

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 REVIEW** . . . . . **5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Read 2 Kings 2:1–15 from the Scriptures or read story 64, “Elijah Is Taken Up to Heaven,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
What Is More Powerful?  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ a portion of a solid bed sheet or other piece of cloth to represent Elijah’s cloak
  - ✓ a straight tree branch with the bark peeled to represent the staff of Moses
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** . . . . . **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
A Classroom Prophet  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ lollipops (enough for all students in the class)
  - ✓ briefcase or tote bag
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Coloring Activity  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ coloring page 64—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **15 MIN**  
Act Out the Story  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ simple costumes for Elisha and Elijah (Earth-toned fabric remnants with holes cut in the middle and rope belts would work fine.)
  - ✓ cloak

**TOTAL 80 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**God’s announces his plan**—God takes Elijah up into heaven. The “sons of the prophets” (2 Kings 2:3) are students in a kind of school where they are learning from prophets of God. It seems that God has told others who are gifted as prophets that he is about to take Elijah away. The students are excited about this and tell Elisha, but Elisha doesn’t want to talk about it.

In these verses, we see Elisha’s loyalty and love toward Elijah. Twice, Elijah tries to go on alone, but Elisha insists on going with him. It may be that Elijah is trying to spare Elisha the pain of watching his master leave. But there is a reward for Elisha’s persistence, and perhaps this reward is what Elijah had in mind all along.

**God grants Elisha’s request**—Elisha is faithful to Elijah. He is also passionate about the work that Elijah does as a prophet of God. So when Elijah offers to do something for him before he leaves, Elisha requests a double portion of Elijah’s spirit.

Elijah leaves the younger man’s request up to the Lord knowing that only God could grant it. But God does grant Elisha’s request, and Elijah’s cloak being left behind symbolizes that his power has been given to Elisha. Still, Elisha knows that the cloak is not magic. He knows that all power comes from God. This is why he cries out to the Lord when he strikes the water with the cloak.

**God’s mission continues**—God’s mission does not depend on particular individuals. It depends on the power of his Spirit working by grace through those whom he chooses. This is why we can be sure that God’s mission will never fail because it depends on God not on us. When Elijah is taken away, God continues working through Elisha as well as through others.

In the Old Testament, God’s mission was to prepare the way for Jesus. Now that Jesus has come and died for the sins of the world, God continues working today through everyone whom he has saved. But now God’s mission is to spread the good news of the gospel.

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

## THE LESSON

### OPENING REVIEW

**5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

### BIBLE STORY . . . . . **10 MIN**

Read 2 Kings 2:1–15 from the Scriptures or read story 64, "Elijah Is Taken up to Heaven," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . **10 MIN**

#### What Is More Powerful?

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a portion of a solid bed sheet or other piece of cloth to represent Elijah's cloak
- ✓ a straight tree branch with the bark peeled to represent the staff of Moses

This object lesson will help make the point that it is God who is powerful not the props he uses to bring his plan to fruition.

Show the sheet and the branch to the class. Tell them that the cloth is the cloak of Elijah, and the staff is that of Moses. Explain that you are considering which of these you would like to begin carrying with you. You have read the biblical accounts and were leaning toward the staff

as it is able to divide a larger body of water. The cloak can do a river, but the staff can do a whole sea. Then again, tell them that a cloak can also keep you warm in the winter and would be easier to carry. You could simply drape it on your shoulders. That way if you ever needed to cross a river you could simply take it off and wham! Dry ground!

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Which of these would you rather have?  
*(Draw out the class for their preferences.)*
  
- Which of these is more powerful?  
*(Keep drawing out the class until the obvious answer comes out, that neither one is powerful, but it is God that is powerful.)*
  
- What do we learn about God from the story?  
*(God is all-powerful, and he uses people to accomplish his plan. God delegates his power so that he works through us. This does not thwart his plan for he controls everything we do as well.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION**

**10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . .

**10 MIN**

**A Classroom Prophet**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ lollipops (enough for all students in the class)
- ✓ briefcase or tote bag

This exercise is designed to take the mystery out of the operation of the prophet. It is not the prophet that is amazingly able to forecast the future because the prophet really does a very simple thing: the prophet simply repeats information that God provides.

Prior to class, enlist the help of one of your students. (Pick a student with a good memory. Do not talk with the volunteer where the students arriving for your class will see you.) Tell them to raise their hand just after you finish reading the passage and say the following: “You have a bag of lollipops in your bag. When you pass them out, I would like to be the volunteer to do the job. And if you could, I would appreciate having a grape lollipop.”

Look stunned, and then go over to your briefcase and open it. Ask the volunteer the following questions:

- Did you see me buy these at the store?  
*(no)*
  
- Did you go into my briefcase before class?  
*(no)*

Then ask the class how the volunteer found out. Finally, explain to them that you told the volunteer. Share with them what you told the volunteer prior to class.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Were you fooled or amazed by the volunteer’s knowledge of the lollipops?
  
- How is {volunteer’s name} like a prophet?  
*(Just like God gives a prophet a message to declare to the people, you told {volunteer’s name} what was going to happen ahead of time and gave her a message to deliver to the class.)*
  
- What is more amazing about prophecy: the prophet’s ability to know God’s plan or that God would tell a prophet his plan?  
*(That God would come and reveal his plan is much more amazing. To be a prophet takes courage as your recipients may not like what you share and might even kill you, but it is more amazing that an all-powerful God would reach out to us with his Word.)*

**WORD BIBLE MEMORY**

**5 MIN**

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

**ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . .

**10 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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . .

**15 MIN**

**Act out the Story**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ simple costumes for Elisha and Elijah (Earth-toned fabric remnants with holes cut in the middle and rope belts would work fine.)
- ✓ cloak

After reading the story, tell the children that they are going to act out the story in a drama. Pick two children to take the parts of Elijah and Elisha and get them dressed. Choose six children to be the chariot that whisks Elijah away. When you get to that part of the story where they are to come running over, pick Elijah up and carry him away. (You will need to supervise this so they don't hurt the child playing Elijah, but they will have a ton of fun carrying him away.)

Appoint a strong reader or use a helper to read through the text slowly one verse at a time. While the narration goes on, help the children work out their movements. Then start all over again. The children will not realize you are actually reading the story several times over to get the drama correct and then one more time for the performance.

You can take your show on the road and perform for some of the younger children in your church. By the time you get back to class your students will have the story memorized!

LESSON 64 - ELIJAH IS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN

