal's prophets couldn't even produce a spark.

CG:  
Theme  
Image

CG:  
Flooding  
image

SFX:  
Rain

CG: Big  
Picture  
Question

CG: Giant  
Timeline



But Elijah's time as prophet was coming to an end, and God had plans to raise up a new prophet. Interestingly, the new prophet's name was pretty similar to Elijah's! Let's learn about it now. Our story is called "Elijah and Elisha."

## Show the Bible story

*Show the Bible story video "Elijah and Elisha."*

**LEADER** • Think for a moment about what it would have been like to be a prophet in the crowd that day, to see the Jordan River part as Elijah and Elisha walked through. Imagine watching some sort of whirlwind tornado come and carry Elijah away. Then Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak, parted the river again, and walked back across. **God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.** Elisha would continue warning Israel of the consequences of sin, and he would strengthen and encourage those who still followed God.

I like the beginning of the story as the two were traveling. Elijah told Elisha three times to stay put, but Elisha promised to never leave Elijah as long as he was alive. Elisha journeyed with Elijah the whole way. When Elisha asked for God's spirit to be with him, Elijah made a promise to Elisha: "If you see me go, you will have it" (2 Kings 2:10).

God allowed Elisha to see Elijah be taken into heaven and then granted Elisha's request. The prophets in the crowd saw God's power through Elisha just as they had seen in Elijah.

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • 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.

## Key passage

*Show the key passage slide. Lead the kids to read Isaiah 42:8. Instruct them to raise their arms in the air, spinning like a whirlwind above their heads while they say it together.*

**LEADER** • Elijah had finished everything God planned for him, so it was time for him to go to heaven. There was still work for Elisha to do to help Israel know that the Lord alone is God. God used another amazing demonstration of weather to show His power to Elisha and the prophets.

**Pray and dismiss to apply the story**

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

[CG: Bible Story Picture](#)

[CG: Story Point](#)

[CG: Key Passage](#)



# APPLY the Story



## Small Group

**SESSION TITLE:** Elijah and Elisha

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 2

**STORY POINT:** God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 42:8

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

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Invite a volunteer to read the key passage. Say the verse together as a group and encourage kids to continue working on the key passage through the next week. Then lead the group in saying the verse while doing jumping jacks. As each word of the passage is spoken, kids should alternate back and forth stances of a standard jumping jack.

**SAY** • Great job with that key passage! Isaiah was a prophet of God. He wrote about God, explaining that God does not share His glory with others. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.***

### Pick up and leave off

Instruct the kids to find partners. One kid will start the game by doing the first bit of a task, singing the first bit of a song, or drawing the first bit of a picture. After 30 seconds, the partners will switch. The second kid will finish what the first kid started. Play multiple rounds, rotating partners and alternating who starts and who finishes. Provide the kids with guidance by telling them which song to sing, what to start drawing, or what task to begin (such as creating a secret handshake or drawing their favorite meal). Tell the kids when to switch.

**SAY** • **God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.** Elisha spent some time following Elijah and learning from him. Elisha was ready to take over as God's messenger because of the power God gave him and the time he spent learning from Elijah. KidCity is a place where we can learn about Jesus and His love for us. God wants us to share His love with others and teach them what it looks like to love and obey God. Who can you share Jesus with this week?

### Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils to each kid. Guide the kids to think about and answer the questions on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- How do they help me trust and love God?

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Activity Page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

Key  
Passage  
Poster

Pencils  
Paper  
Journal  
Page, 1  
per kid

Send  
home  
Activity  
Page