

LESSON 64

Elijah Is Taken Up to Heaven

2 KINGS 2:1-15



BIBLE TRUTH

ELISHA TAKES ELIJAH'S PLACE AS GOD'S PROPHET TO CARRY ON THE WORK

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN
2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN
SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 64)
3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN
Where Is Jesus?
SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare
4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN
SUPPLIES: Snack food/water
5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN
6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN
Coloring Page 64
SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Faithful to the End

Double Portion
SUPPLIES: animal crackers
7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson, the children will learn that Elijah didn't die at the end of his ministry but was carried away to be with the Lord in heaven.

Ask the children if they can think of ways to fly (e.g., hang glider, airplane, helicopter, hot air balloon, blimp, rocket ship). Make up simple motions for each flying object on the list. Then randomly call out an object and have the children perform the motion.

Then tell them you are going to call out more objects. If what you call out can fly, they should do a motion for it. If it doesn't fly they should say, "That doesn't fly." Here is a list you can use:

- Airplane
- Wheelchair
- Blackbird
- Helicopter
- Automobile
- Hot air balloon
- Bicycle
- Roller skate
- Bumble bee
- Rocket
- Chariot

When they say that a chariot can't fly, you should disagree and say that there is a Bible story that proves chariots can fly.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY**10 MIN**

Read Story 64, "Elijah Is Taken Up to Heaven," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION**5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened to Elijah in this story?**
(God took Elijah up to heaven in a chariot.)
- **Who was with Elijah?**
(Elisha, his disciple or follower, was with him.)
- **What did Elisha ask Elijah for?**
(He asked for a “double portion” of his spirit. This term comes from the firstborn son inheriting a double portion of his father’s wealth. Elisha was really asking if he could take over Elijah’s ministry after he went to heaven. Only God could decide that.)
- **Did Elisha receive what he asked for?**
(Yes, he was able to divide the waters when he threw down Elijah’s cloak just as Elijah did moments earlier [see 2 Kings 2:13–15].)

SNACK QUESTIONS

10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **What do you think this story teaches us about God’s power?**
(God is all-powerful. He created a chariot and horses of fire to come down from heaven to pick up a man.)
- **Did Elijah die?**
(No, God took him to heaven alive.)

Ask children if they know the other person God took to heaven before death. (See Genesis 5:24, where God takes Enoch.)

- **Who is in charge of death?**
(God is in charge of death; death has no power over God.)

Remind the children that Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb four days after he died (John 11:1–44).

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Luke 9:28–31

Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot on a whirlwind. That is not the last time we see him. He appears again in the New Testament with Jesus and Moses at Christ's transfiguration. One day, like Elijah, we will all be with the Lord.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. **20–30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 64—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What is happening in the picture?
(Elijah is flying away in a chariot.)
- Who was left behind and what is he holding?
(Elisha was left behind, and he is holding Elijah's cloak.)
- How do you think Elisha felt to see his master leave?
(Accept any reasonable answer.)

Faithful to the End

Elisha followed Elijah to the very end. Three times Elijah asked him to stay behind, but he would not. You could act out this portion of the story with the

children. Rehearse Elisha's response with the children till they have it memorized. Then tell the children to pretend that they are Elisha and you are Elijah. Have all the children follow you as you walk around the room. One by one speak out the "stay here" lines and then cue them to respond with their own memorized line.

- Elijah's orders: "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." (2 Kings 2:2)
Elisha's response: "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."
- Elijah's orders: "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." (2 Kings 2:4)
Elisha's response: "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."
- Elijah's orders: "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." (2 Kings 2:6)
Elisha's response: "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."

Double Portion

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ animal crackers

Select one child and offer him/her a cracker. Then ask if you should give him/her a double portion. If the children are not sure how much that is, help them figure out that one doubled is two. If they say yes, give the child another cracker. Then ask if you should give another double portion. This time give the child two more. Ask one more time so that this child has eight crackers altogether. Then say that because the children were so excited and generous for that child to have that many, you will give them all eight crackers.

Point out God's pleasure with Elisha asking for more, not because of the blessing it would be for him but because of his desire to know God. Just like these children were asking for more not for themselves but for someone else.

PRAY

5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 64 - ELIJAH IS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN

