

ELIJAH TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II KINGS 2:1-15



The STORY

Read Elijah's Final Journey and Elijah Soars in a Whirlwind from 365 Read-Aloud Bedtime Bible Stories (pages 142-143).

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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? (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 to notice the comments of the prophets.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a picture of the chariot and horses of fire with Elijah in the chariot. Engage the children by asking:

- What is a prophet? (A prophet is a man who God calls to speak to other men for him.)
- Who were the prophets in this story? (Elijah, Elisha and the group of Elijah's followers who knew God was going to take Elijah before it happened.)
- What was amazing about the prophets? (God told them what was going to happen before it happened and it did come true.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

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

- What do you think this story teaches us about God's power? (God is all-powerful to be able to create 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.)
You can 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, 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.

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.

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

(Luke 9:28-31)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

