Make: Elijah and the Whirlwind

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



Today's story is about a miracle! At the end of his life Elijah was taken up into heaven by a chariot and horses of fire in a whirlwind. Elisha, the Lord's prophet after Elijah, stayed with him and took up his mantle when he had gone. We will be making a picture of Elijah going up to heaven in the whirlwind.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- white paper
- white and fire-colored crayons
- blue watercolor paint
- fat paintbrush
- glue
- picture of Elijah and the chariot of fire to color
- newspaper to cover the table
- *optional*—hairdryer to speed up project drying time
- *optional*—bottle or jar partially filled with water to demonstrate a vortex

Teacher Preparation

Cut out the pictures of Elijah and the chariot of fire (see attached sheet).

Project Directions

1. What is a whirlwind? (If children do not know the answer, tell them that it is a powerful wind that goes round and round and can take things up into the sky. *Optional:* Demonstrate what it looks like by swirling a bottle partially filled with water to show the circular vortex movement.)
2. Today we will be drawing a picture of a whirlwind. The Lord's prophet Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. Let's move our hands in a circle like a whirlwind. (With index finger pointed, show children how to move their arms in a spiral, moving higher and

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higher.) What color is the wind? (We cannot see the wind, so when we draw it we will not see it either! We will use a white crayon on white paper.)

3. Give each child a piece of paper and a white crayon. Have them hold the crayon and make a whirlwind in the air. Now let's make a whirlwind on the paper. Move the crayon round and round and make the circles go up and up on the page. Tell the children that we can not see the whirlwind at the moment, but that it will appear by magic in a minute!

4. Now give the children a fat paintbrush and a blue paint wash. Encourage them to fill the page with paint and watch the whirlwind appear! (Try to keep the paper from getting too wet by encouraging the children to keep the brush moving.)

5. While the paint is drying, distribute the pictures of Elijah and the chariot of fire. Have children color the picture with fiery colors.

6. When the paint is dry enough, put glue on the back of the Elijah picture and glue over the whirlwind, completing the project.

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