

January 17, 2021 Elementary

Bible Passage: Elijah and Elisha / 2 Kings 2

Story Point: God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:8: "I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

Big Picture Question: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Christ Connection: *God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could carry out his mission as a prophet. Years later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share the gospel with the world.*

ETOWN ZOOM ROOMS!

Jump into learn about Jesus with us each Sunday! There will be music, a bible lesson, and games. PreK: 9:30 & Elementary: 10:15

Here's the ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5849608269?pwd=QzRpNFpiUS8wOHdqaXQ3QzlkVp1UT09>

STAY CONNECTED WITH ALL THINGS EMERGENCE!

If you haven't already, please sign up for **Emergence Connect**, this is the way to stay connected with all things Emergence including kids resources! You can sign up here:

<https://emergencenj.org/login> // If you have any questions on your Emergence

Connect account, please reach out to sara.vandyke@emergencenj.org

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM: @emergencenj_kids

Get encouragement, updates, lesson tips, activities and more!

* **BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

Following God's great display of power at Mount Carmel, Elijah fled for his life and traveled to Mount Horeb where he encountered God in a soft whisper. God instructed Elijah to anoint a man named Elisha as his successor. Elijah found Elisha plowing a field. Elijah put his cloak over Elisha to show that Elisha would be a prophet like Elijah. Elisha followed Elijah and served him for many years. In time, King Ahab of Israel appointed his son Ahaziah as king. When Ahaziah died, his brother Joram became king.

Elijah's ministry came to an end, and God took him to heaven in an unusual way. First, Elijah and Elisha traveled from Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho and then to the Jordan River. Elijah met with other prophets and their families. Despite Elijah's insistence otherwise, Elisha did not leave Elijah's side.

A group of prophets watched as Elijah parted the Jordan River by striking the water with his mantle (cloak) so he could cross. In Elijah's final moments, Elisha requested, "Please, let

me inherit two shares of your spirit” (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha wanted power to continue God’s work and confirmation as Israel’s next prophet.

A chariot of fire and horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the men. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha cried out after him. When Elijah was out of view, Elisha picked up Elijah’s cloak and struck the water of the Jordan River. The water parted—a sign that Elisha had received power from God. Elisha would continue the work of Elijah as a prophet to Israel.

God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could carry out his mission as a prophet. Years later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share the gospel with the world.

*** BIBLE STORY:**

INTRO:

Last week learned about how God showed that He is the one true God. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was ruled by an evil king named Ahab. Because of Ahab’s evil choices, God withheld rain for three years. During this time, **God provided in miraculous ways** for His prophet Elijah, as well as a widow and her son. When it was time for rain to fall again, **God showed that He is the one true God**. God completely burned up Elijah’s altar when Baal’s prophets couldn’t even produce a spark. But Elijah’s time as prophet was coming to an end, and God had plans to raise up a new prophet.

Do you have someone you look up to? Maybe a parent, or grandparent, teacher, athlete, or singer? Having someone to look up to is great. We can learn all kinds of things by listening to leaders. Today we will learn about a man who looked up to Elijah, and how God prepared that man to lead after Elijah. Interestingly, the new prophet’s name was pretty similar to Elijah’s!

Let’s learn about it now. Our story is called “Elijah and Elisha.”

Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 2

God told the prophet Elijah (ih LIGH juh) to find a man named Elisha (ih LIGH shuh). **Elisha would be a prophet to Israel after Elijah**. So **Elijah** obeyed God. He **found Elisha** plowing a field, and **Elisha followed Elijah and served him**.

When the time came for the Lord to take Elijah up to heaven, Elijah and Elisha traveled to Gilgal. At Gilgal, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The Lord is sending me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together to Bethel.

At Bethel, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The Lord is sending me to Jericho.” But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together to Jericho.

At Jericho, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The Lord is sending me to the Jordan River.” But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together to the Jordan River.

A crowd of prophets watched Elijah and Elisha as they stood by the river. **Elijah rolled up his cloak and hit the water with it. The river parted, and they crossed to the other side.**

Elijah asked, “Is there anything I can do for you before I go?”

Elisha said, “I want a double portion of the spirit that you have.”

Elijah said, “If you see me go, you will have it.”

Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and drove between them. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha watched as Elijah went away. Then he picked up Elijah’s cloak and went back to the river. He hit the water, and it parted for him to cross to the other side just as it had for Elijah.

The crowd of prophets was there watching, and they saw that **the spirit that was with Elijah was now with Elisha**. The prophets searched for Elijah, but they could not find him since God had taken him up to heaven.

Christ Connection: God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could carry out his mission as a prophet. Years later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share the gospel with the world.

OUTRO:

Wow! What a story. Elisha followed Elijah around and refused to leave him. When it was time for Elijah to go where Elisha couldn’t follow, Elisha asked for a double portion of the spirit in Elijah!

Remember, Elijah is the prophet who, by the power of God in him, helped a widow make tons of bread from just a small amount of flour and oil. Elijah raised the widow’s son from the dead and called down fire from heaven to prove God’s power. Elisha basically said, “I want God to use me in incredible ways, just as He used you.” That’s a big request!

But God did just that. Elijah parted the Jordan on the way to the place where the chariots of fire took him into heaven. On the way back, what did Elisha do? He did the same thing!

God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet. God's people were still living in sin, worshiping false gods. They still needed someone to lead them back to God.

But the One who would really lead them back to God was still many years away. You see, Jesus came to be the perfect Prophet. He told us God's message to people: He loves us and wants us to love and obey Him. Jesus perfectly showed who God is and what He is like because Jesus is God the Son.

Let's review our Gospel Plan to find out more about God's plan to save us through His Son Jesus.

***GOSPEL PLAN:**

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Suggest kids talk with their parents and/or email us if they have any questions.

*** KEY PASSAGE / MEMORY VERSE:**

Isaiah 42:8: "I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

That's why God says so clearly that He will not share His glory or praise. We sinfully choose to worship many things, but only God deserves worship.

***PRAY**

***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- What cities did Elijah and Elisha travel together to? (*Gilgal, Bethel, and Jericho; 2 Kings 2:1-4*)
- How did Elijah and Elisha get across the Jordan river? (*Elijah, and later Elisha, parted the river by hitting it with Elijah's cloak; 2 Kings 2:8,14*)
- What did Elisha ask for before Elijah went to heaven? (*a double portion of the spirit Elijah had, 2 Kings 2:9*)
- Why did God use prophets? *Guide kids to understand that God used prophets to spread His Word and tell the people how to live. Help them see that the prophets called the people to love and obey God and wrote down God's words for His people. Help them see that we no longer have the same kind of prophets because the Bible is complete. The Bible contains all we need to know about God to love and trust Him.*
- Whose power and spirit did Elisha really receive? *Discuss the source of Elijah's power. Remind the kids that the miracles Elijah performed happened by God's power. When Elisha received that power after Elijah, God was now working through Elisha as He had through Elijah.*
- How can we have access to the power of Elijah and Elisha? *Help kids understand that when we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives within us. He fills us with power and helps us love and obey God.*

***ACTIVITY:**

ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE

Complete the "Looking Up" activity page. Encourage kids to use the blank space provided to draw a picture of a person they look up to, like a parent, coach, or teacher.

Say • Having someone to look up to is great. We can learn all kinds of things by listening to leaders. Today we will learn about a man Elisha who looked up to Elijah, and how God prepared that him to lead after Elijah.

Invite kids to complete "Up and Away" on the activity page. Guide kids to complete the dot-to-dot to reveal part of today's Bible story picture.

Say • What picture did you discover? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Have you ever heard of a chariot of fire or horses of fire? They make an appearance in today's Bible story. I can't wait for you to hear more!

PICK UP AND LEAVE OFF

Instruct the kids to find partners whether it's another family member or friend. In each pair, one will start the game by doing the first bit of a task, singing the first bit of a song, or drawing the first bit of a picture. After about 30 seconds, the partners will switch. The second kid will finish what the first kid started. Play multiple rounds, rotating partners and alternating who starts and who finishes. If necessary, provide the kids with guidance by telling them which song to sing, what to start drawing, or what task to begin (such as tying a shoe). You may also wish to tell the kids when to switch.

Say • **God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.** Elisha spent some time following Elijah and learning from him, and when the time came, Elijah was taken into heaven. Elisha was ready to take over as God's messenger because of the power God gave him and the time he spent learning from Elijah.

