

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 30
Elisha Is Called; Elijah Ascends to Heaven (I Kings 19; II Kings 2)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. A prophet always represents the Word of the Lord. The prophets spoke from the Lord to the people.
- B. Our “prophet” is the Word. The Word can show us our evils, soothe our troubles, and show us the way to true happiness.
- C. The two greatest prophets sent to help Israel were Elijah and Elisha. Because they obeyed the Lord, He was able to give them great power.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. We learned about three great kings of Israel. Who were they? (Saul, David, and Solomon)
- 2. After Solomon died, Israel was divided into two kingdoms. The southern kingdom was called Judah. It had good kings, and the people of Judah followed the Lord. But the northern kingdom, which was called Israel, had very bad kings. One of these kings, Ahab, led the people to worship a false god named Baal instead of the Lord.
- 3. The Lord tries to help people who are bad, and He tried to help the people of Israel. He sent them a great prophet named Elijah who warned Ahab of a drought that would plague Israel, and then no rain fell for 3 1/2 years. The crops didn't grow, and food was scarce, but the Lord provided for Elijah. How did Elijah get food during the famine? (First from the ravens, and then from the widow.)
- 4. Last time we learned that Elijah, the prophet of the Lord, challenged the prophets of the false god, Baal, to a contest to see whose god was truly God. Of course, Elijah won the contest, and then the people of Israel believed that the Lord is the one true God!
- 5. Today we' ll hear the story of how Elisha became a prophet of the Lord after Elijah.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read I Kings 19:19-21. Tell the children: Elisha served Elijah as a servant until Elijah went to heaven. Now let's hear how the Lord took Elijah into heaven.
- 2. Read II Kings 2:1-14.

C. Ideas to Discuss

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1. Literal Sense

- a. Who was to be prophet after Elijah? (Elisha)
- b. What was Elisha doing when Elijah came to him? (Plowing with twelve yoke of oxen)
- c. How did Elijah call Elisha? (He passed by him and threw his mantle on him. A mantle is a loose, sleeveless coat.)
- d. What did Elisha do before he followed Elijah? (He kissed his parents; he offered a yoke of oxen.)
- e. Elisha went with Elijah to several cities just before Elijah died. How did they cross the Jordan River? (Elijah parted the waters of Jordan with his mantle.)
- f. Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for him. What did Elisha ask for? (To have a double portion of the spirit that Elijah had)
- g. What did Elijah answer? (That he would have it if he saw Elijah go up to heaven)
- h. How was Elijah taken up to heaven? (There was a chariot of fire and horses of fire, and Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.)
- i. Did Elisha see him go? (Yes)
- j. How did Elisha get Elijah's mantle? (The mantle fell from Elijah as he went up to heaven.)
- k. What did Elisha do with the mantle which showed that he was now the prophet of the Lord? (He used the mantle to part the waters of Jordan as Elijah had done.)

2. Further Ideas

- a. Elisha was a good man, wasn't he? He followed Elijah right away, only stopping to say goodbye to his parents and offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Then he went with Elijah to be His servant and disciple. When it came time for Elijah to go to heaven, Elisha went with him to several cities and across the river Jordan. Then Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for him.
- b. Now, if the Lord asked you what He could do for you, what would you answer? Would you ask to be beautiful, happy, or rich? Would you ask to be good or wise? What would you ask? (Do you remember what king Solomon asked for? An understanding heart to judge the people well.)
- c. What did Elisha ask for? To have twice as much spirit, or power, as Elijah had. That meant that Elisha wanted the Lord to be with him even more than He had been with Elijah. Elisha asked for this so that he could serve the Lord better.
- d. Because Elisha wanted to obey the Lord, the Lord was able to grant his wish! How did Elisha know that his wish was granted? (He saw the marvelous way that the Lord took Elijah into heaven: by the horses and chariot of fire.)

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- e. What the Lord wants to give all of us is the power to be good so that we can be happy. We can learn what is right and what is wrong from His Word. And we can try to do what is right because we know we should. But if we want to have a double portion, like Elisha, then we must try to do what we know is right because it is the Lord's will and because we love Him and want to make Him happy. Then, as Elisha saw the chariot of fire, we will understand more and more of the Lord's teachings in the Word.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," HYMNAL #169.
2. "May we learn, O Lord of life," HYMNAL #219.
3. "Al I that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
4. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," HYMNAL #246. (Hebrew version of #245)

B. Activities

C. Project

1. **A WAX-RESIST PICTURE OF ELIJAH AND THE CHARIOT:** Children use crayons or oil pastels to make Elijah in the chariot pulled by two horses. Suggest that they make bright flames around the chariot and horses to show that they are fiery. The pictures can be left this way, or they can be brushed with a watery blue poster paint or blue watercolor. (The paint will adhere to the paper only where there is no crayon or oil pastel, so the children will want to be sure to fill in the horses, chariot, and Elijah.)
2. **COMPLETE A PICTURE OF ELIJAH ASCENDING TO HEAVEN:** Give children the attached picture to complete. They should draw the prophet Elijah standing in the chariot using crayons or oil pastels in fiery colors (red, orange, and yellow) to make flames around the chariot and horses.

IV. Teaching Aids

Illustrations of Elijah being taken into heaven

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 3, "Elijah's Mantle" (II Kings 2), pp. 267-280.