

# ELISHA THE PROPHET

2 KINGS 2; 4-5



**KEY PASSAGE:** Deuteronomy 13:4

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** 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.

**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.

**STORY POINT:** God spoke through the prophet Elisha and gave him power to perform miracles.



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

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 Namaan—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.



## PREPARE

### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



## WELCOME

### 10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



## LEARN

### 25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



## LOVE

### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



## LIVE

### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- ☐ “Decode It” activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ clear jars, 1 per group
- ☐ oil
- ☐ salt canister
- ☐ water
- ☐ food color vials, 1 per group

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ robes or over-sized button-down shirts, 3



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ air-dry clay

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ dry erase board
- ☐ dry erase marker and eraser

#### Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Miracle Marvels” activity page



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “Elisha the Prophet” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ salt, oil, and water (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 14, Session 1” Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- ☐ “Missions in Iran” missions video

#### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 13:4)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ dry erase board and marker



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “What is a talent someone has that impresses you? Do you know someone who can sing or draw really well? Maybe you know someone who is really good at basketball.”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Decode It” activity page.

**SAY** “Today, we will learn about another prophet God raised up to speak to His people. The prophet’s name was Elisha.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: SALT, OIL, AND WATER



Form kids into groups of three or four. Lead kids to pour  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of water into their glass jar. Then direct kids to pour  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of oil into their glass jar. Add 10 drops of food color throughout the oil. Then guide groups to slowly add salt to the oil spots that contain food color, observing how the salt will pull the food color and oil into the water. Allow kids to continue adding salt. Then direct groups to clean up by pouring the contents of the jar into a sink. Lead kids to clean up any mess with a paper towel.

**SAY** “In our Bible story, we will see each of these substances: salt, oil, and water. We’ll learn how the prophet Elisha performed miracles and how these substances were a part of different miracles. **GOD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHET ELISHA AND GAVE HIM POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.**”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: ROBE RELAY



Form kids into three teams. Move half of the kids from each team to one end of the room. Give each team at the other end of the room a robe or an over-sized button-down shirt. Challenge teams to compete in a relay where one kid from each team will put on the robe, run to their teammate at the other end of the room, take off the robe, and hand it to their teammate to put on. Teams will relay back and forth until one team is the first to have all the kids wear the robe.

**SAY** “Today, we will see how the prophet Elijah’s time on earth was coming to an end. God had called Elisha to serve as a prophet after Elijah. Elisha looked up to Elijah and wanted to be a prophet like him, serving God powerfully like Elijah had done. We’ll learn how Elijah left his robe, and when Elisha took it up, the spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha. Let’s learn how **GOD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHET ELISHA AND GAVE HIM POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.**”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**







## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m glad you’re here to learn more about our great God. The stories we read from the Bible are true and help us learn about God. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will be in the book of 2 Kings. [Assist kids in finding 2 Kings.]

God had many prophets in the Old Testament. A prophet was someone who spoke God’s words to the people. One of the prophets we’ve learned about was Elijah. He was the prophet who confronted the false prophets of Baal. Today, we’ll learn that Elijah’s time on earth was coming to an end, and God called a new prophet named Elisha. **GOD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHET ELISHA AND GAVE HIM POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray and ask God to help us receive His truth: ‘Dear God, thank You for Your faithfulness to Your people. Please help us have hearts that trust in You and Your Son, Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “We have a new big picture question to learn: **Why do Christians continue to sin?** What do you think the answer is? [Allow responses.] The answer we’ll learn is, **Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.** Let’s say that together one more time: **Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.**

Every person will struggle with sin, even Christians. Yet, Christians will not be punished for their sin because they have trusted in Jesus, who was punished in their place. Because Christians have been given a new heart, we want to turn away from sin and not follow our sinful desires. God sent the prophets, like Elisha, to His people so they also could turn away from sin. The prophets told the people to repent and trust God. Today, we’ll see how Elisha spoke God’s words and helped others know the one true God. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “After the kingdom was divided, evil kings ruled in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. We’ve learned how Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, and Ahab led the people to worship idols. But God was faithful to His people, and He sent prophets to tell them to turn away from their sin. One of those prophets was Elijah. Through Elijah’s prayer, God showed the people that He is the one true God by sending down fire from heaven. Today, we will learn about another prophet, Elisha, whom God called to speak His words and perform miracles. ”



## LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 2:1-22; 4:1-37; 5:1-15. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Elisha the Prophet.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### ELISHA THE PROPHET

“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** (ih LIGH shuh). 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, Namaan, 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.” Namaan followed these instructions, and his skin was clear of the disease.** Namaan said, “I know there’s no God in the whole world except in Israel.”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Active listening:** Invite kids to hold up seven fingers when they hear the number “seven” said in the story.

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



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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. ”

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ After Elijah prayed to God at Mount Carmel, and God proved He is the one true God, Elijah ran away because Jezebel wanted to kill him. During this time, God sent Elijah to find the prophet who would eventually take his place. God sent Elijah to Elisha, and Elisha began serving under Elijah (1 Kings 19). In our story, we learned that it was time for Elijah to go be with God. What did Elisha want before Elijah left? Look at 2 Kings 2:9-10. **[Ask a volunteer to read 2 Kings 2:9-10 aloud.]** Elisha wanted a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. Elisha wanted to be a great prophet like Elijah. Elijah said Elisha would receive this request if he saw Elijah taken from him.

