



January 22, 2017

Dear Teacher,

This week we begin to study the ministry of Elisha, Elijah's protégé. Last week we learned that Elisha asked for a double portion of the spirit that rested upon Elijah. As we learned, this was not Elijah's request to grant, but only God's. This week we learn if Elisha truly has a double portion. Elisha encounters a plea to raise a dead boy back to life. A tall task and one in which Elisha turns to God for help. This story is the second resurrection miracle in the Old Testament and points to the fact that only God can bring back the dead to life.

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*: Elisha, Part 1

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 4:8-36

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 85 (Pages 192-194), Gospel Story Bible, Pages 130-131, Beginners Bible, Pages 228-232.

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.
- God decides Elijah's mission is over and it's 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.
- Elisha begins his ministry routinely traveling by the town of Shunem. He becomes friends with a family. The lady of the family is promised a son by Elisha and within a year the prophecy is fulfilled.
- The boy passes away in the arms of his mother. The mother does not lose faith in Elisha's promise to her. She quickly seeks him for help.
- Elisha looks to God to help. Only God can raise the dead back to life.
- The boy is brought back to life by God.

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: Gift of a baby

Supplies: Clothespin, fabric piece, ribbon, tape, marker

Instructions: Starting at one corner wrap clothespin in fabric (like a blanket) leaving round end exposed, secure with tape, tie ribbon around fabric, help children draw face on round end of clothespin.



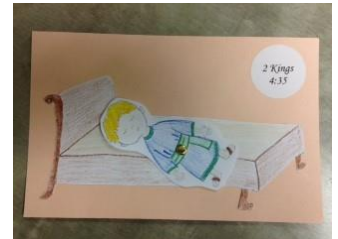
Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Boy restored to life

Supplies: Peach cardstock, bed, boy, brad, verse sticker, glue, crayons/markers

Instructions: Color bed and boy, glue bed to peach cardstock, add verse sticker, secure boy to bed using brad in pre-punched hole. Boy can now rotate between laying down and sitting up.



Story: *Split:* Elisha, part 1

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, today we have quite the story! The story starts off with a happy beginning – a mother is promised a child and she has one. But it takes a turn, and something sad happens: the little boy dies. But this is not the end of the story! Let's listen and find out what else happens...
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?
- What town did Elisha pass often?
- Who lived in the town of Shunem?
- What did the important lady do for Elisha?
- What did Elisha promise the woman?
- What happened to her son?
- How did Elisha bring the dead boy back to life?

Questions for Older Children:

- Why did the woman throw herself down at Elisha's feet?
- What happened to the little boy at the end of the story?
- Where else do we see someone come back to life in the Bible?
- Who brought the boy back to life?

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, today we have quite the story! The story starts off with a happy beginning – a mother is promised a child and she has one. But it takes a turn, and something sad happens: the little boy dies. But this is not the end of the story! Let's listen and find out what else happens...

Elisha Starts His Ministry

Not soon after Elijah left for Heaven in the whirlwind, Elisha began his ministry to serve God. Elisha served during a time where many people did not worship God, especially the king of Israel. The King of Israel, Jehoram [**pronunciation:** juh-or-rum], worshipped idols like his father and grandfather before him. Because of this idol worship, God disciplined his people. There was little food in the land to eat and Israel's enemies constantly fought them. It was hard living in the land of Israel. Elisha knew he was to tell people that only God was the One, True God, and that's just what he did.

Elisha's Small Room

One day Elisha went to Shunem [**pronunciation:** shoe-nim]. Shunem was a town that many people passed through daily. An important woman lived in Shunem; the Bible does not tell us her name. One day as she sees Elisha passing through the town, she stops the prophet and begs him to stay and eat. Then every time Elisha passed through Shunem, he would go to the lady's house to have a meal and rest. Then one day the woman had a very nice thought and told her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. He passes by our house all the time. Let's make a small room on the roof. Let's put a bed in the room for Elisha. And we can put a table, a chair and a lampstand there.

Then when he comes by, he can stay there.” This very important lady wanted Elisha to have his own special room; and to build the room and to host Elisha was a very generous thing this woman did.

As was normal, Elisha was passing through Shunem and arrived at the important lady’s home. Elisha was welcomed into the home and immediately went to his special room on the roof. Elisha laid down in the bed and rested. After resting for some time, Elisha gave his servant Gehazi [**pronunciation**: gee-has-i] an instruction: “Call the Shunammite woman.” “And when you talk to her say this, ‘You have gone through all this trouble for us. What can I, God’s prophet, do for you? Do you want me to speak to the king or the commander of the army for you?’”

