



Elisha and the Chariots of Fire

Lesson Aim: To know we are surrounded by God's protection.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: 2 Kings 6:15-20

What He has done: God sent invisible horses and chariots of fire to protect His people.

Key Verse: 2 Kings 6:16

THE WAY

Christ Connection: John 16:33

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, 26-27, 31-32, 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; 5:14; 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 Psalm 91. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for showing us Your power as the one true God. Use this story to open the eyes of the children so they may see Your presence, power, and protection. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Who's in the Chariot?	Chair, blindfold
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: "I Am the Way" "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: Psalm 91:11	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 34 The Love Sub script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: 2 Kings 6:15-20	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: John 16:33	
	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Pair of toy eyeglasses or googly eyes, Daily Ways, basket, 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: Protected Candy	Wrapped candy
	Up to 10	Game: Blind Trust	None
	Up to 15	Craft: Hidden Chariot Light Box	Gift or shoe box, white parchment or thin paper, thread, flashlight, tape, scissors
	Up to 5	Discussion: What Happened Next?	Bible
	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: What are you afraid of?

GAME: WHO'S IN THE CHARIOT?

Purpose: Children will learn God protected Elisha by surrounding him with horses and chariots of fire.

Supplies: Chair, blindfold

Teacher Tip: If children do not know each other well, review and practice names before you play the game. Another option is to give each child a picture of a different animal. The servant may ask a question to guess what animal the child in the chariot is holding. To make the game more difficult, limit the questions to those that can be answered with a yes or no.

Last time, we learned Elisha became the next prophet after Elijah. One day, God sent invisible horses and chariots of fire to protect Elisha and his servant from an enemy army. Because the servant could only see the enemy army, he was very afraid. Elisha prayed God would help him see the protection He was providing. Before we find out what happened, let's play "Who's in the Chariot?"!

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle. Put a chair "chariot" behind one of the children.
2. Choose one child to be Elisha and another child to be the servant. Put the blindfold on the servant. Elisha and the servant stand in the center of the circle.
3. The other children walk in a circle, passing in front of the chariot, until Elisha calls out "stop."
4. The child standing in front of the chariot sits down on it.
5. The blindfolded servant asks, "Who's in the chariot?" and one attribute question about the child in the chariot. (For example: "Who is in the chariot? What color shirt is he or she wearing?" or "Who is in the chariot? Is it a boy or girl?") The servant may ask any attribute question except the child's name. Elisha answers the question.
6. The servant guesses the name of the child in the chariot.
 - If the guess is correct, he or she switches places with the child in the chariot.
 - If the guess is incorrect, the blindfolded servant may ask another question and then guess the child's name again.
7. The servant can ask up to three questions. If the servant still does not guess correctly after three tries, he or she switches places with a child in the circle.
8. Play as often as you like, choosing a different Elisha each time.

Limited space? Children sit in a circle. Instead of walking and then sitting in the chariot, children pass a picture of a chariot.



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.



Sing the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Prepare to Meet Your God." **Today, we worship the God of Power. God used His prophets Elijah and Elisha to show His power to His people and their enemies. When Elisha's servant was afraid, Elisha prayed for God to open his eyes so he would know that God was with them and would protect them.** Sing: "I Lift Up My Eyes."

As we give our offering, think about how nothing seen or unseen can separate us from God. Play: "Neither Death nor Life" as background music while collecting the offering.



God is always with us. He protects us in ways we cannot see. Read Psalm 91:11.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 7, Lesson 34.



God gives us the faith to trust in His power and to know He is always with us. He protects us in ways we cannot see. Let's ask Him now to give us "spirit eyes" so we can see He is with us now as we join all of heaven's angels in worshipping Him. Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's presence and protection.



Elisha and the chariots of fire

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 a chariot of fire appeared when Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. Afterward, who took Elijah's cloak and carried on with his ministry as Israel's prophet? (Elisha.) If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

Today, we will hear of another time when Elisha saw chariots of fire appear. Elisha warned the King of Israel each time the King of Aram (modern day Syria) was planning to attack. When the King of Aram heard this, he sent his army to the city of Dothan to capture Elisha. If a map of the Holy Land is available, point to Dothan, which is halfway between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. **Check out what happened when the enemy army surrounded the city.**



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 6:15-20. **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 6:16.**

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 6:15-20.



God protects you

THE WAY

What did the servant see when he went outside that morning? (The army for Aram surrounding the city.) **The servant's eyes were open, but he was only looking at what the enemy was doing. What did Elisha's servant see when God opened his eyes in a way that he could see what God was doing?** (He saw God's horses and chariots of fire.) **Elisha's prayer was about opening his servant's "spirit eyes" to see the invisible things God was doing to protect them.**

Why did Elisha ask God to blind the enemy army? (So, Elisha could lead them to Samaria where they would be outnumbered by Israelites.) **Psalm 91:11 tells us that just as God's horses and chariots of fire protected Elisha and his servant, God's angels guard us. What reminds you that God is with you?** (Children respond.)

Just like Elisha's servant, everyone is worried or afraid sometimes. What worries you or causes you to be afraid? Encourage individual responses. **Let's brainstorm ways God might be protecting us in each of these situations.** Lead a discussion of ways God protects our thoughts, sends angels to guard us, removes certain problems without us doing anything, gives us boldness or wisdom to make good choices, comforts us in hard times, etc. **How might it calm your fears to picture the chariots of fire protecting you as they did Elisha?** (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Elisha encouraged his servant by saying, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." God does not want us to worry or be afraid. He wants our hearts to be at peace. Check out what Jesus said to encourage believers 900 years after Elisha and his servant saw the chariots of fire.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: John 16:33. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read John 16:33.

