



Elijah and Elisha

Lesson Aim: To know God gives us spiritual gifts and mentors to help us accomplish the work He has for us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: 2 Kings 2:1, 7-15

What He has done: God chose Elisha to be Elijah's successor when He brought Elijah up to heaven.

Key Verse: 2 Kings 2:11

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Romans 12:6-8

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Prepare to meet your God, O Israel. He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is His name." "Seek good, not evil, that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say He is." Amos 4:12b-13; 5:14

Unit 7: The Prophets and God's Power			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Elijah on Mount Carmel, 1 Kings 18:21, 24-32, 36-39	God sent fire to prove He is the one true God.	To acknowledge God as the one true God.
33	Elijah and Elisha, 2 Kings 2:1, 7-15	God chose Elisha to be Elijah's successor when He brought Elijah up to heaven.	To know God gives us spiritual gifts and mentors to help us accomplish the work He has for us.
34	Elisha and the Chariots of Fire, 2 Kings 6:15-20	God sent invisible horses and chariots of fire to protect His people.	To know we are surrounded by God's protection.
35	The Prophet Joel, Joel 2:1, 13, 25, 28, 32	God sent a message to His people through the prophet Joel.	To know God judges our hearts and wants our hearts to turn to Him.
36	Jonah and the Ninevites, Jonah 1:4-5, 7, 11-12, 17; 3:4, 8-9; 4:1-2, 5-11	God gave Jonah and the Ninevites each a second chance.	To know God gives second chances because He cares about everyone.
37	Amos and the Plumb Line, Amos 4:12b-13; 5:11-14; 7:7-8	God sent Amos with a message of justice and righteous living to the Israelites.	To know the Bible is the standard God gives us for living upright lives.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Deuteronomy 7:8-9. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for showing Your power to each generation. Help this generation trust You alone to provide them with all they need to serve You and minister to others. Amen.

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THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Whirlwind Tag	Ten pieces of cloth
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Prepare to Meet Your God" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Everyone Who Calls" "I Lift Up My Eyes" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Neither Death nor Life" "Search Me, O God" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God" "How Great Thou Art" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 33 The Love Sub script or storybook
		Read the Word: 2 Kings 2:1, 7-15	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Romans 12:6-8	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Strips of cloth, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "Prepare to Meet Your God," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Choose a Snack	Individually wrapped snacks, cloak or large cloth
	Up to 10	Game: Name that Gift	7 small pieces of paper, bag
	Up to 15	Craft: Elijah's Whirlwind	Sturdy white paper, string or yarn, hole punch, scissors, tape or glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Picture God's Power	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase board and marker or chalkboard and chalk, timer
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Unscramble the Verse	Paper, marker, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player, timer
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: Who do you want to be like when you grow up?

GAME: WHIRLWIND TAG

Purpose: Children will learn Elijah mentored Elisha before being taken to heaven in a whirlwind.

Supplies: Ten pieces of cloth

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be Elijah and another child to be Elisha.
2. Give the ten cloths to Elijah.
3. The remaining children scatter throughout the play area.
4. On your signal, Elijah tries to tag the other children.
5. If Elijah tags a child, that child is "caught in a whirlwind." He or she must take one of Elijah's cloths and spin in circles. Elijah cannot tag Elisha.
6. Elisha can release any child caught in a whirlwind by taking the cloth the child is holding. The child may then rejoin the game.
7. The game is over when Elisha is holding all ten cloths.
8. Choose a new Elijah and Elisha and play again.

Last time, we learned about Elijah. In today's lesson, we will learn God took Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. But first, God chose Elisha to take over Elijah's job as His prophet. Let's find out what happened with Elijah and Elisha!

Limited space? Play a version of Duck, Duck, Goose. Children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be Elijah. Give Elijah a piece of cloth. Elijah walks around the circle. When Elijah drops the cloth in the lap of one of the children, that child is to chase Elijah around the circle. If the chaser tags Elijah before Elijah sits in the chaser's seat, the chaser chooses a new Elijah by handing the cloth to one of the children in the circle. If the chaser does not tag Elijah before Elijah sits in the chaser's seat, the chaser becomes the new Elijah.



