

4th-5th Lesson

Unit 13, Session 4

Elisha and the Army

2 Kings 6

Story Point: God protected Elisha with an invisible army.



Open your Bible and read aloud 2 Kings 6, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

The king of Aram was at war with Israel. The king planned to set up camp for his army at a certain place. **Elisha sent messages to the king of Israel, warning him about the army's location.**

When the king of Aram found out that his plans had been discovered, he thought one of his own soldiers had told the king of Israel where they were staying. But the soldiers said, "We didn't tell! It was Elisha, the prophet in Israel. He knows what you say, even when you say it in secret."

The king of Aram heard that Elisha was in the city of Dothan. That night, he sent horses, chariots, and a large army to surround the city.

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

Elisha said, "Don't be afraid. Our army outnumbered their army." The servant was confused. He only saw the Aramean (ar uh MEE uhn) army. Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, open my servant's eyes and let him see."

So God opened the servant's eyes, and he

saw horses and chariots of fire—the army of the LORD!—covering the mountain.

Then Elisha prayed for God to close the eyes of the Aramean army. God did, and they were blind. "You're in the wrong city," Elisha told the army. He led them away to Samaria. Then he prayed for God to open their eyes, and God did. Elisha told the king of Israel to give them food and water. Then the king sent them home. That army did not come into Israel again.

Christ Connection: God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant so he could see God's protection. God is always with us. Jesus came to earth as the visible image of our invisible God. God's protection from sin and death is given to everyone who trusts in Jesus.

Supplies: 40-50 snowballs, thick painter's tape, Bibles, blindfolds (optional), colored pencils, paper 1 per kid, markers, Take home 1 per kid



INTRODUCE the Story

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 think of as many warning signs or devices in their daily lives (smoke detectors, fire alarms, caution lights, weather alerts, and so on). Guide them to identify how warnings are helpful.

Large Group

Video: Countdown

Large Group Game: Snowball Fight

Supplies: 40-50 snowballs, thick painters tape

Reveal the tape on the floor that divides the room in half. Instruct the boys to move to one side and the girls to move to the other (including Small Group Leaders!) Pour out the bag of snowballs (super-sized cotton balls) on the line of tape as close to the middle of the room as possible. Instruct both sides that when you say "go", they will have one minute to throw as many snowballs over the line to the other side as possible. They cannot cross the line at any point with their body and they **MUST** stop throwing when the countdown buzzer sounds. Whichever side has less snowballs when the time is up is the winner!

SAY • Wow, what a crazy snowball fight! Congrats to the [winning team] for winning that battle! Your snowball throwing army was victorious! Our Bible story today has to do with two armies as well. One army was sent to kill the prophet Elisha and another army that was completely invisible was sent to protect Elisha. Yes, I said invisible. How was there an invisible army? We'll all learn about it here soon.

SFX: Game Music

Sing

SAY † > We are not afraid of the enemy because the Lord is with us. We are not afraid of the enemy because the Lord is with us. We are not afraid of the enemy because the Lord is with us.

Song: God is on the Move Song: Not Afraid



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

God took Elijah up in a whirlwind, passing Elijah's mission on to Elisha. Today we get to see God's amazing power in Elisha. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read 2 Kings 6.

- What does this story teach us about God?

[CG: Question 1](#)

God told Elisha to warn the king of Israel about the plans of the Aramean army. **God knows everything** and can reveal it to whomever He chooses. God opened the servant's eyes and showed that **He is always with us**, fighting on our behalf.

- How do we know God is with us if we can't see Him?

[CG: Question 2](#)

Today's story reveals that **the world is not limited to what is seen**. 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.) By faith, we trust God's promise to be with us and look forward to the day we will see Him face to face.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant so he could see God's protection. God is always with us. Jesus came to earth as the visible image of our invisible God. God's protection from sin and death is given to everyone who trusts in Jesus.



TEACH the Story

Big Picture Question

CG: Big Picture Question

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

PRAY

God, You are powerful, but You still come near us and love us just as we are. Thank You! Help us to trust You more every day. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

How many gods are there?

There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

God's amazing displays of power remind us that He alone is God. The Bible says that God is faithful and will protect us and strengthen us against Satan—the evil one who is against God.

- Why do you think God might allow people to get hurt?
- How can hard times bring us closer to God?

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 6. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 6:16-17. Emphasize that Elisha's servant was afraid, but Elisha knew God was with him. God protected Elisha with an invisible army.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 6:16-17 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why was Elisha's servant afraid? Why was Elisha not afraid?

Lead kids to recall that the servant saw the enemy army, but he did not see God's army ready to defend Elisha. Elisha saw the army, and he trusted in God's protection.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 43:1.)

2. How did God show Himself to the world?

Guide kids to discuss how God, who is invisible, made Himself visible by sending His Son into the world as a human. Jesus showed us what God is like and told us about God's invisible kingdom. He also reveals Himself through His Word.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 1:15.)

3. What can you do when you feel afraid?

Prompt kids to discuss their own ideas. Emphasize that when we feel afraid, we can pray for God to open our eyes so that—by faith—we would believe what He says is true.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 4:6-7.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: Bibles, blindfolds (optional)

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Isaiah 42:8. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Use blindfolds or let kids cover their eyes with their hands so kids can't see, like the Aramean army couldn't see. Challenge kids to recite the key passage from memory. Encourage them to memorize Scripture as a way to remember what is true about God and about themselves.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, asking God to open kids' eyes by faith to the reality of His invisible Kingdom. Pray that kids would trust Him and feel at peace under His protection.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Story illustrations

Supplies: Bibles, paper, colored pencils or markers

Form up to six small groups. Assign each group a different scene from the story to illustrate. Consider these examples:

1. Elisha warned the king. (2 Kings 6:9)
2. The Aramean army was accused of sharing their plans. (2 Kings 6:11)
3. The army surrounded the city of Dothan. (2 Kings 6:15)
4. God's army surrounded the Aramean army. (2 Kings 6:17)
5. The Aramean army blindly followed Elisha to another city. (2 Kings 6:19)
6. The Aramean army opening their eyes in Samaria. (2 Kings 6:20)

When kids finish, instruct the groups to line up in order of the story and share their illustrations, explaining what happened during each part of the story.

Explain that God protected Elisha with an invisible army. When we can see an illustration, we remember a story even better. But God often does not show us what He is doing in our lives. During those times, we need to trust Him with our hearts and remember that He loves us and has a plan for us.