

LESSON 65

Elisha's Ministry

2 KINGS 2:13-22; 4:1-7; 6:1-7



BIBLE TRUTH

ELISHA'S LIFE AND MINISTRY POINT TO CHRIST

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 65)

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 65

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Floating Hammer

SUPPLIES: hammer; wood; stick; a clear container large enough to hold the hammer, wood, and stick; water for the container

One-Act Play

SUPPLIES: an assortment of containers, at least one for each child

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson we will see that God uses Elisha just as he did Elijah.

Ask the children to recall some big ways that God used the following people: David, Elijah, Samson, Gideon, Solomon, Noah, Joseph.

Tell the children how kind it is of God to continue to use people to carry out his plan for Israel. Draw their attention to the newest person, Elisha, and build their anticipation for how God is going to use him.

Tell them that God also wants to use them to carry out his plan in the lives of others, and as they are faithful to listen and walk with God, he will surely use them.

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

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 65, "Elisha's Ministry," 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 in the story about the oil?**
(A woman did not have money to pay her bills. Elisha told her to collect as many empty jars as she could find and to start filling them with oil. The oil did not stop coming out of her one jar until all the others were filled.)

- **Can you think of another Bible story like this one?**
(Elijah told a woman to make him some bread with her last bit of oil, and when she did, her oil never ran out [1 Kings 17:16]. Point out to the children that Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit. In other words, Elisha wanted to continue the ministry of Elijah after he was gone. This miracle is evidence that God answered Elisha's request.)

- What did Elisha's power represent to the people of Israel?

(Elisha received his power from God. The miracles that Elisha performed confirmed that he was a prophet of God.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

10 MIN

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

- What do you think it would have been like to see the oil coming out of a little jar and filling many other jars?

(It would have been amazing!)

Pretend your water pitcher is the oil jug and act out the pouring of the oil into all the containers the neighbors brought.

- How could this happen?

(God is all-powerful and led Elisha by his Spirit to do miracles to help people believe Elisha was God's prophet.)

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: 2 Kings 4:32–37

God used Elisha to multiply a widow's oil, to give a wealthy woman a son, and now here in this story, to raise her son after he dies. The miracles that Elisha performs illustrate God's power and point to the day when God would send another prophet even greater than Elisha.

When Jesus comes, he also performs miracles. He turns water into wine and multiplies a few fishes and loaves of bread to feed a crowd of more than five thousand. Jesus heals the sick and even raises the dead. Jesus also dies on the cross for our sins and is raised from the dead so that we can have new life. The new life God gave the young boy through Elisha is a small hint of the new life God gives to all his children.

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 65—one copy for each child

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

- Where did Elisha tell the widow to go to pour the oil?
(inside her house and to shut the door behind her)
- What does this story teach us about God’s power?
(God is all-powerful and able to multiply the widow’s oil.)
- Where did the widow get all of the empty jars?
(from her neighbors)

Floating Hammer**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ hammer
- ✓ wood
- ✓ a stick
- ✓ large clear container filled with water

Ask the class to guess what will happen when the wood is dropped into the water. Then drop the wood into the water to see that it floats.

Ask the class to guess what will happen when the hammer is dropped into the water. Ask the class to help you figure out a way to make the hammer float. Try a few silly ideas like commanding the hammer to come out.

Read 2 Kings 6:1–7 to reveal what Elisha did to make an axe head float (he threw a stick into the water [2 Kings 6:6]). Tell the class, “That must be the trick.” Throw your stick into the water and when the hammer does not float, ask why.

Ultimately you are trying to show that there is no trick; but it was God, not Elisha, who made the heavy metal axe head float. Elisha was simply being used by God to do the miracle.

One-Act Play

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ assorted containers, at least one for each child

This is a great story that a few teachers can act out for the children and ad lib very easily. Have a teacher play the part of the widow and another, the part of Elisha. Prior to class, hide the containers around the room.

Start out with the woman making her appeal followed by Elisha's instructions. Explain to the children that they are to search the neighborhood to find the empty containers and bring them to you. Thank the children and tell them you are going inside to fill them.

Then act out filling the jars with great excitement, praising God for his miracle through Elisha. Finish the skit by selling the oil to one of the teachers. At the last minute have the angry debt collector come only to be surprised by a full payment of the debt with money left over.

Talk to the children about how generous God is to us by giving more than we could ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

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 65 - ELISHA'S MINISTRY