We can share the gospel with others and teach them what it looks like to love and obey God. Someday, we will all grow old and pass away; but through sharing the gospel and leading others to love and obey God, the legacy of church will carry on.

WHIRLWIND IN A BOTTLE

SUPPLIES: Water bottle, water, glue, dish soap, glitter

Give kids bottled water and allow them to take a few sips to make room at the top or fill an empty water bottle with tap water. Guide your child to add two or three drops of dish soap and use a funnel to add some glitter.

Demonstrate how to place a small amount of glue around the inside of the cap before tightening it on the bottle to help hold it in place. Finally, show the kids how to shake the bottle in a circular motion and create a "whirlwind" effect.

Say • Today's Bible story told us that God took Elijah up in a whirlwind. **God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.** Elijah did not experience death but went straight to heaven. Does anyone know another person in the Bible whom God took straight into heaven without dying? (*Enoch, Gen. 5:24*)

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Invite volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Praise each kid's efforts and encourage kids to continue working on the key passage through the next week. Then lead the group in saying the verse while doing jumping jacks. As each word of the passage is spoken, kids should alternate back and forth stances of a standard jumping jack.

Isaiah 42:8: "I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

Say • Great job with that key passage. Isaiah was a prophet of God. He wrote about God, explaining that God does not share His glory with others, or allow false gods to be praised. ***How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.***

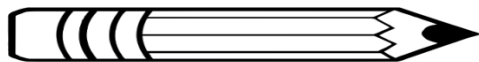
PASS THE BATON

SUPPLIES: baton (paper towel roll could work well here), timer

Form teams if possible, or compete in a timed relay as a family. The first person on each team will hold the baton while running across the playing area and back to the team. Then he or she will pass the baton to the next person in line. Repeat until all of one team's members have completed the relay.

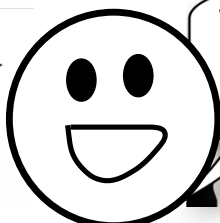
Say • Have any of you seen a real relay race where the runners have to pass a baton to their next team member? It's crucial that a runner doesn't drop the baton, or the team could be disqualified. In today's story, we saw how God "passed the baton" from one prophet to another so His work didn't stop. **God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.**

Sermon Notes FOR KIDS



As you attend church services with your family, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.

Date: _____



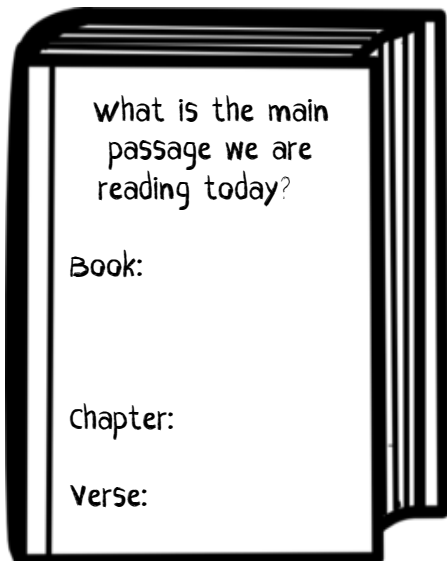
who is speaking?



words you heard but don't know...



what are we learning about God from this passage?



what is the main passage we are reading today?

