

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 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.



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

- ☐ "Cross It Out" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ food color
- ☐ cup of water, 1 per group
- ☐ baby oil in a cup, 1 per group
- ☐ pipette, 1 per group



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ loaf of bread
- ☐ pitcher of water
- ☐ plastic cups, 1 per kid

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring 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

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)



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** “Who is someone you would like to be like? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Cross It Out” activity page.

| **SAY** “Today, we will learn about another prophet from the Old Testament named Elisha.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: OIL AND WATER

Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with the supplies. Invite a kid from each group to add a few drops of the food color to their cup of water. Consider allowing each group to have a different food color so groups can add different colors to the baby oil. Invite kids to use the pipette to take turns gently adding a drop at a time of the colorful water into the cup of baby oil. Observe as the water droplets fall through the oil to the bottom of the cup. Allow kids to use the colorful water of other groups to add more droplets to the oil. Dispose of the liquids in a sink. Throw everything else in the trash.

SAY “Oil and water may not seem that special, but long ago they were valuable supplies. Today, we will see how the prophet Elisha performed miracles to make water usable and how he produced more oil. **GOD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHET ELISHA AND GAVE HIM POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.**”

☐ OPTION 2: DO WHAT I SAY



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.”

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. If you have a Bible with you, will you hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will be in the book of 2 Kings. [Assist kids in finding 2 Kings.]

We’ve learned about some of the prophets in the Old Testament. A prophet was someone who spoke God’s words to the people. Last week, we learned how the prophet Micaiah spoke to King Ahab and warned him what would happen if he fought against Aram. We’ve also learned how the prophet Elijah confronted the 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 this together and break the answer into four parts: **Christians continue to sin** [Invite kids to repeat] **because we still have a sin nature** [Invite kids to repeat], **but when Jesus returns** [Invite kids to repeat], **He will make us sinless like Him** [Invite kids to repeat]. ”

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 sent them 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, 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.”

STORYTELLING 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.



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 “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. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “Elisha performed many miracles through God’s power. But Elisha was just a man. He couldn’t save people from sin. 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.)

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?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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)

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. ”

Divide the key passage into three parts. Form kids into three groups and assign each group a part of the key passage to create motions for. Then invite each group to share the motions, inviting the other groups to join in.

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, 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. ”

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 2 Kings is part of the History division of the Old Testament.

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 5:15 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “After Naaman obeyed Elisha’s orders to go wash in the Jordan River seven times, he was healed. Naaman believed that the God of Israel is the one true God. Only God has the power to heal and give new life. Only God can wash away our sin, like He washed away Naaman’s sickness. When we trust in Jesus, He washes away our sin forever.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Elisha didn’t have power apart from God. How can God’s power live in us?”

Tell kids that it was God’s power that allowed Elisha to perform miracles. Share how we can have God’s power in our lives too through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Tell kids that the Holy Spirit gives believers power to turn away from sin and obey God. Explain that the Holy Spirit has power to transform Christians to be more like Jesus. Remind kids that one day followers of Jesus will be sinless like Him.

SAY “Elisha wanted to be like Elijah. Why do Christians want to be like Jesus?”

Remind kids that when God first created people, He created them in His image. This means that we were created to be like Him and live in ways that show what He is like. Discuss how sin has broken that image, and we don’t always live in ways that show us what God is like. But when Jesus, the image of the invisible God, came to earth, He made the way for sinners to be made right with God and be able to rightly show what God is like. Jesus’ life shows us how we were created to be and how He gives us new life so we can be like Him.

SAY “Elijah didn’t die but was taken up to heaven. What happens to Christians when they die?”

Explain that some people in the Bible, like Elijah and Enoch, didn’t experience death. God simply brought them to be with Him. However, this is not the case for most people. We face physical death because of sin. The good news is that those who have trusted in Jesus as their Savior and Lord will be with God after they die. The Bible tells us that we go to be with God in heaven. We don’t have to fear death because Jesus defeated death and made the way for us to live with God forever.

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: MORE THAN ENOUGH



Form kids into a circle and hold up a large loaf of bread, such as a French bread or sourdough bread. Pinch off a piece of the bread and pass the bread to the kid on your right. Instruct her to pinch off a piece of the bread as well. Continue passing around the bread until everyone has pinched off a piece. Then hold up the remaining bread. Repeat, but instead of using bread, provide each kid with a plastic cup and pour water from a pitcher into each kid's cup.

SAY “ In our story, we learned that Elisha performed a miracle to multiply the woman's oil so she had enough to pay off her debts. When we passed around the water and the bread, there was more than enough for everyone. This reminds me of how Jesus has provided for us beyond what we need. Jesus died on the cross for our sin, paying our debt. The Bible says believers have been saved by grace through faith because when they trust in Jesus, they receive what they did not deserve. Jesus gave Himself so we could have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. ”

☐ OPTION 2: POWERFUL WORDS



Form kids into five groups and provide each group with a Bible. Then assign each group one of the following Bible references: John 1:1-3; John 11:43-44; Mark 4:39; Matthew 9:2; Matthew 8:13. Write the following phrases on a dry erase board: Forgive Sins, Calm Storms, Raise the Dead, Create the World, Heal the Sick. Assist kids in finding their Bible reference. Then challenge kids to read the verse or find key words to match their verse with one of the phrases. Invite groups to share which phrase matches their Bible passage.

SAY “ Today, we learned that **GOD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHET ELISHA AND GAVE HIM POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.** God's words hold power. When God said, 'Let there be light,' there was light. Jesus is God in the flesh. When Jesus was on earth, He showed that His words were the very words of God. His words hold power. Jesus calmed a storm, healed the sick, raised the dead to life, and forgave sin. The Bible, God's Word, is used by God to help transform us to be more like Jesus. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

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

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

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.