

ELISHA THE PROPHET

2 KINGS 2; 4-5



CHRIST CONNECTION: Elisha was a man of God who did miracles. Jesus came and performed miracles. Jesus died and came back to life to save sinners so we can have God's Spirit and life with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do Christians continue to sin? Because we still have hearts that want to sin.

KEY PASSAGE: You must follow the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 13:4

STORY POINT: God gave Elisha the power to perform miracles.



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 preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Guess the object

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ large paper bag
- ☐ small jar



LEARN

Apply a bandage

- ☐ latex-free self-adhesive bandages, 1 per child

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "Elisha the Prophet" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LIVE

Paint with watercolors

- ☐ watercolor paints
- ☐ paintbrushes
- ☐ cups of water
- ☐ smocks
- ☐ "Key Passage Phrase Labels" printable, 1 copy

Missions activity

- ☐ "Missions in Iran" missions video

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Circle Full Jars" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Find the letter E

- ☐ sticky notes

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Write in salt

- ☐ shallow tray
- ☐ salt
- ☐ craft sticks
- ☐ small broom and dustpan

Make a collage

- ☐ colored construction paper
- ☐ strips of gauze
- ☐ latex-free adhesive bandages
- ☐ tongue depressors
- ☐ cotton swabs

LOVE

Fill containers and pour water

- ☐ shallow tray or pan
- ☐ containers of varying sizes
- ☐ towel
- ☐ smocks
- ☐ water

Play with a medical kit

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ toy medical kit
- ☐ strips of gauze bandages
- ☐ latex-free adhesive bandages



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

GUESS THE OBJECT

Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the classroom. Tape the Bible Story Picture Poster to the outside of a large paper bag. Place a small jar in the bag. Greet preschoolers as they come to the classroom and point out the Big Picture Question Poster. Encourage children to feel what is inside the bag and guess what it is. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you talk about what is inside.

SAY “ I am so glad you are at church today. There is something in this bag that reminds me of our story. Feel what is inside. Can you guess what it is? It is a jar. In the Bible story we will hear today, Elisha told a woman who had no money to borrow jars and pour oil into them. The oil kept coming until all the jars were full. She sold the oil and had money to pay her bills. Elisha was a man of God who did many miracles. **GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.** ”

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





LEARN the Bible Story

1 APPLY A BANDAGE

Invite preschoolers to join you in group time. Give each child an adhesive bandage. Assist preschoolers as needed with applying the bandages.

SAY “We wear bandages when we are hurt or have a sore. A man named Naaman had a skin problem. Elisha performed a miracle, and Naaman was healed. **GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.**”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 2; 4–5. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

ELISHA THE PROPHET

SAY “Elijah was a man who loved God, and Elisha was his helper. One day, God was going to take Elijah to heaven. Elijah and Elisha came to a river. Elijah hit the water with his robe, and the water moved apart so they could walk on dry ground.

Elisha asked if he could have Elijah’s spirit to help him. Elijah said, “If you see me go to heaven, you will have it.” While they were walking, a chariot of fire came, and Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha picked up Elijah’s robe and went back to the river. He hit the water with the robe, and the water moved apart! Everyone saw this and knew God was with Elisha. Elisha did many miracles after that.

In one town, the water was making people sick. Elisha put salt in the water, and God made it good to drink!

Another time, a woman had no money and was scared. Elisha told her to borrow jars and pour oil into them. The oil kept coming until all the jars were full. She sold the oil and paid her bills.

Then, a woman’s son died, and she was very sad. Elisha prayed, and the boy came back to life!

Another man named Naaman had a skin problem. Elisha told him to wash in a river seven times. When he did, his skin was healed!”

Christ Connection: Elisha was a man of God who did miracles. Jesus came and performed miracles. Jesus died and came back to life to save sinners so we can have God’s Spirit and life with God forever.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Invite preschoolers to help you list some of the many miracles Elisha performed. Hold up a finger for every miracle you list.

SAY “**GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.** He made water safe to drink by putting salt in it. He prayed, and a boy came back to life. He healed Naaman’s skin problem by having him wash in a river seven times. Elisha was a man of God who did miracles. Jesus came and performed miracles. Jesus died and came back to life to save sinners so we can have God’s Spirit and life with God forever.”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

You must follow the LORD your God.

You must follow the LORD your God.

You must follow the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 13:4

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Deuteronomy 13:4. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to do the following motions when saying the key passage phrase: You (point to another person) must follow the LORD (point one finger up to the sky) your God (point a finger on the opposite hand up to the sky so that two fingers are pointing up). Deuteronomy 13:4. Say the key passage phrase together several times.

SAY “Elisha was a man of God who did miracles. He faithfully obeyed God. We can listen and follow God too.”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for giving Elisha the power to do miracles and help His people.

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





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 TOSS A BEANBAG



Write E for Elisha on two pieces of construction paper. Write J for Jesus on two other pieces of construction paper. Arrange the papers on the floor. Invite preschoolers to take turns tossing a beanbag toward the papers. Encourage older preschoolers to stand farther back when tossing the beanbag. When a beanbag lands on one of the E papers say, “God gave Elisha the power to perform miracles.” When the beanbag lands on one of the J papers say, “Jesus came and performed miracles. Jesus died and came back to life to save sinners so we can have God’s Spirit and life with God forever.”

SAY “Elisha was a man who loved God. **GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.** He made bad water good and helped a woman fill jars with oil. Elisha prayed for a boy who had died, and the boy came back to life. Jesus came and performed even greater miracles than these. Jesus died and came back to life to save sinners so we can have God’s Spirit and life with God forever.”