The God of Power

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the God of Power. We see His power in the way He created each one of us to be unique and special. We see God's power in the way He uses the gifts He has given us to build up His kingdom and to bring others close to Him. It's important for us to always remember that God is the One who gives us our gifts and talents—His power can work through us as it did in the lives of Elijah and Elisha. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.



One way to use our gifts to serve God is to give our offering to His church. As we collect the offering, let's thank God for giving us so much. Sing "How Great Is Our God" while collecting the offering.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 7, Lesson 33.



In today's story, we see God has the power to part the Jordan River, to create and send chariots and horses of fire, and to take Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind! We can see God's power every day in many other ways. Let's sing to the God of Power! Sing the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Prepare to Meet Your God." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's power.



God takes Elijah up to heaven

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Elijah was a prophet of God. God showed His power through Elijah by lighting the soaked altar with fire from heaven. What happened when the followers of Baal saw this miracle? (They fell down and cried, "The Lord—He is God! The Lord—He is God!")

Today, we are learning about a man named Elisha. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Elisha followed Elijah and learned from him. God choose Elisha to carry on the work of Elijah when it was time for Elijah to go up to heaven.** If a map is available, point to the Jordan River in Israel. **The two men were walking by the Jordan River when a miracle happened. Let's read about the amazing way God showed His power there.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: 2 Kings 2:1, 7-15. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: 2 Kings 2:11.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Read 2 Kings 2:1, 7-8.

Elijah struck the water of the Jordan River with his rolled up cloak and the water parted. The two men walked across on dry ground. The power for this miracle came from God. Let's see what Elisha asked for once they were across the river. Read 2 Kings 2:9-10.

While they were still talking, God performed another miracle. Let's check out the rest of this story. Read 2 Kings 2:11-15.



God chooses special jobs for us

THE WAY

Elijah was a prophet who pointed everyone to God. To show His almighty power, God did many miracles through him. What miracle did God perform when Elijah struck the water with his cloak? (The Jordan River parted.) **What two miracles did God perform when He took Elijah to heaven?** (A chariot and horses of fire appeared, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.)

Elisha followed the prophet Elijah and learned from him. What did Elisha ask Elijah to do for him? (To let him inherit a double portion of Elijah's spirit.) **What do you think that means?** (To be twice as faithful and bold as Elijah.) **After God took Elijah to heaven, what did Elisha do?** (He took Elijah's cloak, called on the name of the Lord, and parted the Jordan River just as he had seen Elijah do.) **Everyone who was there knew Elisha was now a prophet of the Lord. Elisha saw four miracles that day: the river parting for Elijah, the appearance of the chariot and horses of fire, the whirlwind taking Elijah to heaven, and the river parting for Elisha. Which miracle is most amazing to you?** (Children respond.) **In Bible times, the life of a prophet was often difficult and dangerous. How do you think seeing these miracles would have strengthened Elisha to be a faithful prophet?** (Children respond).



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

God put everything in place for Elisha to be the next prophet after Elijah. God gives us people we can watch and learn from so we can do our best with the gifts He has given us. These gifts help build up His kingdom. 900 years after Elisha parted the Jordan River, Paul explained how God gives a spiritual gift to every believer. Check it out!



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Romans 12:6-8. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Romans 12:6-8.

God has chosen a ministry for each of us. He has made us all special with different strengths and spiritual gifts. We can use our gifts to serve God in our home, school, or neighborhood. It doesn't matter how old we are or where we live, God has a plan for everyone. As I describe each gift, raise your hand if it sounds like I am describing someone you know.

1. **Prophesying:** Pointing others to God and helping them see what is right or wrong in God's eyes.
2. **Serving:** Meeting the needs of others.
3. **Teaching:** Helping others understand God's Word, the Bible.
4. **Encouraging:** Coming alongside others to help them grow in their faith.
5. **Giving:** Giving gifts and money to support the church and to help people.
6. **Leading:** Leading others in reaching the goals of the kingdom.
7. **Showing mercy:** Showing kindness and seeking unity among believers.

