



Elijah and Elisha

Lesson Aim: To trust God to give 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

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

Scripture Focus: 2 Kings 2:1-15; Romans 12:6-8 **Key Verse:** 2 Kings 2:11

Christ Connection: Romans 12:6-8

THE WAY

The Big Question: Which of the gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8 do you think God has given to you?

UNIT 7 FOCUS VERSE

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse." Romans 1:20

Unit 7: The Prophets and God's Power

	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Elijah on Mount Carmel, 1 Kings 18:21-39	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 2:1-15; Romans 12:6-8	God chose Elisha to be Elijah's successor when He brought Elijah up to heaven.	To trust God to give us spiritual gifts and mentors to help us accomplish the work He has for us.
34	Elisha and the Chariots of Fire, 2 Kings 6:8-23; Psalm 91:11	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 1:1-3; 2:1-2, 10-14, 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 1:1-17; 2:1; 3:7-10; 4:1-11	God gave Jonah and the Ninevites each a second chance.	To know God gives second chances because He is merciful.
37	Amos and the Plumb Line, Amos 4:12-13; 5:11-15; 7:7-8	God sent Amos with a message of justice and righteous living.	To know the Bible is the standard God gives us for living upright lives.

LEADER'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."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as a cloak, parting waters, horses, and chariots*.

Note: Next week is the story of "Elisha and the Chariots of Fire."

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: PASS IT ON

Purpose: To introduce the idea of Elijah passing his role onto Elisha.

Supplies: Several rolls of toilet paper

Directions:

1. Divide the group into teams of 5-6 students.
2. Have each team form a line.
3. Give the student at the front of each line a roll of toilet paper.
4. Have them start with the loose end and wrap it around their waist three times.
5. On your signal, they should pass the roll underneath them, between their legs to the person behind them. This person then passes the roll over their shoulder to the next person in line. That person passes it between their legs as the first person did. Continue alternating over and under until you get to the end of the line. The person at the end should wrap it around their waist once and then start passing it to the front again, still alternating over and under.
 - You may wish to have them practice this once up and down their lines.
 - If they break the roll, they must stop where it broke and wrap it around their waist three times again. Then they can continue.
6. The game ends either when they have gone up and down the line a set number of times or, for a longer game, have them continue until the roll is empty.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: HOT POTATO

Purpose: To introduce the idea of Elijah passing his role onto Elisha.

Supplies: Small object such as a beanbag or even a real potato, music

Directions:

1. Students gather in a circle, either sitting or standing.
2. Have a leader or helper start the music.
3. When the music starts, the students begin passing the object around the circle.
4. When the music stops, the student holding the object is out of the game.
5. Continue playing until only student is left in the game.



The God of Power

THE WORSHIP

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: _____

Today, we worship God as the God of Power. 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.

Read Psalm 68:34-35.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on God's power.



Read the Unit 7 Focus Verse: Romans 1:20



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
"Lord, we worship You for _____."



God takes Elijah up to heaven

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.

Last time, we learned Elijah was a prophet of God. God showed His power by sending fire to light the altar Elijah built. God did this so the people would know that God was the only God and that He wanted them to turn their hearts back to Him. Today, we are learning about a man named Elisha who followed Elijah for ten years. God told Elijah to anoint Elisha to succeed him as God's prophet. God chose Elisha to carry on the work of Elijah when it was time for Elijah to go up to heaven. The two men were walking by the Jordan River when they saw God perform a miracle.

The leader or a student reads 2 Kings 2:1-8.

- Before taking Elijah up to heaven, the Lord sent Elijah first to Bethel, then to Jericho, and finally to the Jordan River. Before walking to each of the places, Elijah told Elisha to remain behind, but each time Elisha responded, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." Elisha was a faithful servant, never leaving his master's side, despite the circumstances. From the whole text it might seem that Elisha was being tested, but we don't really know for sure.
- 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.

The leader or a student reads 2 Kings 2:9-15.