Did Elisha see Elijah taken away? Look at 2 Kings 2:12. **[Ask a volunteer to read 2 Kings 2:12 aloud.]** Yes, Elisha watched as Elijah was taken up to be with God. Then Elisha picked up Elijah’s robe, struck the water of the Jordan River, and the water parted. Those who witnessed this act recognized that Elijah’s spirit now rested on Elisha.

Elisha performed many miracles as God’s prophet. What were some of the miracles he performed? **[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. Naaman wasn’t even an Israelite but was an Aramean. **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. What did Naaman say after he was healed? Look at 2 Kings 5:15. **[Ask a volunteer to read 2 Kings 5:15 aloud.]** Naaman said that he knew there’s no God in the whole world except the God of Israel.

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. ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ Elisha was given power from God to perform miracles, but Elisha had no power to save people from their sin. Only God can do this! The greatest miracle ever is the miracle of salvation through faith in Jesus. Jesus died on the cross and was raised to life three days later, paying the penalty for our sin and giving us eternal life when we trust in Him. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 14, Session 1” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Are there still miracles occurring today? If so, what do they look like?
2. 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?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “ Dr. George and Joan [Jo-ann] Braswell served as missionaries in Iran from 1968 to 1974. Iran is a country in the Middle East. The main religion in Iran is Islam. George and Joan wanted the people of Iran to know the one true God and His Son, Jesus. Through his position as a professor, Dr. Braswell was able to tell his students about Jesus. ”

Play the missions video. Mention that Dr. Braswell said he first had an interest in teaching people from a different country and religion about Jesus while he was in college. Joan said she enjoyed meeting and getting to know people of different cultures while she spent a summer in Europe. Later, George and Joan strongly felt God calling them to be missionaries when they took a group of high school students to a conference about missions. Dr. Braswell had many opportunities to tell the students he taught about the one true God who sent His Son, Jesus, to save people from their sins. Pray more missionaries will go to Iran to tell others about Jesus.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write the key passage on a dry erase board, making sure to start each new line with one of the “you must” statements. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Deuteronomy 13:4 together.

**SAY** “ Our key passage contains commands Moses gave the Israelites after they left Egypt. Moses wanted God’s people to remember to worship Him alone. ”

Invite kids one at a time to circle what the verse says they must do (there are six in this verse). Then lead kids to read the verse aloud together. Next, erase one of the “must do’s” and invite kids to say the key passage. Repeat, until all six “must do’s” are erased.

Lead kids to sing “Faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 13:4).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “ Dear God, thank You for Your faithfulness and for Your Word. Help us follow You and worship You alone. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**







THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

## LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 5. Tell kids that the name Elisha means God saves. Discuss how every miracle Elisha performed demonstrated that he was a prophet of the one true God, the only God who can save people from sin.

Consider pointing out the location of the Jordan River (F6), where Naaman washed seven times, on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 5:13 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

**SAY** “Naaman was a leper, a disease that was incurable in those days. When he first heard the instructions given by Elisha, to wash seven times in the Jordan River, he didn’t want to do it. Naaman thought Elisha could just wave his hand, and Naaman would be healed. But Naaman’s servant encouraged him to ‘wash and be clean.’ Naaman didn’t need to do any great act; he simply needed to believe and obey the words that came from God’s prophet.

We don’t have to perform any great act to be saved from our sin. God will wash us and make us clean when we trust in His Son, Jesus. We have no power to take away our sin. Instead, we trust in Jesus who alone can take away our sin.”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “How did Elisha’s miracles show that God is the one true God?”

Discuss how Elisha had no power on his own. God called Elisha to be a prophet, and He gave Elisha power to perform miracles. Each miracle showed that God has power over life and death and that He cares for people. Jesus’ miracles also showed He has power over life and death and cares for people. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Deut. 32:39.)

**SAY** “How did these miracles show that God cares for people?”

Remind kids that each miracle performed by Elisha was done to help people. Elisha made the bad water good so the people of Jericho could drink. He helped the woman pay off her debts by multiplying the oil. He raised a boy to life. He healed diseases. God’s words and power were displayed through Elisha, showing God cares for people. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 46:4.)

**SAY** “How does Elisha point us to Jesus?”

Tell kids that Elisha’s ministry was like a shadow of what Jesus would come to do. Like Elisha, Jesus performed miracles. Jesus is the perfect Prophet because He is the Word of God and shows us what God is like. Jesus showed His love for people by laying down His life to save them from sin. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 1:1-3.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### ☐ OPTION 1: JARS OF CLAY

Provide each kid with a baseball-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.

**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.”

##### ☐ OPTION 2: PICTURE IT



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 begin and assign her an item to draw on a 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.”

#### 2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His power to save us from our sin. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Miracle Marvels” on the activity page.