

Old Testament

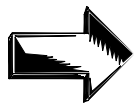
Elijah goes to Heaven 2 Kings 2:1-18

Younger Verse

We will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Older Verse

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever had to say goodbye to someone who was moving? All kinds of feeling and emotions are going through your mind. Elijah's friend felt this way. Let's see what happened.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

As Elijah and his friend Elisha were walking, God told Elijah that He was about to take him to heaven. He asked his friend to stay in the city, but he refused. Elisha knew that something was about to happen.

They traveled together to several cities. Each time, the people of God in the city warned Elisha that Elijah was about to go to heaven. It must have been a very emotional time for Elisha. He was Elijah's friend. He also knew that he would be the next messenger for God when Elijah was gone. He loved Elijah like a father.

As they were going, they needed to cross the big Jordan river. Elijah rolled up his coat and hit the water. Immediately, the water divided and they walked across on dry land. It was a special miracle from God.

When they were across, Elijah asked Elisha a question. He wanted to know what Elisha wanted before he went to heaven.

Elisha asked to have double the power of God to do great things for Him. Elijah told him if he saw him when he was being taken to heaven, it would happen.

This seems like a selfish request, but it was not. Elisha knew that he was the next messenger for God. He wanted God to help him do special things to help others.

Lesson Goals

Share how Elijah went to heaven
Explain how a person can get to heaven
Trust God even during sad times

Suddenly, as they were walking and talking, they heard a loud roaring sound. They saw a chariot of fire and horses of fire. (You may need to explain what a chariot is.) It separated the two of them and took Elijah straight up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw everything. He was so sad. He tore his clothes which was a way to show that he was sad and emotional about what happened. He knew that he would never see his friend again.

Elisha looked down and saw Elijah's coat. He knew that it was his special coat. It was his turn to give God's messages to people. He struck the Jordan river like Elijah did and the same thing happened! The water divided and he walked across. When the people saw this, they knew that Elisha was God's special messenger.

The Bible does not say if the other people saw Elijah go to heaven. They insisted that they must go and look for Elijah, wondering if God took him to another location. They searched for three days and knew that Elijah was in heaven.

It must have been a sad thing to say goodbye to such a good friend and someone who was like a father. God helped Elisha through the pain and sadness. He also encouraged him and let him know that He was His God and would guide him. When you have a sad or emotional thing happen, you can count on God to help you and comfort you. He will help you through the hard times.

Elijah went straight up to heaven without dying. Do you know how to get to heaven? We can only get into heaven if we have a clean and pure heart. There is only ONE way to do this. We must believe in Jesus and ask Him to clean out our dirty hearts. If we know that Jesus died and came back to life and trust Him, we must tell Him and ask Him to forgive our mistakes. He will forgive our sins and clean out our lives. Jesus will come into our lives and help us live for God. Then, one day, He will take us to Heaven to live with God. If you want to know more, let us know!

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids apply the lesson to their lives. Ask questions like "When does a person go to heaven?" or "Is it good to go to heaven?" to begin good discussions on the lesson. (Also see ideas on the 4th page.)

Memory Verse Activities

Use little milk cartons and make little "houses." Write the verse on the house and ask the kids to put the house somewhere so that they can remember to serve God.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us serve Him and love Him first. Pray for anyone who has special needs.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Use snack time to listen to the kids and develop relationships.

Planning for Lesson 61
Elisha does a water miracle
2 Kings 2:13-15; 19-22

Preschool Lesson
For
Elijah goes to Heaven

(Teachers, this lesson will have a hard concept in it for kids. They will probably think that all people go to heaven in bodily form. It is hard to explain that our spirit only goes to heaven especially; since in this case, Elijah goes up in bodily form. Take care as you share this lesson. Most of the kids we work with will experience loss much more than most at a young age. Help them know that they can look to God for help.)

We have learned special things about a man named Elijah. He was God's special messenger. He gave people messages from God. He was kind of like God's postman!

One day God told him a special secret. God told him that he was going to heaven that day. God told Elijah that he would go to heaven in a way that was different.

Elijah's friend, Elisha was very sad. He loved his friend like he was his father. He did not want his friend to go, but he knew that heaven was a wonderful place and God would take good care of him. He knew that he could trust God.

Suddenly, as they were walking and talking, they heard a loud roaring sound. They saw a chariot of fire and horses of fire. (You may need to explain what a chariot is.) Make roaring noises with foil or with their voices. It separated the two of them and took Elijah straight up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw everything. He was so sad. He tore his clothes which was a way to show that he was sad and emotional about what happened. He knew that he would never see his friend again.

Elisha looked down and saw Elijah's coat. He knew that how it was his special coat. It was his turn to give God's messages to people. When the people saw Elisha, they knew that he was God's new special messenger.

God helped Elisha through the pain and sadness. He also encouraged him and let him know that He was His God and would guide him. When you have a sad or emotional thing happen, you can count on God to help you and comfort you. He will help you through the hard times. We can talk to Him and pray for help. God will listen and answer our prayers.

Thank God that He loves us and helps us. Thank Him for good friends. Ask Him to help us be good friends to others.

Sing, "God is so good."

Hands-On Activities
For
Elijah goes to Heaven

This lesson is a great time to talk about heaven. Ask the kids to share the difference in how Elijah went to heaven and how we go to heaven. Help them see that Jesus Christ is the only way for us to go to heaven.

Find a big cardboard box and make it look like a chariot. Possibly borrow a skateboard for the wheels (be careful for safety reasons). Take turns pretending to be the chariot of fire.

If you are in a location with stairs, act out the story and have Elijah drop his coat and run up the stairs to “heaven.”

Use graham crackers and frosting to make an edible “chariot.” Let the kids use their imaginations!

To show how friends should “stick” together, bring a gingerbread person cookie cutter, bread and peanut butter. Cut out the shapes in bread, two for everyone. Talk about how friends like Elijah and Elisha “stick” together. Now “stick” the bread together with peanut butter and enjoy! (courtesy of Gospel Light).

Fold a piece of paper in half and trace a paper doll pattern. Open to see how the friends are holding hands. Talk about friendship and how we should be good friends.

Today is a great day to help kids see how they can go to heaven. Be sensitive to needs and listen.

It is sometimes hard for a young person to verbalize pain that has happened in their life. Help the children see that God is Someone that they can go to for help and comfort. He will be with them, especially during hard times because He loves them. They may have some very hard questions to ask. Please do not use answers like “God took the person away because He loved Him.” That sentence makes the child wonder why God didn’t take him!
