



January 15, 2017

Dear Teacher,

This week we come to the end on the life of Elijah. However, the story is quite unusual and should be a fascinating story for many of the children. A chariot of horses on fire whisk away God's faithful prophet only to leave an unexperienced Elisha to continue the work. An important aspect to the story is to see God's spirit, power and presence passed from Elijah to Elisha. This was a special calling and blessing for the prophets in the Old Testament and very few experienced it. But today, because of Jesus Christ's work, we have God's Spirit dwelling within us to guide us, assure us of His continued presence and to help us abide in God.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Split*: The Chariot of Fire

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: II Kings 2 (select portions)

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 84 (Pages 190-191), Gospel Story Bible, Pages 128-129, Beginners Bible, Pages 218-223.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- Because of Solomon's disobedience, God tore the kingdom apart. There was the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel.
- A wicked couple King Ahab and Queen Jezebel ruled the northern kingdom of Israel. They worshipped a false god called Baal.
- Ahab continued to worship Baal despite God showing who was truly the One, True God. This led to Ahab's death.
- God protected Elijah all the time. Elijah was God's prophet and told kings and God's people to worship God alone.
- God decides Elijah's mission is over and it is time for him to go. Elijah is taken to heaven in a whirlwind.
- Elisha, Elijah's protégé, takes over as God's prophet to Israel.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Crossing the Jordan

Supplies: Tan cardstock (land), blue cardstock (2 pieces for water), fabric coat, sticker verse

Instructions: Help children (or let them watch you) curl edges of 2 pieces of blue cardstock, glue to both sides of tan cardstock, glue fabric piece to middle of tan piece, place verse sticker below fabric.



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Chariot of Fire

Supplies: Paper cup, pipe cleaner, chariot sticker, streamers, crayons/markers, tape

Instructions: Color chariot sticker, place on cup, color cup if desired, attach pipe cleaner to cup by threading through holes on the rim, tape streamers to inside of cup.



Story: *Split:* The Chariot of Fire

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, this week we learn about the end of Elijah's mission to God's people. Mission means a very important job. Can anyone tell me what they think Elijah's mission was? (Allow time to answer) There's another person who comes to take over Elijah's job. Let's find out about this new person!
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (2 Kings 6:17)

Catechism Questions (1-13)

Hymn of the Month: Fairest Lord Jesus

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was God's prophet?
- Who was the king of Israel?
- What did Elijah want God's people to do?
- Did God's people listen and do what Elijah said?
- Who was Elijah's friend?
- What happened to Elijah? Where did he go?
- What did Elisha receive from Elijah?

Questions for Older Children:

- Why is it important that Elisha wanted a double portion?
- Do you think Elisha trusted God? How do you know?
- What do you think Elisha's mission will be?

Scripture Memory for January:

"O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So, the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:17

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- Question 13 – Can God do all things? *Yes. God can do all His holy will.*

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, this week we learn about the end of Elijah's mission to God's people. Mission means a very important job. Can anyone tell me what they think Elijah's mission was? (Allow time to answer) Well another person comes to take over Elijah's job. Let's find out about this new person!

Life After Ahab

Elijah lived during a very wicked time. King Ahab had ruled most of the time Elijah was alive. And if you remember, Ahab was the most wicked king ever to rule Israel. Ahab and Queen Jezebel were very wicked people who did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord. They caused God's people to worship false gods called idols. This turned the hearts of the people of Israel away from God. It had been Elijah's mission to tell wicked kings that God was the only one God to be worshipped. Elijah told the wicked kings many times if they did not turn from their evil ways God would surely judge their sin. The wicked kings never changed their ways. The wicked kings often tried to throw in jail, hurt and even kill Elijah, but God protected him.

King Ahab's son Ahaziah [**pronunciation:** aa-ha-zye-ah] ruled after Ahab died. And Queen Jezebel was still alive to help Ahaziah guide God's people in worshipping false gods. Ahaziah did not rule very long though. He became badly injured in an accident and instead of seeking the Lord, the evil King looked to false gods to heal him. Elijah discovered that Ahaziah was seeking the false gods help and told a messenger for King Ahaziah that the king would not live. This made Ahaziah very mad, and like his father before him, Ahaziah tried to hurt Elijah. But God would not let that happen to His prophet. God protected Elijah each and every time. All Elijah wanted was for God's people to worship Him. But King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and King Ahaziah did not want to listen to what Elijah was saying.

Saying Goodbye

Elijah's work was finished. God was going to take him to heaven. Elijah and Elisha were living at Gilgal [**pronunciation:** gill-gal] when the word of the Lord came to Elijah. Elijah told Elisha, "Please stay here. The Lord has told me to go to Bethel." Elisha did not like to hear this from Elijah. Elisha could not bear to part from Elijah, and said, "As the Lord lives, I won't leave you." So together they travelled to Bethel where there was a group of prophets living. The prophets came to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that God is going to take your master away today?" Elisha answered, "Yes, I know it. But don't talk about it."

Again, Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you live, I won't leave you." So the two prophets travelled to Jericho. In Jericho there was another group of prophets. These prophets came to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that God is going to take your master away today?" And Elisha answered, "Yes, I know it. But don't talk about it."

Elijah said to Elisha one more time, "You had better stay here. The Lord has sent to the Jordan." But Elisha replied just as he did before, "As sure as the Lord lives, and your soul lives, I will not leave you."

The prophets from Jericho knew something was going to happen. They went up to a high place where they could watch as Elijah and Elisha traveled on to the Jordan River. Fifty men from a group of the prophets followed Elijah and Elisha to see what was going to happen. They stood far from where Elijah and Elisha were by the Jordan. Elijah took off his coat, rolled it up and hit the water. The water split right down the middle and divided to the right and to the left. Elijah and Elisha traveled on the dry river bed just like the Israelites did at the Red Sea!

On the other side of the Jordan River, Elijah said to Elisha, "Is there anything you would like to have me do for you before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "I would like to ask for a double portion of your spirit." Elijah answered, "You have asked a hard thing, but if you see me when I am taken away, then you will have it." Elisha did not mean to have twice as much power as Elijah, but Elisha wanted the same kind of power that Elijah had shown. A sort of inheritance to pass down as a father would to a son. Elijah struggled with this because it was not his power to give, only God could do that.

The two men continued to walk together a little farther. As they were walking and talking, an incredible thing happened. A blur of orange, yellow and red appeared very rapidly between Elijah and Elisha. It came out of nowhere and with a "whoosh" a chariot and horses of fire appeared. The chariot and horses of fire separated Elijah from Elisha. Elisha shouted, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel, and their horsemen!" But Elijah was gone; he went up to heaven in a whirlwind. As Elisha watched Elijah be carried away he ripped his own clothes to show his sadness. Elisha looked down, saddened by the sudden loss of his friend Elijah. But Elisha saw Elijah's coat and picked it up. Elisha was somewhat happy to have the coat to remember his friend by. Elisha took the coat and walked back to the Jordan River. As Elisha stood on the bank of the river, he wondered if he could do the very same thing that Elijah did earlier. Elisha took the coat off and rolled it up to hit the water of the Jordan River. As Elisha hit the water with Elijah's coat, he said, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When Elisha hit the water, it divided to the right and to the left just as it did before. Then Elisha crossed over.

A group of the prophets at Jericho were watching. They said, "Elisha now has the spirit Elijah had!" They came to meet him and they bowed down to the ground before him. Elisha was now God's prophet to His people. Elisha was to tell God's people to worship God only. God was with Elisha and never left him.