

Hey ClubE!

My friends! I hope you've had a wonderful fall week. We are continuing to learn about friendship and HOW we can be a good friend and WHY we have friendship. Today, we are learning about two people who had an amazing friendship and they went on some wild adventures!

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: What is the wildest adventure you've been on with a friend?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#) (watch until 3:00) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do activity!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me [cas66852@gmail.com](mailto:cas66852@gmail.com) or text/call at 612-310-2363

## Storytime!

Hey, everyone! In the Old Testament, we read about two friends who found out how important it is to encourage each other. Their names were Elijah . . . and Elisha. Confusing, isn't it?

We can find the story of Elijah and Elisha in the books of 1 and 2 Kings. These books tell the stories about the kings who ruled over God's people, in the days after David was king. A few of these kings followed God but unfortunately, most of them didn't. Since they didn't listen to God, the kingdom didn't do so well. It started to fall apart. But God still loved His people. He cared about them so much that He sent prophets—or people who spoke to everyone and shared God's words with them. Elijah was one of those prophets

Elijah did amazing things through God's power. At one point, he asked God to bring on a drought to show how powerful God is. A drought is when it doesn't rain. And it didn't rain for three years! When the time was right, Elijah asked God to send rain to people in need. And that's not all. Through God's power, Elijah even brought a boy who had died back to life! It might seem like being a prophet was a pretty sweet job—but it was actually really lonely and challenging for Elijah. Not everybody liked the messages from God that he shared, and he was traveling all alone. Elijah was so upset that he cried out to God. This is what he prayed.

1 Kings 19:14 (NIRV) says. *“Lord God who rules over all, I've been very committed to you. The Israelites have turned their backs on your covenant. They have torn down your altars. They've put your prophets to death with their swords. I'm the only one left.”*

Elijah felt all alone, and God knew that he needed encouragement. So God sent Elijah to get someone to be the next prophet. That man's name was Elisha. Not Eli-JAH. Eli-SHA. Elijah went to get Elisha and guess what Elisha was doing? He was plowing a field! That means he had a simple machine, pulled by animals, that would tear up the earth so he could plant seeds. Elijah saw Elisha took his coat, and put it around Elisha's shoulders. This was a sign that God had chosen Elisha to be Elijah's assistant. Elijah started walking to the next place he needed to be, and Elisha ran after him! Elisha said that he needed to say goodbye to his parents then he would come. Elisha said goodbye to his mom and dad then he did something very interesting. He cooked the two oxen that were pulling the plow, and made a feast for the people who lived there. Then, he left his friends and family and went to follow Elijah. So Elisha became Elijah's companion. He was there watching and learning everything that he could from Elijah.

Eventually, the two of them became really close friends. Elisha watched as Elijah spoke to powerful kings and shared God's words with the people. One day, they left the town of Gilgal, traveling toward Bethel. They knew that their friendship on Earth wasn't going to last forever. Sometime very soon, God was going to take Elijah to heaven. Elijah told Elisha to stay there while he kept traveling.

2 Kings 2:2 (NirV) says. *"Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here. The Lord has sent me to Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive.'* So they went down to Bethel.

Elisha sure was a good friend, wasn't he? He traveled with Elijah to Bethel and when they got there, the same thing happened again. 2 Kings 2:4 (NirV) says, "Elijah said to him, 'Stay here, Elisha. The Lord has sent me to Jericho.' Elisha replied, 'I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive.'

So they went to Jericho. They made it to Jericho. Wouldn't you know it the exact thing happened AGAIN. Elijah told Elisha that God had sent him to the Jordan River. Of course, Elisha wasn't going to let his friend go alone. So they went on together to the Jordan River. They finally arrived at the river—and this is where the story gets really intense. Here's what happened. Elijah took his coat and rolled it up. Then, he hit the water with it. After his coat struck the water, part of the water went to the left and part of the water went to the right. He and Elisha were able to walk across on dry land! After they walked across, Elijah stopped and took the time to encourage Elisha. This is what he said.

2 Kings 2:9 (NirV) *"Tell me. What can I do for you before I'm taken away from you?" "Please give me a double share of your spirit," Elisha replied".*

Elijah said that Elisha would receive what he had asked for as long as he saw Elijah when he was taken away. Then something truly incredible happened! Elijah was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot! This is pretty wild for us to try to imagine, but here's exactly how it's described in the Bible. 2 Kings 2:11 (NirV) says, "Suddenly there appeared a chariot and horses made of fire. The chariot and horses came between the two men. Then Elijah went up to heaven in a strong wind. "

Elisha saw Elijah being carried away in the chariot. He shouted out to Elijah, *'You are like a father to me!'* After that happened, Elisha noticed that Elijah's coat was left behind. Elisha picked it up and hurried back to the Jordan River. He did exactly what Elijah had done before; he took the coat and struck the water with it. The water parted; he was able to walk across on

dry land! A group of prophets from Jericho saw the amazing thing that Elisha was able to do. They saw that God's Spirit was with Elisha in the same way it had been with Elijah. When we look at the friendship between Elijah and Elisha, we can see that they were always there for each other. They went through a lot together. But no matter what happened, they were there to encourage each other along the way. That's what friends do! Friends encourage one another.

## Let's talk about it!

- Why do you think Elisha stuck by Elijah's side no matter what?
- Do you think Elijah knew what was going to happen? Do you think Elisha did?
- Even when things are discouraging, how could we encourage one another like Elijah and Elisha did?
- Sometimes, the best way to encourage is to say something to someone that is uplifting. But sometimes, it's just walking through hard things with someone. Can you think of ways you can encourage others this week?

## Pray

"God, thank You for showing us what friendship looks like through the story of Elijah and Elisha. We can see how they encouraged each other . . . and how they stuck by each other no matter what. Please help US be encouragers, too. Help us see how we can share a kind word or stand up for someone who's going through something tough. Thank You for showing us what true friendship is all about. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

## Game time!

### PASSION

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, construction paper, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up and read Proverbs 17:17
- Cut a large heart out of the construction paper.
- Write names of people who you can pray for this week on the heart and hang it up somewhere where you'll remember to see it!

A friend loves at all times, it's true. But the second part of our memory verse is important too. A friend is there to help when trouble comes. One big way we can help is to encourage each other. Sometimes friends are sad, or something frustrating happened and they need a friend to remind them just how awesome they are! You can be that friend to remind them. So this week, pay attention to the friends around you. Is someone sad? Is someone sitting by themselves? Is someone acting different than they normally do? Maybe they're not laughing or joining in to play? Let's pay attention and say kind words. Invite them to play or just offer a hug or high-five. Because friends encourage one another.