

UNIT 14 | SESSION 1

ELISHA THE PROPHET

2 KINGS 2; 4-5



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died and came back to life so we can have life with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Follow the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 13:4

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Elijah was a man who loved God, and Elisha was his helper.
- After Elijah died, God was with Elisha and helped him do many miracles.
- God helped Elisha make water good to drink, fill jars with oil, make a boy alive again, and heal a man with a skin disease.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Elijah was a man who loved God, and Elisha was his helper. One day, they came to a river. Elijah hit the water with his robe, and the water parted. While they were walking on dry ground, a chariot of fire came, and Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind. Then Elisha took Elijah's robe, hit the water with it, and the water parted again! Everyone saw this and knew God was with Elisha. Elisha did many miracles after that. God helped Elisha use salt to make water good to drink, fill jars of oil for a woman who had no money, and pray for a woman's son to come back to life! Elisha even told a man named Naaman with a skin disease to wash in a river seven times. When he did, his skin was healed!



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 2 Kings 2. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

“Follow the LORD your God,
LORD your God, LORD your God.
Follow the LORD your God,
He loves and cares for you.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says ‘Follow the LORD your God.’ When we follow Jesus, we learn how much He loves and cares for us. ”

2 FEEL THE ROBE IN THE WATER

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Provide a painting smock for each baby. Fill a shallow bin with water. Place small pieces of fabric in the water. Help the babies feel and play with the pieces of fabric. Read the gospel gems as the babies play.

SAY “ Who helped Elijah do miracles? Yes, God! For one of the miracles, God helped Elijah make water good to drink. Jesus came and did miracles too! Jesus died and came back to life so we can live with Him forever. ”

3 RIDE THE CHARIOT

Provide small toy pull-along wagons or boxes with strings attached. Gather people figures for the toddlers to place in the wagons, like a person would enter a chariot, and move them between the leaders and babies. For more mobile babies, allow babies to crawl and pull the wagons around the room. Encourage babies to take the people in and out of the wagons as you read the first gospel gem. Monitor safety to make sure toys are moving slowly as babies are pulling toys.

SAY “ We had so much fun putting Elijah in the chariot! Elijah was a man who loved God, and Elisha was his helper. After Elijah died, God was with Elisha and helped him do many miracles. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 2. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 RIDE THE CHARIOT

Provide a large cardboard box. If desired, look up images of Bible-times chariots for toddlers to see. Gather crayons or markers and allow toddlers to decorate the "chariot." Allow toddlers to take turns sitting in the chariot as you retell the Bible story.

SAY "In our Bible story, the chariot was made of what? Yes, fire! A chariot of fire came, and a whirlwind took Elijah up to heaven. When Elisha took Elijah's robe, he could perform the same miracle as Elijah! After Elijah died, God was with Elisha and helped him do miracles."

3 FILL THE JARS

Lay out towels. Place bins filled with a small amount of water in them. Provide different-size cups and jars for toddlers to fill up and pour out. Say commands like, "Fill up!" and "Pour out!" as toddlers play. Allow toddlers to listen and obey your commands. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY "Who helped Elisha do miracles? Yes, God helped Elisha! The woman in our story was able to fill up jars and sell the oil to pay her bills. God helped Elisha do many miracles because he loved God. Jesus did miracles too! He died and came back to life so we can live with Him forever."

4 DIP AND STICK THE STORY

Fill a shallow bin with water. Provide foam sheet cutouts in shapes of images from the Bible story (a heart, a water droplet, a robe, a jar, the number seven, and so forth). Demonstrate how to dip the shapes in the water and stick them to a slick surface (a window, cabinet door, and so forth). Read the story, and place the cutouts during the appropriate times in the story.

SAY "Great job dipping and sticking the story! When Elijah hit the water with his robe, the water parted for him and Elisha to walk through. God helped Elijah do miracles. Did Elijah love God? Yes! Elijah loved God, and Elisha did too! God helped Elisha do miracles!"

5 MAKE A WATER CRAFT

Provide blue tissue paper strips and the Bible Story Picture Poster for each toddler. Instruct toddlers to glue the strips to the tops of their pictures to make the picture 3-dimensional. Retell the story. Allow toddlers to "part" their water as you tell the Bible story.

SAY "Elijah loved God, and Elisha was his helper. One day, Elijah hit some water with his robe, and what happened? Yes, God parted the water! God helped Elisha do many miracles."

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PART THE PEPPER



Fill clear bowls with water for the toddlers to see. Sprinkle pepper in the top of the water, and instruct toddlers to part the pepper. Allow all toddlers to try. Then dip your finger in a small amount of liquid dish soap and then watch the pepper part. Repeat as interest allows. Provide paper towels for easy cleanup. Review the Bible story as the toddlers explore. Monitor safety, making sure no toddler puts anything in his mouth or near his eyes.

SAY “ Miracles are things that only God can do. God parted the waters, and He made the water good to drink! God helped Elisha perform many miracles. ”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

“Follow the LORD your God,
LORD your God, LORD your God.
Follow the LORD your God,
He loves and cares for you.”

SAY “ Who are we to follow? Yes, the Lord! Who is the Lord? Yes, the Lord is God! Our key passage phrase says, ‘Follow the LORD your God.’ ”

3 WASH IN THE RIVER

Draw a simple person on a piece of paper and slide it in a sheet protector. Draw dots on the person with a dry erase marker. Give the toddlers the picture and a tissue and encourage them to wipe off the dots with the tissue. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ The man in our Bible story had a skin problem. When he washed in the water seven times, his skin was healed! Who helped Elisha do miracles? Yes, God helped Elisha do many miracles! ”

4 STACK THE JARS

Provide clear, plastic jars and encourage toddlers to stack them, line them up, and count them. Read the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ You stacked and counted all the jars! God helped Elisha fill up all of the woman’s jars with oil. God helped Elisha do many miracles. Elisha loved God, and God was with him. Jesus came and did miracles too! He died and came back to life so we can live with Him forever. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.