

Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School: Lessons for Preschool – Kindergarten

Lesson 2.28: ELIJAH ASCENDS TO HEAVEN — 2 Kgs. 2: 11

TEACHER PREPARATION

Read over 2 Kings 2:11.

WORSHIP CIRCLE

STORY AND DISCUSSION

Elijah is a prophet. What is a prophet? (Someone that the Lord speaks to, so that he can teach everyone about the Lord.) During his life Elijah did a lot of teaching about the Lord, and the Lord gave him power to do many miracles. But now Elijah was getting old. It was almost time for his life on earth to be finished. There was a younger man named Elisha who had been following Elijah for a while, and learning from him.

One day Elijah told Elisha to stay where he was while Elijah traveled to a certain city. But Elisha said, “I will not leave you!” He wanted to go with Elijah, because he didn’t want to be away from Elijah.

When Elijah and Elisha got to the city, some men came out to see them. The men said to Elisha, “Do you know that the Lord will take away your master, Elijah, today?” You see they knew that today would be the day that the Lord would take the prophet Elijah into heaven. Elisha said to them “Yes, I know.”

Elijah and Elisha traveled to another city, and the men of that city said the same thing to Elisha: “Do you know that the Lord will take away your master today?” and Elisha said, “Yes, I know, keep silent!”

Next the Lord told Elijah to travel to the Jordan river, and Elisha went with him, because he didn’t want to leave Elijah. Now the Jordan river was too big and deep for Elijah and Elisha to cross over, but remember that the Lord had given Elijah the power to do miracles! Elijah took off his mantle, which means a cape, rolled it up, and hit the water with it. Suddenly the water divided and went to each side, so that Elijah and Elisha could cross over on dry ground.

Now Elijah said to Elisha, “Before I am taken away from you, is there anything that you wish for?” And Elisha wished that the powerful spirit of the Lord that had been in Elijah could now be in him. Elijah said, “If you see me when I am taken away from you, then you will get your wish.” Suddenly, something amazing appeared: a chariot of fire, pulled by two horses of fire appeared right between Elijah and Elisha! Then Elijah, riding in the fiery chariot, went up in a whirlwind into heaven! What an amazing way to go into heaven!

Now Elisha had seen Elijah be taken up into heaven, so would Elisha's wish come true? (Yes.) What was Elisha's wish? (That the powerful spirit of the Lord could now be in him.) Elisha picked up Elijah's mantle that had fallen to the ground and hit the water of the Jordan river with it and what do you think happened? The water divided and went to each side, so that Elisha could cross over on dry land. So Elisha's wish really had come true - he now had the Lord's power in him. Elisha was sad that Elijah was gone, but he saw that now he had a very important job to do. Now he would be a prophet for the Lord. He would always do what the Lord said, and he would try to teach everyone to worship the Lord.

There were some men who went looking for Elijah after he went up to heaven in the fiery chariot. These men thought that maybe Elijah had fallen down somewhere out of that chariot into the mountains or into the valleys. They looked and looked, but of course they couldn't find him, because where was Elijah? (In heaven!) Yes! And when people go into heaven, we can't find them on this earth anymore. They stay and live happily in heaven - forever!

PROJECT

Ahead of time:

For each child have:

7X11 inch piece of poster board, with a hole punched 1/2 inch from the top in the middle, and a hole punched 1/2 inch from the bottom in the middle.

A 32 inch piece of white yarn. Tie a triple or quadruple knotted bow at one end so that it won't pull through the punched hole. At the other end, wrap a small piece of scotch tape to make it easy to thread through a hole.

A photocopied picture of Elijah in the chariot of fire.

A cut out cloud, with "Elijah Ascends into Heaven" printed on it.

Doing the project:

1. First talk about the whirlwind that took Elijah up into heaven. Explain that a whirlwind is a wind that blows around and around in circles as it goes up into the air. Have the children take a blue crayon and draw lines going around and around in circles, some near the bottom of the page, some in the middle, and some near the top.
2. Next have the children work on coloring the picture of Elijah and the horses and chariot. Remind them that the horses and chariots were made of heavenly fire. What color is fire? While they color the picture, the teacher can go around and tie a triple bow at the top of the yarn.
3. After the pictures are colored the teacher can tape the picture onto the yarn. Have the yarn pulled all the way up (see picture) and tape the picture at the top.
4. Lastly, give to each child the cloud with the writing on it. Explain that we will tape this at the top of the page, so that Elijah can seem to disappear up into heaven. Show them how to tape the cloud to the top of the picture, giving them 2 to 4 pieces of tape. Now they can pull the yarn and show how the Lord brought Elijah into heaven - in a chariot of fire, and in a whirlwind!

Elijah Ascends Into Heaven

