

Unit 13 • Session 4

Elisha and the Army

K-1 Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Kings 6

STORY POINT:

God protected Elisha with an invisible army.

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



TEACH THE STORY (30 MINUTES)

Large Group



APPLY THE STORY (20 MINUTES)

Small Group



Opening Activity Supplies

2-3 Decks of playing cards per class

Large Group Supplies

Bible, leader attire, 40-50 cotton snowballs, thick painter's tape

Small Group Supplies

Key Passage Poster, 1 white cardstock & white crayon per kid, watercolors, water, & paint brushes per group, Activity/Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

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 kids, 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 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 outnumbers their army."

The servant was confused. He only saw the Aramean (ar uh MEE uh) 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.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Elisha and the Army

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 6

STORY POINT: God protected Elisha with an invisible army.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

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

Opening Activities

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 talk about a time they received a warning about something. Did they listen to the warning? How did things turn out?

SAY • When we ignore warnings, it usually causes difficulty or pain for us. Hopefully, we learn to listen to those who warn us. Doing so helps us stay safe. Today we will learn about a time Elisha warned the king of Israel about an enemy who was waiting to hurt God's people. We will learn how God protected His people.

2-3 Decks of playing cards per class

Optional Activity: War!

Form pairs of kids. Provide each pair with a deck of playing cards. Instruct the kids to deal out all the cards evenly. Kids will play cards, one at a time. Whoever plays the higher value card keeps both. If their cards have the same value, they will each place three cards facedown and a fourth card faceup. Whoever plays the higher value fourth card wins all the cards in the pile. Whoever collects the most cards at the end of play wins.

SAY • In that game, the player with the larger number on his card won the round. In war, the army with the larger number of soldiers often wins. Today we will learn about a time God's people seemed outnumbered by a very large army that wanted to attack them. But God provided reinforcements in an amazing way!

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Elisha and the Army

Large Group

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 6

STORY POINT: God protected Elisha with an invisible army.

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 game.

Large Group game: Snowball Fight

40-50 cotton
snowballs and
thick painter's
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

Worship

LEADER • Let's offer our praises to God alone. Sing with me "God is on the Move" and "Not Afraid".

Song: God is
on the Move
Song: Not
Afraid

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

Leader enters wearing business formal attire.

Leader attire
Bible

LEADER • Hello hello hello! Welcome back to KidCity news. It's time for another Weather Wonderland forecast. I'm your chief meteorologist [your name]. Let's get right to it. The rain has finally stopped and the water has started going down again. The washed-out bridge will be fixed soon, and this week the forecast is back to sunshine. But despite the rising temperatures over the first half of the week, expect cool breezes as a cold front begins to move in on Thursday.

You know, it's always been kind of amazing to me how weather works. High pressure zones push air toward low pressure zones, causing wind, which moves clouds and causes rain to fall all over the place. It is truly fascinating. One of the most interesting parts, in my opinion, is how powerful wind can be, even though we cannot see it. Wind and air pressure hold more strength than you might think. But you know, that reminds me of a Bible story. Let me share it with you.

Big picture question (1 minute)

CG: Big Picture Question

LEADER • I want to know who remembers our big picture question. [Allow responses.] Great job! **How many gods are there?** And who can tell me the answer? [Allow responses.] Right again! **There is one God who alone deserves worship.** That means though we often worship created things, we should be worshiping God alone. Only He is holy, loving, all-powerful, and good. He deserves worship because of who He is and what He has done for us.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

CG: Giant Timeline

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

LEADER • A few weeks back we learned about Elijah and the widow. We learned that **God provided in miraculous ways.** We also learned how **God showed that He is the one true God** on Mount Carmel when the prophets of Baal failed the test. Elijah set up. Last week we learned that, when Elijah went to heaven, **God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.** This week, we will learn some more about Elisha. Our story is "Elisha and the Army."

Video: "Elisha and the army"

Watch the Bible story

Show the Bible story video "Elisha and the Army."

Elijah and Elisha

LEADER • God's people would have been in big trouble if not for Elisha. God told Elisha where the enemy army was planning to attack. When the enemy king decided to get rid of Elisha, **God protected Elisha with an invisible army**—a massive army of invisible angels.

You know, had I been Elisha's servant, I would have been pretty afraid too. If I couldn't see God's army, I probably wouldn't believe it was there. But the truth is, God's love and protection did not rely on the servant's ability to see the army. God was with them whether the servant knew it or not.

In a way, that reminds me of life with Jesus. If you ask Jesus to forgive you and believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, the Holy Spirit is with you, filling you with God's power. The Holy Spirit helps us love and obey God. He protects us from temptation and helps us to make wise choices. We cannot see the Holy Spirit, and even if you don't feel His presence, He is with all followers of Jesus, protecting us. That's a promise of God!

And we know that God always keeps His promises. He is faithful even when we are not faithful. He loves us even when we do not love Him. That's why He sent Jesus! We were enemies of God, but Jesus made the way for us to be forgiven, set free from sin, given new life, and adopted into God's family.

Christ connection

LEADER • 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.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read Isaiah 42:8.

LEADER • We usually think of jealousy as a bad thing, but in the case of God, it's good for Him to be jealous of our worship. Every time we worship something or someone besides Him, that is sin. Our sin hurts us and hurts other people. That's part of why God won't share His glory or praise. He is perfect and holy, and He loves us too much to say sinning is no big deal.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

**CG: Key
Passage**

Pray and dismiss to apply the story

APPLY the Story



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

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Invite volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Praise each kid for his efforts and encourage all kids to memorize the verse if they have not. Then guide the group to read the verse together.

SAY • Our key passage, written by Isaiah, is clear. There is only one God, and He does not allow His glory or praise to be shared with false gods or idols. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.***

Revealing the truth

Provide each kid with a sheet of white cardstock and a white crayon.

Instruct the kids to draw a army stick figures on white paper. Then provide watercolor paint, cups of water, and paintbrushes. Help the kids cover the paper in a thin layer of paint to reveal the message. Set papers aside to dry until parents come to pick up kids.

SAY • In our story today, **God protected Elisha with an invisible army.** Elisha's servant could not see them until God opened his eyes. In a similar way, we need God to help us see our need for Jesus. Jesus is the one who saves us and changes our heart so that we want to worship God. We can pray that God will help us see how much we need Jesus.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

White cardstock, 1 per kid, 1 crayon, 1 per kid, watercolor paint, paint brushes, cups of water per group

1 sheet of paper per kid, 1 activity, Bible Story Coloring page per kid