

Unit 13 • Session 3 Elijah and Elisha

BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Kings 2

4-5'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



Opening Activity Supplies

No supplies needed

TEACH THE STORY

(15 MINUTES)

Large Group



Large Group Supplies

Bible
Bookmark
Key Passage Marker
Elijah and Elisha
Puppets

EXPERIENCE THE STORY

(15 MINUTES)

Small Group



Small Group Supplies

Small ball, 1 per 2 kids
foil, water dropper, water, 1
per group
Straws, 1 per child
Bible Story Coloring Page, 1
per child

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

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.

Intro Music

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. For older preschoolers, you may also allow them to choose how many jumps, claps, or stomps the group will perform together.

This is an optional activity to help you connect before worship

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.

Video: Countdown

TEACH the Story



Large Group

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

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

Worship

Hello friends! My name is [name]. I am so excited to see you today! Let's stand, sing and dance now.

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 Bible Story video.

SAY • Being a prophet was an important job! Prophets told the people what God said. [Use the Elisha and Elijah puppets to help children know these 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. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. 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.

• 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.

Learn the big picture question

SAY • There were two prophets in today's story: [*Show the puppets again.*]Elijah and Elisha. 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.

Bible
Key
Passage
Marker
CG: Key
Passage

CG: Big
Picture
Question

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

· Lightweight
balls, 1 per 2
kids

· Straws, 1
per child
· Foil, 1 per
group
· Water
dropper, 1
per group
· Water

Work together

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

SAY • You all worked together to carry the ball!

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.

Experiment with water and air

Use a water dropper to place droplets of water on a sheet of foil for preschoolers. Give preschoolers straws. Demonstrate to preschoolers how to move water around on the foil by blowing through the straws one at a time.

SAY • Did you know you could move water with only your breath? Pretty cool! Now, this is not very much water. Do you think you could move a whole river with only your breath? No! In today's Bible story, God made the river split in two for Elijah and Elisha to go through. Only the true God can do that! ***How many gods are there? There is one true God.***

Review

Remind children that **God chose Elisha to be His prophet after Elijah.** A prophet tells people what God says. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What happened when Elijah hit the Jordan River with his cloak? (*The water parted.*)
2. Who was taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire? (*Elijah*)
3. Who would be the new prophet now that Elijah was taken away? (*Elisha*)
4. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God.***

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, practice the key passage, or the big picture question.

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 activity page for families.

· Bible Story Picture/ Story Point

· Bible Story Coloring Page
· crayons
· Key Passage Poster