

Elisha the Prophet

2 Kings 2; 4-5

Why do Christians continue to sin?

Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.
Deuteronomy 13:4

Story Point:

God spoke through the prophet Elisha and gave him power to perform miracles.



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - Cross It Out Activity
- ☐ Starter Activity - Do What I Say



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - Balloon Bonanza
- ☐ Group Activity - Jars of Clay
- ☐ Group Activity - Picture It!

SHEPHERD GUIDE

As Elijah's time on earth was coming to an end, God appointed Elisha as a new prophet to His people. Elisha asked Elijah if he could inherit a double portion of his spirit. To this Elijah replied, "If you see me being taken from you, you will have it." Elisha looked on as Elijah was taken up to heaven, and by God's grace, Elisha received his request.

How did Elisha's ministry point others to the one true God? Through miracles, God displayed His power through Elisha, confirming that he was a prophet. God also revealed his wisdom and truth by speaking through Elisha.

Through the many miracles Elisha performed, we not only see the power of God over His creation, but also His care and provision for people. From making bad water drinkable to healing Naaman—a commander from an enemy army—Elisha's miracles pointed people to recognize the one true God. Only the Lord could raise a dead boy to life and miraculously meet the needs of the widow who was in debt. God's spirit was on Elisha, empowering him to be a light to the people of Israel.

Elijah and Elisha were both special prophets, performing miracles and being messengers of God's truth. But there is One greater than Elisha and Elijah. Jesus not only performed miracles and taught with authority; He is also the true Light of the world who saves people from sin. Help boys and girls understand that when we follow Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be more like Jesus and shine like lights in the world, proclaiming to all that He is the one true God.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God is all-powerful. He can do miracles.
- *BE aware of the Holy Spirit and how He can be working in their lives.
- *SERVE others and show God's love.



As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Who is someone you would like to be like? Why?

Invite kids to complete the "Cross It Out" activity page.

Today, we will learn about another prophet from the Old Testament named Elisha.

WELCOME

Cross It Out

activity page,
pencils,
markers



STARTER

Do What I Say

None

Lead the kids to line up shoulder to shoulder. Tell kids that you are going to whisper an action to the kid at the front of the line, and that kid will act out what you say.

Then that kid will tell the next kid in line the same movement and add a new movement to be done as well.

For example, if you said, "Pat your belly." The kid would pat his belly. Then he would tell the kids next to him, "Pat your belly and then touch your toes."

The next kid would perform the actions and add another to be passed down the line. Continue down the line of kids, adding a new movement with each kid.

SAY: Each motion was passed down the line until the last kid had to perform the greatest number of actions. Today, we will see how the prophet Elisha wanted to receive twice as much of Elijah's spirit. Just as you closely followed the actions of who came before you, Elisha also followed closely in the footsteps of Elijah and wanted to be a prophet like him. Let's hear our story to learn more about the prophet Elisha.



ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1-2 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4th Grade in LG2

Quick Review of the Biblical Timeline and/or Big Picture Question:
(on powerpoint slides)

Why do Christians continue to sin? Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

BIBLE STORY:

Elisha the Prophet

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 2.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Active listening: Invite kids to raise their hands in praise when they hear how Elisha performed a miracle.

Use movement: Act out the story using movement.

Use props: Hold up salt, oil, and water when you mention them in the story

Elijah was a powerful prophet to Israel, but God had a plan for another man to be a prophet after Elijah. That man's name was Elisha. Elijah went on a journey, and Elisha refused to leave his side. When they came to the Jordan River, Elijah rolled up his robe and struck the water. The river parted, and they crossed on dry ground.

Elisha asked Elijah if he could receive twice as much of Elijah's spirit. Elijah replied, "If you see me taken away from you, then you will have it." As they continued walking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire separated the two men, and Elijah was taken up into heaven in the whirlwind.

Elisha picked up the robe Elijah left behind and walked back to the Jordan River. He struck the water, and it parted. Elisha crossed over. Everyone who saw it said that the spirit of Elijah had rested on Elisha. From that moment on, Elisha performed many miracles.

In the city of Jericho, the water was not good to drink or water plants. Elisha asked for a bowl of salt and threw some into the spring. The water was healed!

Another day, a widow cried out to Elisha, saying "My husband has died, and now I don't have enough money to pay the people I owe. I will lose everything if I can't pay them." Elisha told her to borrow lots of empty containers from all her neighbors and pour into them a small jar of oil she had. The oil kept pouring out until all the containers were filled. She could sell the oil and pay back her debts.

When Elisha would pass through the town of Shunem, a woman who lived there would invite him to eat some food and rest. One day, as he was heading toward her town, the woman rushed out to him to tell

him that her only son had died. When Elisha arrived at the house, he prayed and laid down on top of the boy's body. Then Elisha got up and bent over the boy. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes!

