

Use Week of: Sept. 21-22, 2019

Unit 13 • Session 4

Elisha and the Army

BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Kings 6

4-5'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

No supplies needed

Large Group Supplies

Bible
Bookmark
Key Passage Marker

Small Group Supplies

"Army Upset" Printable,
1 per 12 children
Bible Story Picture/Story
Point, Key Passage card,
Activity Page

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



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.

Welcome time

Intro Music

Play intro music the background as you greet preschoolers.

Find the army

3-4 People
figures

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.

This is an
optional
activity before
worship

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] and I am so glad you're here. Let's all stand up and sing songs to God because He is the one true God!

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 Bible Story 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 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.**

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!

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

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.

Play “Aramean Army Upset”

Form a circle of preschoolers in your group. Lead one child to stand in the center. Give each preschooler one of the images (either a horse, chariot, or army). If your group is smaller or larger than 12 children that is okay, just try to give an equal amount of each type of card to your group. Lead the child in the middle to say, “horse,” “chariot,” or “army.” Every child with that image stands up and finds another place to sit along with the child in the middle. The last child to sit goes to the middle and leads the group in saying the story point [**God protected His people.**]

SAY • The king of Aram sent an army to surround the city where Elisha was. Elisha prayed for God to not let the Aramean army see where they were, and God answered! **God protected His people** from their enemies. God protects us and gave us Jesus as our greatest protection.

Review

Remind preschoolers that God let Elisha’s servant see the mountain covered with horses and chariots of fire—the army of the LORD. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What did the king of Aram send to surround the city where Elisha was? (*an army*)
2. What happened to Elisha’s servant after he prayed that God would let him see the army? (*Elisha’s servant saw God’s army.*)
3. ***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 pages for families.

• Army Upset Game Printable, 1 per 12 children

• Bible Story Picture

• Bible Story Coloring Page
• crayons
• Key Passage