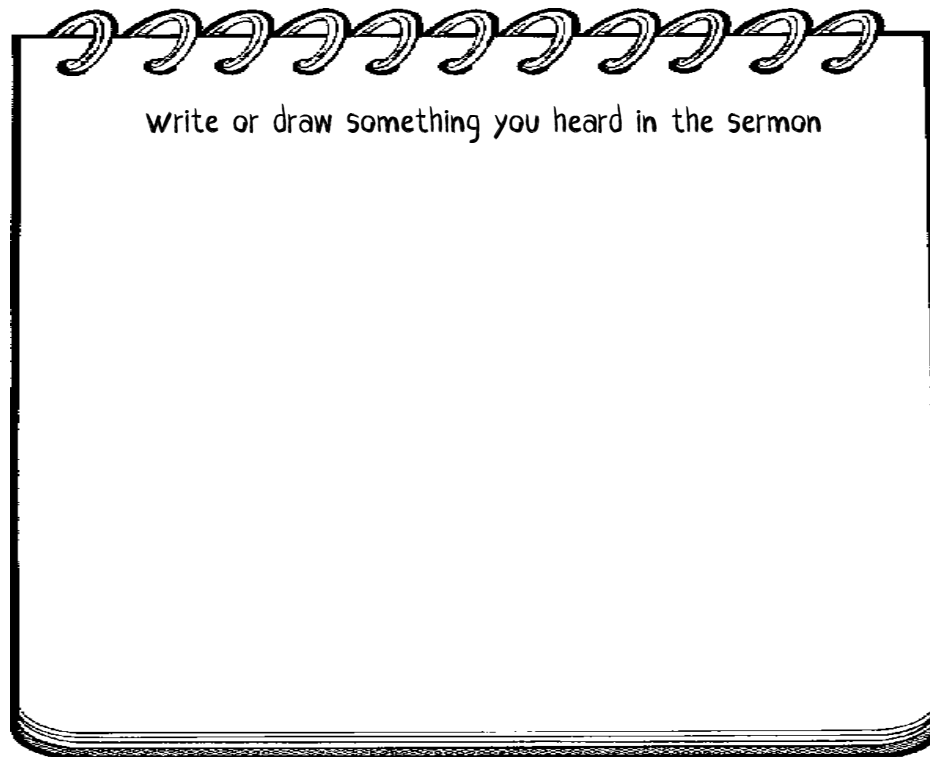
Book:

Chapter:

Verse:



Favorite song today was:



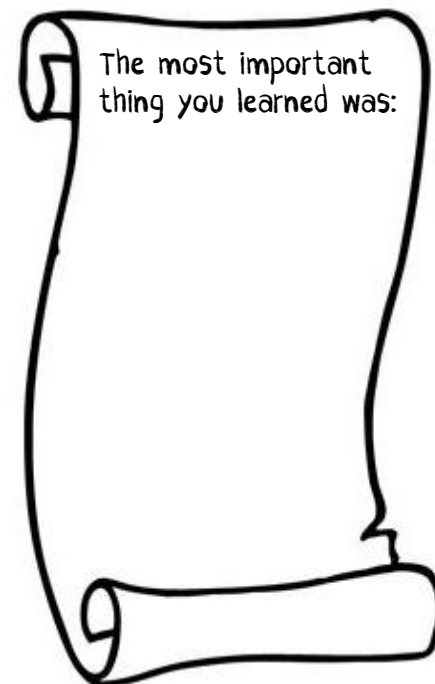
write or draw something you heard in the sermon



Questions?



How does today's message apply to your life?



The most important thing you learned was:

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



**I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.**

Isaiah 42:8



Looking Up

INSTRUCTIONS: Write about or draw a picture of a person you admire or want to be like.



Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 13 • Session 3
Elijah and Elisha

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Elijah's time as prophet was almost done.
- God told Elijah to find Elisha.
- Elisha followed Elijah and saw God take Elijah up to heaven.
- God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why do you think Elisha wanted the same spirit that was in Elijah?
- How can people today have access to the power of God's Spirit?
- What work does God have for believers today?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Work with your kids to come up with three names of friends or family members whom each of them can be praying for. Discuss ways to share the gospel what it means to disciple someone. Write the names on sticky notes and display them prominently.



DOWNLOAD the
LIFEWAY KIDS APP



Elijah or Elisha?

Fill in the blanks with the correct name—*Elijah* or *Elisha*. Read 1 Kings 19:19–21; 2 Kings 2:1–15 in the Bible to check your work.

_____ found _____ plowing a field. _____ followed _____ and served him.

When the time came for the Lord to take _____ up to heaven, the two prophets traveled through several towns. In each

town, _____ said,
“_____, stay here.
The Lord is sending me ahead.” But
_____ refused to
leave _____.

When they came to the Jordan River,
_____ rolled up his
cloak and hit the water with it. The
river parted, and they crossed to the
other side.

_____ said that he
wanted a double portion of the spirit
that _____ had.

Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses
appeared and drove between them.

_____ went up to
heaven in a whirlwind.

_____ watched
as _____
went away. Then he picked up
_____’s cloak and
crossed back over the river. The crowd
of prophets saw that the spirit was
now with _____.

Up and Away

Complete the dot-to-dot to
reveal part of today’s Bible
story picture.

