

ELISHA

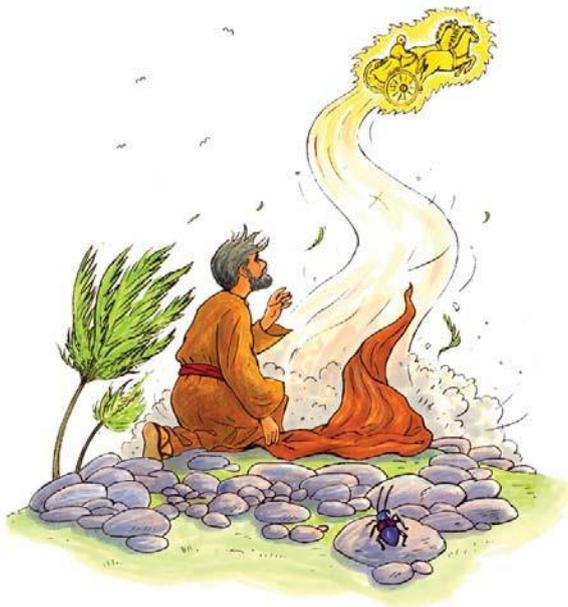
2 Kings 2:1-18



Contents

Message	God uses various people as instruments to continue His work and equips them for this purpose .
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Elisha continued God's work after Elijah.■ If a person, for whatever reason, can no longer be active, God sees to it that His work continues through other people.
Bible Text	2 Kings 2:1-18

Elisha



*t was time for the Lord to take Elijah to heaven by a whirlwind. As Elijah and Elisha were leaving a place called Gilgal, Elijah asked his pupil to stay there. He then said, “The Lord wants me to go to Bethel.”

Elisha replied, “I swear by my faithfulness to the living Lord and to you that I will not leave you.”

When they arrived at Bethel many of the other prophets crowded around them. They asked Elisha, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take Elijah away from you today?”

Elisha replied, “Yes, I know.”

Once again Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here. The Lord wants me to go to Jericho.”

And again Elisha replied, “I swear by my loyalty to the living Lord and to you that I will not leave you.

”They went to Jericho. Once again some of the prophets came up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take Elijah away from you today?” Elisha replied, “Yes, I know.”

And again Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here. The Lord wants me to go to Jordan.”

Once again Elisha replied, “I swear by my faithfulness to the living Lord and to you, I will not leave you.”

Fifty prophets watched Elijah and Elisha as they stood on the banks of the Jordan. Then Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water. The waters divided and they were able to cross the river on dry land. When they reached the other shore Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I should do for you before I am taken away.”

Elisha asked him, “Please give me a double portion of your spirit.” Elijah replied, “You have asked for something difficult. If you can see me as I am taken away then your request will be fulfilled.” They continued on, talking together. Then a flaming chariot with fiery horses appeared and a whirlwind took Elijah up to heaven. Elisha saw it. When he could no longer see Elijah, he ripped his clothes into two pieces. He picked up Elijah's cloak and returned to the river Jordan. He struck the water with the cloak, just as Elijah had done. Elisha said, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” The water divided so that he could walk through. The other prophets standing on the opposite bank saw this and said, “Elijah's spirit is now with Elisha.” The prophets walked towards Elisha. They fell down before him because they knew that he was the successor of Elijah. For three days, fifty men searched for Elijah but they could not find him.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress and additional materials like a cloak, a bowl of water...

Sing with the children an appropriate song like "Swing low sweet chariot".

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- Why do you think Elisha wants to go with Elijah, even though he asks him to stay behind? (Elisha is asking Elijah to give him what he needs to continue God's work.)
- What does Elisha ask Elijah? ("Please give me a double portion of your spirit.")
- How does Elijah disappear? (A chariot with fiery horses appeared and took Elijah up to heaven.)
- What miracle happens then? (Elisha strikes the water with the cloak, just as Elijah has done.)

Have the children repeat...

- Elisha continued God's work after Elijah.
- If a person can no longer be active, God elects another to His work.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- What happens after a minister retires? (God needed someone else to continue His work.)
- Who chooses him? (God He equips him with what he needs.)

<p style="text-align: center;">Repeat the Message God uses various people as instruments to continue His work. He equips them for this purpose.</p>
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