On another occasion, a commander of the Aramean army, Naaman, had a skin disease. He heard from a servant girl that there was a prophet in Samaria who could heal him. He sent word to Elisha, who replied with these instructions: "Go wash seven times in the Jordan River and your skin will be clean." Naaman followed these instructions, and his skin was clear of the disease. Naaman said, "I know there's no God in the whole world except in Israel." Elisha performed all these miracles and more as the prophet of God!

CHRIST CONNECTION

Elisha spoke the truth of God and performed miracles. Jesus taught with the authority of God and performed miracles as well. Elisha was a prophet, but Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process – however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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Blank paper, Bible Story coloring page, colored pencils/crayons

In small groups (or as a large group), pass out the coloring page and have children color while you talk through these questions.

Elijah was a faithful prophet to God. He spoke God's words and reminded the people that God is one true God. But Elijah's time on earth was coming to an end. So, God prepared Elisha to follow after Elijah as a prophet.

What did Elisha ask Elijah for? [Allow responses.] Elisha wanted twice as much of Elijah's spirit. Elisha recognized God's power in Elijah, and Elisha wanted to be a great prophet like Elijah. If Elisha saw Elijah taken away, then Elisha would receive his request.

Did Elisha see Elijah taken away? [Allow responses.] Yes, Elisha saw Elijah being taken up to be with God. Then Elisha picked up Elijah's robe, struck the water of the Jordan River, and the water parted. Elijah's spirit was now with Elisha. Elisha performed many miracles as God's prophet.

What were some of the miracles he did? [Allow responses.] Elisha made bad water good, helped a woman multiply her oil supply, raised a dead boy to life, and healed Naaman's skin disease. God spoke through the prophet Elisha and gave him power to perform miracles. Through Elisha, God showed that He cares for people of every nation and wants them to know He is the one true God.

Elisha reminds us of Jesus. Elisha spoke the truth of God and performed miracles. Jesus taught with the authority of God and performed miracles as well. Elisha was a prophet, but Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior.



Reflection and Prayer

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions: Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

That God is all-powerful. One way he shows his power is through miracles. He is in control over all things. God loves us and cares for our needs.

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That God's power can work in and through me when I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior and when I allow the Holy Spirit to work in my life.



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 14, Session 1" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Are there still miracles occurring today? If so, what do they look like?
- The Bible says that the same power used to raise Jesus from the dead lives in Christians. How can God's power help you become more like Jesus?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Key Passage Activity:

Balloon Bonanza

- Key Passage Poster
- Deflated balloon

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Deuteronomy 13:4 together.

SAY: We don't always keep the commands of our key passage because we sin. But through faith in Jesus, we can receive power to obey God's commands. One day, when Jesus returns, Christians will be sinless like Him.

Practice the verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, blow a balloon full with air. When finished, pinch it closed, but don't tie it off.

Tell the children that when you release the balloon, they have to quickly recite the verse before the balloon hits the ground.

Next, let the balloon go. As it flutters around, the children must race to complete the verse.

To make it more challenging, create hand motions to the verse and require the children to do the motions too. If they need more time, give them a head start before releasing the balloon.

Pray together:

Dear God, we praise You as the one true God. Even though we sin and disobey, thank You for making the way for our sin to be forgiven. Help us trust Jesus and follow Him. Amen.



Jars of Clay

- Air-dried clay

Provide each kid with a ping pong ball-sized lump of air-dry clay.

Guide kids to gently roll it into a ball. Next, tell kids to stick their thumb into the center of the ball of clay, pushing a little more than halfway down. Then, with kids' thumb still in the clay, direct them to use their other fingers to push the clay into their thumb, pinching it.

Kids will rotate the ball of clay until they've pinched all sides. Repeat, pinching the sides while also gently pulling the sides upward to create height. Continue until the desired jar shape is created.

Allow kids to take their jars home to dry. Kids can paint their jars when fully dry. Kids can use their jars to store items.

Then read 2 Corinthians 4:7. "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

SAY: God used Elisha to show His great power, including a miracle that allowed a widow to multiply her oil from a small clay jar. The Bible tells us that we are like clay jars, and when we trust in Jesus, God can use us to show others His power. Christians desire to use their lives for God's glory.



Picture It!

- Guessing cards
- Dry-erase markers

Form kids into two teams and play a draw-and-guess game.

Choose different items from the story for kids to draw such as a tornado, bowl of salt, Jordan River, jar of oil, robe, etc.

Invite a kid from one team to pull a guessing card with one of the items on it for them to draw on the dry erase board.

Allow 30 seconds for kids on her team to guess. If they guess correctly, award a point. If not, allow the other team a chance to guess and receive a point.

Play as time allows. The team with the most points wins.

SAY: Today, we learned that God spoke through the prophet Elisha and gave him power to perform miracles. We also saw that Elisha reminds us of Jesus. Jesus taught with the authority of God and performed miracles as well. Elisha was a prophet, but Jesus is the Son of God. The greatest miracle any of us can experience is the forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus.