

50. Elijah Goes to Heaven

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

50. Elijah Goes to Heaven

- a. Elijah was old and the Lord had told him to choose Elisha as his follower. Elisha would become the Lord's next prophet.
- b. Elisha knew that Elijah was going to heaven that day. Elijah kept testing him, saying that he should stay back, but Elisha passed each test.
- c. Make the parting of the river Jordan a dramatic moment. How could this old man go across a strong river? Easy. He parted the waters, and walked on dry land.
- d. Tell them that Elijah was the only normal man who went directly to heaven. His body was never found on the earth, even his body went up into heaven.
- e. Use their imagination when you tell the story of the chariot of fire that came down. You might even ask them if it was going to burn Elijah up. But when he got into the chariot it didn't burn him up because it was heavenly fire, just like the fire of the burning bush that Moses saw.
- f. Elisha was filled with wonder at the amazing sight.
- g. But Elijah left his cloak behind, and Elisha picked it up and used it to do his first miracle. He struck the waters of Jordan and they parted, and all the prophets knew that he was now the great prophet.



Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss
Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt
Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

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The Lord Takes Elijah to Heaven

When Elijah was an old man, the Lord was ready to take him to heaven. Elijah and his follower, who was called Elisha, were at a place called Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here. The Lord has called me to go to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “I will not leave you.”

So they went down to Bethel. And the priests that were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the Lord will take Elijah from you today?” And Elijah said, “I do know. Hush!”

Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Elisha, stay here for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” And Elisha said, “I will not leave you.” And so they came to Jericho. Then the priests that were in Jericho came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that this day the Lord will take Elijah from you?” And Elisha said, “I know it. Hush!”

Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here in Jericho, for the Lord has sent me to the river Jordan.” And Elisha said, “I will not leave you.” Then the two went on and they came to the Jordan River. And Elijah took off his cloak, rolled it up and hit the water of the river with it, and the river separated so that the two men could pass through on dry land.

So it was, as they were walking and speaking, that a chariot of fire and horses of fire suddenly appeared in a whirlwind. They went between the two men separating them. Then Elijah was taken up into heaven. When Elisha saw what happened, he cried out to Elijah, “My father, my father!” And then he did not see Elijah anymore. Elijah was gone.

But on the ground lay Elijah’s cloak and Elisha picked it up and took it with him. And he returned to the river Jordan, where he hit the water with Elijah’s cloak and said, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” And the waters separated so that Elisha could pass on dry ground. Then the priests who saw this said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.”

II Kings 2

