

Take Action: Elijah's Mantle

II Kings 2:1-18: Elijah Is Carried to Heaven

Use the guided discussion to bring the story to life. Then pass around a “mantle” and discuss what we can do to have the Lord’s power with us. Each child will take home a small “mantle” reminding them that the Lord is always with them.

Supplies Needed for the Class

- square of soft fabric for each child to take home (approx 12" x 12" (30 x 30cm) or larger)
- larger piece of fabric to use as a mantle to pass around (pillow case, larger shawl or scarf, etc.)

Warm-up Discussion

Invite the children to sit on the floor in a circle and introduce the activity with a discussion.

1. How did you come to church today? (walk, drive)
2. Who brought you to church today? (parents, brothers or sisters)
3. What other kinds of things do your parents do for you? (provide you with a home, feed you, make sure you have clothes, they take care of you in many ways)
4. Some day you will be a grown up and you may become a mommy or a daddy too!
5. You will have the job of taking care of your own family and providing them with the things they need.
6. When a big job like being a mom or a dad is passed from one person to a younger person, we sometimes say that the “mantle has passed” from one person to another.



Main Lesson

In our story today, Elijah was the Lord’s main prophet. He was in charge of telling the Children of Israel messages from the Lord. But he was getting older, and it was time for him to go to heaven. So the Lord prepared Elisha to be His prophet instead. Elisha followed Elijah from one place to another place and eventually they crossed over the river Jordan.

How did they get across the river? (Elijah rolled up his mantle and used it to hit the water. The water dried up in the middle and they walked across on dry ground. Elijah’s mantle was like a cloak that kept him warm. It had the Lord’s power in it.)

Page 2 - Elijah's Mantle

How did Elijah go up into heaven? (By a whirlwind in a chariot of fire.)

What fell from Elijah when he went up to heaven? (His mantle.)

What did Elisha do with the mantle? (He picked it up.)

How did Elisha know that Elijah's power was with him? (He struck the river with the mantle and it opened up to let him across.)

Elisha knew that he had become the Lord's main prophet!

The mantle had passed from Elijah to Elisha.

Activity

- Now we are going to pass a mantle around our circle. (Put the "mantle" around the shoulders of one of the children.)
- Imagine that you are Elisha, and you have just picked up Elijah's mantle and put it on. Think of just one thing that the Lord wants each one of us to do and share it with everyone. (Suggest ideas that a child could do—tell the truth, help other people, obey your parents, go to church, keep the Lord's name holy, don't take things that are not yours, be kind to other people, share nicely, love the Lord most of all, etc.)
- Now the mantle will pass to _____. (Take the mantle off one child and put on another child.) Go around the circle until each child has had a turn to say something that the Lord wants us to do.
- Now each person will get a little "mantle" of their own to keep. (Hand each child a square of soft fabric.)
- This "mantle" will help remind you about all of the things the Lord wants us to do.
- You may want to keep your "mantle" under your pillow at night, or in your pocket to remind you that the Lord is always with you.