The woman answered the servant, “I live among my own people.” Gehazi took the answer back to Elisha. Elisha still wondered about what he could do for her, so he asked his servant, “But what can we do for her?” Gehazi answered, “She has no son, and her husband is old.” Then Elisha had an idea. Elisha had the servant call for the important woman. She arrived and stood in the doorway of Elisha’s small room. Elisha said to her, “About this time next year, you will hold a son in your arms.” The woman quickly replied, “No, master, man of God. Don’t lie to me! Don’t get my hopes up!”

A Child Promised

Just as Elisha had promised it happened. The important woman became pregnant not soon after Elisha had told her she would be. The woman gave birth to a son at the exact time the next year as Elisha had said. The baby grew into a little boy, and kept growing! One day the boy went out to his father who was with men harvesting grains in the field. The boy said to his father, “My head! My head! It hurts!” The father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother!” The servant took him to his mother. The boy climbed into his mother’s lap and laid there until noon. And then the boy died. The important woman cried while picking up her son. She carried him up to Elisha’s room as tears kept falling. Then she laid the boy on Elisha’s bed, kissed his forehead, walked out and closed the door. She could not believe her only son was dead. She wept outside Elisha’s room.

Once the woman could not cry any longer, she called to her husband. She said, “Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys. Then I can go quickly to the man of God and come back.” The husband said, “Why do you want to go to him today? It isn’t the New Moon or the Sabbath day.” The husband thought that Elisha would be too busy to see the woman. But the important woman said, “It will be all right.”

The woman saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead on. Don’t slow down for me unless I tell you.”

And so she went to Elisha at Mount Carmel. The prophet saw her coming from far away, and said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, there’s the Shunammite woman! Run to meet her!” When you get to her, ask, “Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is the child all right?” Gehazi did just as Elisha said. Once he met her, and asked the question; she answered, “Everything is all right.” She finally came to Elisha at the hill and at once fell at his feet. She grabbed his feet and held tightly to them. Gehazi tried to pull her away, but Elisha said to him, “Leave her alone. She’s very upset, and the Lord has not told me about it. He has hidden it from me.” The important lady said, “Master, I didn’t tell you I wanted a son. I told you, ‘Don’t fool me. You got my hopes up and now my heart is crushed!’” Then Elisha turned to Gehazi and said, “Get ready. Take my walking stick in your hand and go quickly to their home. If you meet anyone, don’t talk to him. If anyone greets you, don’t answer him. Lay my walking stick on the face of the boy.” And Gehazi did just as Elisha said.

But the child’s mother said to Elisha, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I won’t leave you!” The important lady would not leave Elisha, so he got up and followed her back to her home.

Gehazi traveled very quickly to the home of the important lady. Gehazi went into Elisha’s small room and saw the boy laying on the bed. Gehazi walked slowly over to the lifeless boy and laid the walking stick on the child’s face. But the child did not talk or move. Gehazi did not know what to do next, so he went back to meet Elisha. As Gehazi ran

back to find Elisha, he saw the prophet and the woman walking to the home of the mother. Gehazi approached Elisha and said, "I did what you told me to do. The child did not wake up."

Elisha heard the news. Disappointed he walked faster to the house. Elisha made his way up the stairs to his room, and slowly opened the door. There on his bed was the lifeless child; cold and pale. Elisha went in the room and shut the door behind him. He stood for a moment just staring at the child. It was just the two of them alone in the room. Elisha slowly walked over to the bed and knelt beside it. His fingers interlocked and his lips moved. Elisha prayed to the Lord for guidance, for an answer, for a miracle. Only God could do something now, Elisha had no power or control to do anything. Elisha finished his prayer and looked again at the lifeless child. Elisha wondered how could this dead child come back from the dead? Elisha touched the boy's closed eyes, no response. Elisha touched the boy's cold lips with no response. Elisha touched the boy's hand, and still no response. The dead boy did not move at all. Then Elisha touched the boy's arms and legs, and the boy became warm. It seems as if life were returning to the dead boy! Elisha could not believe it. He got up and paced around the room wondering what to do next, praying and hoping for an answer from God. Elisha returned and touched the boy's arms and legs. Then suddenly the child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes! Elisha could not believe what just happened. He shouted out to Gehazi, his servant, and said, "Call the mother!" Gehazi did just that. The mother barged into the room, and Elisha said to her, "Pick up your son." She ran to Elisha and fell at his feet. In deep gratitude she bowed face down on the floor. She could not believe that her son was alive. She was so thankful for this miracle. She picked up her son with joy and left the room.

This was a big miracle in Elisha's day and in his ministry to God's people. God, through Elisha, had brought a dead boy back to life. This miracle points to another story of the dead coming back to life; it happened in the life of Jesus Christ.