Which of these gifts do you think God has given to you? (Children respond.) **Which gift do you desire the most?** (Children respond.) **By watching how others serve God, we learn more about ways to serve Him. Who can you learn from today?** Guide discussion as children identify mentors.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a piece of cloth to remind you of the cloak Elisha took after Elijah went up to heaven. Pin it to your backpack or tie it around your wrist. Let it remind you that everyone has a special way they can serve God, including you!

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #33. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Elisha watching Elijah going up to heaven in a whirlwind.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Prepare to Meet Your God," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: CHOOSE A SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

Snack Suggestion: Individually wrapped snacks, cloak or large cloth

Prepare: Place the wrapped snacks on top of the cloak or cloth.

God chose Elisha to be His prophet when it was time for Elijah to go to heaven. God put everything in place for Elisha to know what to do. By following Elijah, Elisha learned how to be a godly prophet. God chooses us and gives us what we need to serve His kingdom, including people we can learn from. Let's pretend this is Elijah's cloak that Elisha used to part the Jordan after Elijah was taken up to heaven. Choose a snack from the cloak. Let each child choose a snack from the cloak or cloth.

Directions:

1. Serve the drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"Who has taught you the most about serving God?"**

GAME: NAME THAT GIFT

Purpose: For children to recognize the various spiritual gifts.

Supplies: 7 small pieces of paper, bag

Prepare: On each piece of paper, print one of the seven spiritual gifts and its description (See the list in THE WAY.). Place the papers in the bag. Print the list of spiritual gifts on a dry erase board or poster.

Optional: Invite ministry leaders or volunteers with knowledge of their own spiritual gifting to share what they do. Encourage them to invite interested children to train and serve with them.

Before Elijah went to heaven in the whirlwind, what did Elisha ask for? (A double portion of Elijah's spirit.) **Elisha knew Elijah was chosen by God to be a prophet. Elisha wanted to do the same things Elijah had done for God, but with even more boldness and faithfulness. Just like Elijah and Elisha, we all have special gifts from God that can help us serve His kingdom. In this game, each team will act out an example of one of the seven spiritual gifts we talked about today. The remaining players will try to guess which gift is being demonstrated.**

Directions:

1. Review the spiritual gifts and their descriptions (See the list in The Way.).
2. Divide the group into teams of two (or three, if there's an odd number).
3. With eyes closed, the first team chooses a paper from the bag. Give the team a minute to discuss what they will act out. The team then acts out an example of someone using that particular spiritual gift.
4. The remaining children guess which of the spiritual gifts is being acted out.
5. Ask the first child who guesses correctly to explain his or her answer.
6. Continue to play until each pair has a turn. If you have more than 7 pairs, put all the slips back in the bag for the remaining teams to draw from.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: ELIJAH'S WHIRLWIND

Purpose: Children will make a whirlwind to remind them that Elijah went to heaven in a whirlwind after preparing Elisha to serve God.

Supplies: Sturdy white paper, string or yarn, hole punch, scissors, tape or glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: Draw a spiral shape on sturdy paper. Leave approximately 1-inch of white space between the lines and a circle in the middle that is large enough to hole punch. Make a copy for each child. Print or draw a 1 ½-inch Elijah and a cloak on sturdy white paper. Cut a 12-inch length of string or yarn.

Optional: You may choose to precut the whirlwinds for younger children or if you are short on time. Use craft foam instead of paper for the whirlwind. Glue glitter onto the whirlwind. Use a lightweight cloth for Elijah's cloak instead of paper.