- Elijah told Elisha of a clear sign that would confirm he had inherited Elijah's spirit: if he saw Elijah being taken up to heaven. After the Lord confirmed this to Elisha, He then confirmed it to the prophets by letting them witness Elisha strike the waters with Elijah's cloak and part the Jordan River just as his master Elijah had done earlier that day.
- Elijah and Elisha were both prophets who pointed others to God. To show God's almighty power, God did many miracles through them. First Elijah struck his cloak in the water and the Jordan River parted for them to cross safely. Then, a chariot and horses of fire appeared as God lifted Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. Finally, Elisha struck the waters with Elijah's cloak and the Jordan River waters parted again for him to cross. Everyone there knew Elisha was now a prophet of the Lord.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

- Elisha followed the prophet Elijah and learned from him. He asked Elijah to let him inherit a double portion of Elijah's spirit. In Israel, the firstborn son inherited a double share of his father's possessions and with it the right of succession (Deut. 21:17). Elisha asked for the right to be regarded as the successor of Elijah, as his firstborn son in regard to ministry. Yet Elisha had already been designated as Elijah's successor (1 Kings 19:19). This was a request for the spiritual power to fulfill the calling he already received.
- Elisha was under the mentorship of Elijah for a very long time. He obviously depended on his mentor, and he cared about Elijah as well. Elijah had done such a good job of mentoring that his mentee had no problem going out on his own with the same strength and faith. This is demonstrated in the parting of the waters.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

What is the connection between this story and Christ?

- 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 God's kingdom. 900 years after Elisha parted the Jordan River, Paul explained how God gives a spiritual gift to every believer.

The leader or a student reads aloud Romans 12:6-8.

- God has made us all special, giving us 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.
- The gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8 are often called the seven motivational spiritual gifts. God works through these gifts in us to see and meet the needs of others. As I describe each gift, raise your hand if it sounds like yourself or 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.
- 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.
- By watching how others serve God, we can learn how to better serve Him as well.



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

Which of the gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8 do you think God has given to you?



THE WAY Discussion

Using our spiritual gifts



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read 2 Kings 2:1-15; Romans 12:6-8 silently or aloud.

When the prophets asked Elisha, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?" why do you think he answered, "Yes, I know, so be quiet"?

Why do you suppose Elisha refused to be elsewhere when his mentor was taken by the Lord?

What does Elijah's cloak represent?

By repeating the parting of the Jordan, what did Elisha know about the power he would have as a prophet?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

Which of the gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8 do you think God has given to you?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

How can the deeds of believers who have gone before us encourage us today?

What older Christian could (or does) disciple or help you grow in your faith?

Why does God give us spiritual gifts?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to use our spiritual gifts SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #33 and Journal Entry #33. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #33.

PROPHETS & PROMISES

JOURNAL ENTRY #33

Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 2:1-15

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read 2 Kings 2:1-15.**
- What miracle did God perform when Elijah struck the water with his cloak?
- What did Elisha ask of Elijah?
- What did Elijah say Elisha would witness if he had inherited Elijah's spirit?
- How did the prophets know Elijah's spirit was now resting on Elisha?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Elisha began his ministry with the same miracle that Elijah ended his with: He parted the Jordan River. Why do you think that happened?

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Elisha had the opportunity to ask for anything he desired. He chose to ask for more of God's power. If you had the same choice, what would you choose?
- Have you noticed any of the spiritual gifts working through you? If so, which?
- Elisha was truly committed to God's calling on His life. How committed are you to your calling according to your gifts and the needs in your family, in your church, and in your community?
- Whom can you seek out this week as a mentor and example for your faith? How?

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

2 KINGS 2:1-15

**GOD GAVE ELISHA THE MENTOR AND THE GIFTS
HE NEEDED TO BE ELIJAH'S SUCCESSOR.**

**WE ARE CALLED TO TRUST GOD TO GIVE US
SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MENTORS TO HELP US
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