Did Jesus say we would never have troubles? (No.) **God does not always protect us in the way we hope or expect, but no matter what is happening in our lives, we still belong to Him, the one true God, forever. He commands His angels to guard us. No one can take away the life we have forever with Him, now on earth or later in heaven. Why might knowing you belong to the one true God give you a peaceful heart even when you are facing danger or hard times?** (Children respond.)

Do you know someone who is worried or afraid of something? (Children respond.) Lead a discussion about the worries and fears of friends and family members. **How might today's story about Elisha being surrounded by God's horses and chariots of fire give them courage?** (Children respond.) **Let's take 7 seconds of silence to ask God to open their "spirit eyes" so they know God is with them.** Everyone prays silently. **There are believers around the world who may fear for their survival just as Elisha's servant did. Soldiers, homeless families, those who are very ill, and many others need to know God is with them. During our Golden Bowl prayer, let's ask God to open their "spirit eyes," too.**

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 pair of toy eyeglasses (or googly eyes) to remind you that God can open our "spirit eyes" to show He is with us. Tell your friends what Elisha's frightened servant saw when Elisha asked God to open his eyes.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 34 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the hills filled with God's horses and the chariots of fire surrounding Elisha and his servant.

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: PROTECTED CANDY

Purpose: Children will eat candy which is surrounded by a wrapper to remember God's protection surrounds them.

Snack Suggestion: Wrapped candy

When Elisha and his servant were in danger, what did God send to surround them with protection? (God's horses and chariots of fire.) Do you think seeing God's protection helped the servant to not be afraid? (Yes.) The wrapper on this candy surrounds and protects the candy. As we eat, let's talk about the people God gives us who help us when we are afraid.

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"Who helps you when you are afraid?"**

GAME: BLIND TRUST

Purpose: For children to remember God surrounds them with protection when they are afraid.

Supplies: None

Elisha and his servant saw the horses and chariots of fire God sent to protect them. Even though we may not see it, God's protection is always around us. Let's play a game where we trust what we cannot see, just as we trust God!

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Ask for a volunteer to be the servant. The teacher and an assistant are protectors.
3. The servant stands an arms length in front of the protectors with his or her back to them.
4. The servant crosses his or her arms by placing the right hand on the left shoulder and the left hand on the right shoulder. With his or her feet together, the servant shouts, **"God protects me from (child's fear)."** Then, he or she counts aloud to three. On three, the servant falls back into the waiting arms of the protectors.
5. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

When you fell back, could you see who was catching you? (No.) Did you trust you would be protected from falling on the floor? (Yes.) Today, we learned God protects us. We do not need to worry or be afraid.

What were some of the fears that were mentioned? (Children respond.) Can God protect you from those fears? (Yes.) You may still have to face the things you fear, but you can use your "spirit eyes" to see how God is surrounding and protecting you the whole time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: HIDDEN CHARIOT LIGHT BOX

Purpose: Children will make a craft to help them remember they are surrounded by God's protection.

Supplies: Gift or shoe box, white parchment or thin paper, thread, flashlight, tape, scissors

Prepare: Print and cut out three chariot shapes small enough to fit side by side inside the box. Cut a hole in the base of the box large enough for a flashlight to shine through.

Options: Make cutouts of Elisha and his servant to act out the story. Use wire instead of thread to keep chariots from becoming tangled. Instead of sharing a flashlight, give a small flashlight or penlight to each child as a gift. If supplies are limited, make one light box together.

Why was the servant worried? (The enemy army had surrounded the city.) **Why wasn't Elisha worried?** (He knew God's protection was surrounding them and was greater and more powerful than the enemy's army.) **Why didn't the servant know God's protection was around them?** (It was invisible to him.) **How did Elisha help his servant know God's protection was around them?** (He asked God to make his servant able to see God's horses and chariots of fire.) **God opened the servant's "spirit eyes" to see God's invisible protection. God protects us, too.**

Directions:

1. Tape a length of thread to each chariot.
2. Tape the loose end of each thread to the top edge of the box. When the box is set on its side, the chariots should hang down.
3. Tape the white parchment or thin paper to the open side of the box so it completely covers the opening. Trim excess paper as necessary.
4. Turn off or dim the lights. Set the box so the chariots are hanging down inside. Shine the flashlight through the hole in the back of the box and watch the shadows of the chariots appear through the white paper screen!

Each time you shine the light into your light box and look at the chariots, remember God protects you, too. You do not need to be afraid!

DISCUSSION: WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Purpose: Children discover God's mercy as they read what happened to the army of the King of Aram when they arrived in Samaria as Elisha's captives.

Supplies: Bible

At that time, Samaria was the capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel. It was built like a fortress. What do you think happened to the enemy army once they reached Samaria? (Children respond.) **To find the answer, let's read the rest of the story beginning with the last verse we read in our Bible story.** Read 2 Kings 6:20-23.

When an enemy was captured in Bible times, they were often killed or forced to be slaves. What did Elisha tell the King of Israel to do to the enemy army after they were trapped in the city of Samaria? (Feed them and let them go.) **What do you think the enemy learned about God's power that day?** (Children respond.) **What do you think they learned about God's kindness?** (Children respond.) **How can you show God's power and kindness to those who have tried to hurt you?** (Children respond.)

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 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

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

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

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 from heaven.) What did this prove to everyone there? (Children respond.)

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. When surrounded by the enemy, what did Elisha's servant see when God opened his eyes? (He saw the hills filled with God's horses and chariots of fire.) What did Elisha ask God to do to the enemy army? (Blind them so he could lead them to Samaria.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

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.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)