How did God take Elijah up to heaven? (God sent a chariot and horses made from fire and a whirlwind took Elijah to heaven.) **Before he was taken, what did Elisha ask Elijah to give him?** (A double portion of his spirit.) **Elisha wanted to be a faithful, bold prophet for the Lord just as Elijah had been. Did Elisha receive what he asked for?** (Yes.) **After Elisha saw Elijah taken up to heaven, what did Elisha do next?** (He picked up Elijah's cloak and parted the Jordan River just as Elijah had done.) **Let's make a whirlwind to remember this story and the amazing miracles God did to show His mighty power through both Elijah and Elisha.**

Directions:

1. To make the whirlwind, cut along the spiral line until you reach the end of the line in the center. Cut off the excess outer edges of the paper.
2. Punch a hole in the top of the whirlwind. Thread the string through the hole and knot the ends together to create a loop.
3. Color, cut out, and attach Elijah to the top of the whirlwind.
4. Color and attach Elijah's cloak to the bottom of the whirlwind.
5. Take your whirlwind home and hang it where you can remember the story. Use it to tell others about Elijah and Elisha.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Prepare to meet your God, O Israel. He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns down to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is His name." "Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say He is." Amos 4:12b-13; 5:14

GAME: PICTURE GOD'S POWER

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase board and marker or chalkboard and chalk, timer

Our Bible Memory Verse describes God's power. What are some of the things these verses say that God does? (Makes the mountains and the wind, tells His thoughts to us, makes day and night happen, is everywhere on the earth.) **What does the verse say His name is?** (The Lord God Almighty.) **Let's think of more powerful acts of God.**

Directions:

1. Choose one child to draw. Child thinks of one way God is powerful. (He sent Jesus to die on the cross, created trees, created sheep, heals people, gives food, etc.) Younger children can focus on drawing one of God's creations.
2. Set the timer for 60 seconds. (Add more time, if needed.) On your signal, the child draws a simple picture (cross, tree, sheep, person dropping crutches, plate of food, etc.) without talking.
3. The other children try to guess what the picture represents.
 - If a child guesses correctly before the time is up, that child takes the next turn.
 - If no one guesses, the child who was drawing picks the next child to draw.

GAME: UNSCRAMBLE THE VERSE

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Paper, marker, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player, timer

Prepare: Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. Divide the Bible Memory Verse into five or six phrases. Write each phrase on a separate sheet of paper and fold the papers in half so the words are hidden. For non-readers, number the papers in order. For more of a challenge, increase the number of phrases.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Shuffle the folded papers. Give each paper to a different child.
3. Play and sing the Bible Memory Verse Song as children pass the folded papers around the circle.
4. After a short time, pause the music. When the song stops, the children holding the folded papers race to put them in order on the floor in the center of the circle. Time how long it takes. Children may look at the Bible Memory Verse poster for help. Non-readers may use the numbers to help them put the phrases in order.
5. Play again. Each time you play, challenge the children to beat their previous times. Eventually, remove the poster for an added challenge.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Create or purchase a Bible Timeline to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the questions noted below. Prophets & Promises Part 2 segment of the Bible Timeline begins circa 870 B.C.

Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) Elijah was Israel's prophet during the reign of evil King Ahab. This king led many Israelites to worship false gods. When prophets of false gods called upon their god Baal to send fire, nothing happened. What happened when Elijah called upon the one true God to send fire from heaven? (God sent fire and it burned up the altar and all the water in the trench.) What did this prove to everyone there? (God is the one true God.)

Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) Elisha was the next prophet after Elijah. God had a plan for Elisha when He chose him and gave him Elijah as a teacher. When Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, what did Elisha do? (He took Elijah's cloak and parted the Jordan River just as Elijah had done.) Everyone who saw this miracle knew Elisha was a prophet of the Lord.

How to create a Bible Timeline:

1. Print the story title or person's name with historical date (whenever available) on a card.
2. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline.
3. Attach the card to a wall or clothesline in the following order for Prophets & Promises Lessons 32-47: Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)
4. For Unit 10, add cards labeled 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-0 B.C.) and The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.).

Teacher Tip: For a comprehensive list of stories for Genesis through Revelation in timeline form, see ResourceWell.org.