

When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.

Program C-2

**Elijah Rides to Heaven:
Elisha Becomes God's Prophet**
1 Kings 19:15-21, 2 Kings 2:1-14
Elijah/Elisha Series: Lesson #4

Bible Verse: **We will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15**
Past: **The LORD – he is God. 1 Kings 18:39**
God is good to us. Psalm 73:1
God gives food to us. Psalm 136:25

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: God's Spirit was with Elisha, just as He had been with Elijah.
Prop ideas: Cloak or Shawl
Read the story from "The Beginner's Bible"

SAMPLE STORY

Elijah's time of serving God as a prophet was coming to an end. God told Elijah that he had chosen Elisha to be the next prophet. Elijah went to find Elisha to share the news with him. He found Elisha plowing with a pair of oxen in a field. Elijah took off his cloak and put it on Elisha, a symbol that Elisha would be God's new prophet. Before leaving to follow Elijah, Elisha had a celebration with his family and neighbors to tell them all good-bye. He then followed Elijah and became his helper. Elisha learned a lot as Elijah's servant.

Elijah's time on earth was coming to an end. Elisha stayed close to Elijah as they traveled to where God sent them, to Bethel, Jericho and Jordan. As they approached the Jordan River, Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up. He struck the river with it and the water divided in two. They crossed over on dry land. As they walked, suddenly a chariot of fire drawn by horses of fire appeared between them. Elijah was taken up to heaven in the chariot in a whirlwind. Elijah never died: God simply snatched him up and carried him to heaven. Elisha knew that God would be taking Elijah away, but he was still surprised and in awe of seeing how it was done.

Elisha was sad that his teacher, Elijah, was gone. But, he knew that he was God's prophet now. He took the cloak, which had fallen from Elijah, and went back to the Jordan River. He rolled it up and struck

the water. Again, the water divided and Elisha walked on dry ground. Some men of God had seen what had happened from across the Jordan River. They asked if they should send some servants to go looking for Elijah. They wondered if God had just taken him to another place in the area. But, Elisha knew there was no need to search for Elijah. He knew that God had taken Elijah to heaven. God's Spirit, which had been with Elijah while he was on earth, was now with Elisha. Elisha was now God's prophet and would lead the people in following God. Both Elisha and Elijah chose to serve God. We, too, can choose to serve God, just as our Bible verse says. *We will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15*

FYI

First Session Classes will be:

Coloring Elisha Becomes a Prophet Page

Playing Group Games

Singing and Praising

COLORING PAGE
Elijah Taken to Heaven

Materials: Coloring Pages
Bible Verse Stickers
Crayons/markers (In room)

Do: Give each child a page to color. Help them write their names on the page. Add a Bible verse sticker when finished.

Talk About: Elijah never died! God sent a chariot from heaven to take him from Earth to heaven. Elisha watched as his teacher was taken away.

DRIVING A CAR

Teacher Extra: Bring a “Chariot” (wagon) and give “Chariot” rides around the room. You could even decorate with flames!

Materials: Paper Plates
Markers/Crayons (In room)

Do: Use a paper plate to make a steering wheel. (Help children draw a horn, etc.)

Let the children *‘drive’* around the room with their steering wheels. You can use chairs/tables to mark off a path or track. Teachers can act as traffic lights or traffic cops. (Use a plate to make a stop sign if you wish).

Take a “driving trip” to the water fountain, fish tanks or other destination. You can even give them Old Testament place names. (Bethel, Jerusalem, Shiloh, Jericho, etc.)

Variation: Pretend to use different types of transportation, such as a train, bus or plain. Take trips to their favorite places.

Talk About: Elijah and Elisha walked to the places they needed to go. Together they walked to Bethel, Jericho and Jordan. Then, God sent a very special chariot to carry Elijah to heaven. Isn’t that cool? They did not even have airplanes then! We use cars to go from place to place. Let’s pretend to drive around to different places.

WHAT'S MISSING?

- Materials:** Cloth or blanket (from home-living area)
Various small objects (from around room)
(Blocks, dish, cup, small dolls, etc.)
- Do:** Place items on table.
(4 or 5 for younger children, 8 to 10 for older children)
Tell the children to study the items closely. Place the blanket over everything, reach in and remove one item. (Either hide in your lap or use another blanket to conceal). Remove blanket and let them guess what is missing. Replace item and repeat.
- Variation:** You can make a huge group of items, turn off the lights and either remove an item or just move it to another spot.
- Talk About:** Elijah was missing! Some people wanted to look for him all over the county-side. But, Elisha knew that God had taken him to heaven in a blazing chariot.