2 FILL CONTAINERS AND POUR WATER

Place a shallow tray or pan on the table. Position several containers of varying sizes on the tray. Fill half of the containers with water. Leave the other containers empty so that preschoolers can pour water from one container to another. Assist preschoolers with placing a smock over their clothing. Demonstrate how to carefully pour the water into the containers. Encourage preschoolers to wipe up any spills with a towel.

SAY “You were able to pour water into some of the containers and fill them up. Elisha helped a woman fill containers with oil. **GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.** One miracle he performed helped a lady who was scared. She had no money. Elisha told her to borrow jars and pour oil into them. The oil kept coming until all the jars were full. She sold the oil and paid her bills.”

3 PLAY WITH A MEDICAL KIT

Place a medical kit, bandages, baby dolls, and Bible Story Picture Poster out for preschoolers to explore. Demonstrate how to wrap the bandages around the dolls’ arms and legs and how to use the medical tools to care for them. Call attention to the Bible Story Picture Poster as you talk about Naaman.

SAY “When we are sick or hurt, we can go to the doctor. A man named Naaman had a skin problem. He went to see Elisha. Elisha was a man of God who did miracles. Elisha told him to wash in a river seven times. When Naaman did, his skin was healed. **GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.**”

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT WITH WATERCOLORS

Place watercolors, paintbrushes, paper, and cups of water on the table. Assist preschoolers with placing a smock over their clothing. Invite preschoolers to paint with the watercolor paints. Demonstrate how to dip the paintbrush in the water before dipping it in the paint. Print the “Key Passage Phrase Label” printable and encourage preschoolers to place a label on their completed work.

SAY “ I like the painting you made with water and watercolors. Some of the miracles Elisha performed involved water. He made the river move so that he could walk on dry land, he made bad water good to drink, and he told Naaman to wash in a river of water. Our key passage phrase reminds us to follow God. Elisha was a man who followed God. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Point to the country of Iran on a world map. Show the “Missions in Iran” missions video. Pray, thanking God for people like Dr. George and Joan Braswell who tell people about Jesus.

SAY “ Missionaries are people who tell others the good news about Jesus. Dr. George and Joan (joh-AN) Braswell were missionaries in the country of Iran about 50 years ago. Dr. Braswell taught at a university. As a professor, he built friendships with students and their religious leaders. Because Dr. Braswell was kind to the Iranian people, they trusted him. This gave him opportunities to tell people about the one true God who sent His Son, Jesus. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ Elisha was a man of God who did miracles. Jesus came and performed miracles. Jesus died and came back to life to save sinners so we can have God’s Spirit and life with God forever. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 FIND THE LETTER E

Write a capital E on individual sticky notes. Post the notes around the classroom. Make at least one note per child in the class. Invite preschoolers to find a sticky note and bring it to group time. Tell children that Elijah and Elisha's names both begin with the letter E.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 2 Kings 2; 4–5. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

ELISHA THE PROPHET

- Elijah was a man of God, and Elisha was his helper. After a whirlwind took Elijah to heaven, Elisha received Elijah's spirit to help him.
- Elisha did miracles, like making bad water good and helping a woman fill jars with oil.
- Elisha prayed for a boy who died, and the boy came back to life.
- Elisha also helped a man named Naaman by telling him to wash in a river to heal his skin.
- Jesus is the Son of God who died and came back to life to save sinners. Jesus gives Christians the Holy Spirit and life with God forever.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow":

You must follow the LORD your God.
You must follow the LORD your God.
You must follow the LORD your God.
Deuteronomy 13:4

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Deuteronomy 13:4. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to say the key passage phrase with you several times, alternating the pitch of your voice each time. Say it with a very high, squeaky voice. Then say it with a deep, low voice. Tell preschoolers that Elisha was a man who followed the Lord, his God.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that Jesus came and performed miracles that were even greater than Elisha's. Thank Jesus for giving Christians the Holy Spirit and life with God forever.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 COUNT GROUPS OF SEVEN



Invite preschoolers to help you collect classroom materials into groups of seven. Send children on a scavenger hunt in the classroom to gather materials. Suggest they bring you seven blocks, seven crayons, seven markers, seven pieces of paper, or seven of any other items in the classroom that they can find. Meet back together at the table and count the items to make sure you have seven of each.

SAY “Elisha was a man of God who did miracles. There was a man named Naaman who had a skin problem. Elisha told him to wash in a river seven times. When Naaman did, his skin was healed. **GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.**”

7 WRITE IN SALT

Pour a thin layer of salt onto a shallow tray. Demonstrate how to use your finger to draw shapes or make designs in the salt. Offer a craft stick to preschoolers who are unsure about touching the salt. Older preschoolers may enjoy writing the letters in their names. Demonstrate how to gently shake the tray to “erase” what was written. Encourage preschoolers to use the broom and dustpan to sweep up spills.

SAY “I like the designs you made in the salt. Elisha used salt in one of his miracles. In one town, the water was making people sick. Elisha put salt in the water, and God made it good to drink. **GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.**”

8 MAKE A COLLAGE

Place colored construction paper, strips of gauze, latex-free adhesive bandages, tongue depressors, cotton swabs, and glue on the table. Invite preschoolers to create a collage with the medical items. Talk about what each item is used for as preschoolers work.

SAY “You used several medical items to create your artwork. Doctors and nurses use these items when someone is hurt or sick. Naaman had a skin problem. He came to see Elisha. Elisha told him to wash in a river seven times. When Naaman did, his skin was healed. **GOD GAVE ELISHA THE POWER TO PERFORM MIRACLES.**”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.