

# Old Testament

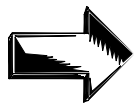
## Elisha and the army 2 Kings 6:8-23

### Younger Verse

Share with God's people who need help. Romans 12:13

### Older Verse

Share with God's people who need help. Romans 12:13



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 tried to play a trick on someone? Did they know the trick and fool you instead? In today's lesson, some people try to trick Elisha and his people. Let's see what happens. It's really surprising!

### 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.*

The king of Aram was at war with God's people in Israel. Each time the Arameans set up a place to attack, God would tell Elisha who would then tell the King of Israel. They would go a different way and avoid trouble.

After many times of avoiding an attack, the king of Aram decided that someone in his army was telling his secrets to the king of Israel.

His army told him that no one in the army was sharing secrets. They explained that Elisha was telling the king of Israel what was going on. They knew that he was a man from God.

When the king heard this, he sent out a large group of army soldiers to find him. They found him in the city of Dothan. The king sent a large group of soldiers, horses and chariots to get Elisha. They traveled by night and totally surrounded the city.

The next morning, Elisha's helper woke up and looked out the window. He was shocked and scared. He saw soldiers everywhere. He ran to Elisha to tell him the news.

Elisha encouraged his helper. He prayed to God and asked God to open his helper's eyes to see what God was going to do.

When the helper looked out the window again, he saw an amazing site. He saw horses and chariots of fire from God behind all the soldiers.

### Lesson Goals

**Explain how Elisha and God's people were kind to their enemies  
When we are frightened and scared, we can trust God  
God will answer our prayers**

Suddenly, the army started moving toward Elisha's home. Elisha prayed to God for help. He asked God to make them blind. Instantly, the WHOLE army was blind!!

All the soldiers were confused and afraid. Elisha boldly walked up to them and explained that they were in the wrong town.

Then he did a very brave thing. He asked them to follow him! They were being led by the person they came to capture! They had no idea who they were following.

Elisha led them to Samaria. He led the whole army into the hand of the king's army.

Then, Elisha prayed and asked God to remove the blindness. Suddenly, the men could see. When they looked around, they saw that they had been tricked and now THEY were surrounded by soldiers.

The king of Israel asked Elisha if they should kill them. Believe it or not, Elisha told them to instead to be kind to the soldiers. He instructed the king to prepare a delicious meal for the men.

After they ate, they returned home. Because of this kindness, the king of Aram did not fight God's people for a very long time.

There were several opportunities for Elisha and God's people to hurt or kill these mean soldiers. Instead, they did a very kind thing for them. It touched the men so much that they stopped fighting with God's people. They knew that God could do miracles and help His people.

God heard all of Elisha's prayers. God hears our prayers too. Sometimes God will answer a prayer with a "yes." Other times, God may want to wait or even say "no." We must remember that God knows what is best and will help us.

There was a time in Jesus' life when He had soldiers around Him. They came to arrest Him even though He had done nothing wrong. Instead of calling down angels to help Him, Jesus was quiet because He knew there was a reason for this. The mean people nailed Jesus to a cross because they thought that He was not God's Son. Jesus really WAS God's Son. He died on the cross for a better reason. He died on the cross to pay the price for all the wrong things that WE have done. Jesus took all our sin on Himself and died to make a way for us to go to Heaven. If we believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our heart, He will clean out all the dirt of our sin and make us pure and clean. He will stay with us forever and take us to Heaven one day. If you want to know more about Jesus, talk to us about it.

#### **Learning Activities**

Use activities to help the kids see how kindness changes things.

#### **Memory Verse Activities**

Bring double snacks. Explain that they will "share" one of their snacks with someone who did not come today. Say the verse together and let them tell with whom they will "share" their snacks.

#### **Prayer Time**

Thank God for listening to our prayers and answering them. Ask God to help with special need that you have.

#### **Snack Time/CleanUp**

Use frosting to decorate cupcakes to look like eyes. Share how God did a miracle to help His people in today's lesson.

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Elisha and the Army

One morning Elisha's helper opened the windows to the home. It was a beautiful day and the sun was shining. Suddenly he gasped. (Make a gasp sound). There were soldiers surrounding the whole town! Elisha's helper was scared.

He ran to Elisha and told him the news. Elisha was not scared. He knew that God would take care of them. He prayed and asked God to show his helper who was behind the soldiers.

Suddenly, the helper saw that God's horses and chariots of fire were behind the mean soldiers.

Then Elisha prayed and asked God to blind the mean army. Suddenly the army was blind. They could not see anything.

Instead of hurting the men, Elisha led them out of the city and took them to Samaria. They men probably had to hold hands to follow along.

Then, Elisha asked God to open their eyes. Suddenly, they could see. Elisha had taken them right to the king and his army. However, they did a very kind thing. Instead of hurting the men, they gave them delicious food and water to drink. Then, they let the men go back to their homes.

The men were so grateful for the kindness, they did not try to fight God's people for a very long time.

Elisha and God's people were kind to people who had been mean to them. That kindness showed the soldiers their wrong. They decided to be kind too. Both sides lived in peace because of the kindness.

God wants us to be kind, even to people who are mean to us. God loves us and will help us be nice to others.

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Hands-On Activities  
For  
Elisha and the Army

Play “Blind Man’s Bluff.” Blindfold one person who will be “it.” As you are spinning the person around 5 times, the other children find a spot to hide. When finished spinning, “it” shouts “stop” and everyone must freeze in place. Then “it” begins to search for the others by yelling “Blind man’s” and the other players must yell back “bluff.” “It” searches until he/she tags someone. “It” can continue to yell to help find a person.

The fighting and war in this story will probably bring much discussion concerning current affairs of our world. Take time to pray for our president and the troops. Assure them that God hears our prayers.

Talk about prayer. Share experiences from your life of how God answered prayers with a “yes,” “no,” or “wait.”

It is not easy being kind or nice to people who are your enemies. Today’s lesson shows how kindness can change hearts. Think about someone this week with whom you can be kind. Next week share how the kindness affected both of you.

Have fun acting out the lesson today. Imagine what it must have been like to suddenly be blind!

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