

Elijah Is Carried to Heaven

Level C | Lesson 7 | Teacher Overview

Key Message: The Lord can raise us up to heaven.

Text: II Kings 2:1-18

Activity Options (choose 2 or 3)

1. Talk About It
2. Look Closer: Taking Up the Mantle
3. Look Closer: Hidden Meanings Challenge Memory Game
4. Meditate and Activate



II Kings 2:11,13

Suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire...and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.... And Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen.

Talk About It

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

1. Today's story is the last story about Elijah the prophet. Who succeeded Elijah as the Lord's prophet on earth? (Elisha)
2. Elijah and Elisha went on a long journey together, walking from the mountains in the heart of the land of Israel until they crossed the river Jordan at the border. This journey pictures a journey we make in our life that begins with our ideals. What kinds of ideals do you have? (truthfulness, commitment to marriage, trusting others, etc.)
3. Journeying to a new place in this context pictures the way we develop moral behavior that brings our ideals into our lives, e.g. speaking with integrity, sharing appropriate friendships, refusing to act in ways that compromise our ideals, etc. Can you think of other examples?
4. What miracle happened at the river Jordan? (Elijah took off his mantle and struck the water. The river parted and they walked across on dry land.)
5. What did Elisha ask Elijah for? (A double portion of his spirit—meaning that he wanted to be his heir. At that time the eldest son, who would be his father's heir, received a double portion of the inheritance.)
6. And then, miraculously, Elijah was lifted up to heaven in a fiery chariot with horses of fire. When we have been faithful servants of the Lord like Elijah, the principles we have practiced are filled with the Lord's love (like the fire) and raised up. We no longer think consciously about our moral choices, they will become part of our deepest mind, and we do them unconsciously.
7. How did Elisha know that he had inherited a double portion of Elijah's spirit? (He took up Elijah's mantle and struck the river Jordan, which parted, demonstrating that he had inherited Elijah's power.)
8. Did the sons of the prophets find Elijah's body? (No—it went to heaven with him. This is the only time this happened in the Word, except when the Lord Himself rose from the dead. It was a miracle.)

Look Closer: Taking Up the Mantle

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

Every detail in the stories of the Word pictures an aspect of the life of our spirit. Each object or event represents a specific spiritual quality. The prophets Elijah and Elisha represent the Lord as we see him in the stories of the Word.

Elijah's earthly mantle protected him, keeping him warm at night and cool in the hot sun. Just as Elijah's mantle would be the first thing a person saw when they looked at him, the literal stories of the Word are the first thing we see when we read the Lord's Word. They are the outermost "clothing" of the Lord's

message. Elijah's mantle protected his body in way similar to the way that truths of the Word can protect us when we use them to clothe our minds, e.g. by knowing that life continues after death, we are protected against a false sense of grief that someone's life is over when they die. Like Elisha we are invited to take up this "mantle" and clothe our spirits by learning its truths, and grow spiritually by putting the truth into action in our lives.



Today's activity focuses on moving forward with the truth. Students pass a "mantle" around the circle, selecting a quote from the Word that is attached to the mantle to read aloud and then take home to put into their own lives.

Supplies Needed for the Class

- a shawl, smaller sheet or piece of fabric large enough to drape over the shoulders like a mantle
- quotes from the Word (see attached sheets)
- safety pins or tape to attach quotes from the Word to the mantle

Teacher Preparation

- print and cut out the quotes
- pin the quotes all over the shawl

Page 2 - Taking Up the Mantle

Warm-up Discussion

- When one person takes up a job that has been done by another person, e.g. a new president comes into office, we sometimes say that they are “taking up the mantle” of another person or office. Where does the expression “to take up the mantle” come from?
- Today we might call a mantle a cloak or a coat. It is a protective outer covering. We can take it off completely if we are hot, or pull it tight about our shoulders to keep ourselves warm.
- The Word also has a protective outer covering. It is the literal stories that we read there. If we look deeply into the stories of the Word we may find out what the Lord is like, how He loves us, and what He wants for us.
- Elijah represents the Lord in relation to the Word. His mantle—his outermost clothing—is like the stories there. The Lord Himself is veiled inside the stories.

Activity

1. Invite the students to sit in a circle.
2. Show them the mantle you have prepared.
3. Invite each student to look at the quotes attached to the mantle and choose one that they would like to take home and use as a focus truth for the week.
4. Invite them to take their chosen quote off the mantle and then wrap the mantle around their shoulders.
5. They will then read the quote aloud to the group.
6. They will pass the mantle to the next member of the group.
7. Repeat until all students have read a quote aloud.

Wrap-up

1. Elisha received the mantle from Elijah after following him faithfully from place to place. He went wherever Elijah went.
2. Take the truth that you have chosen and try to follow it faithfully this week. Think about the truth you have chosen in the morning and evening and bring it to mind when an issue comes up during the day.
3. Complete the process with a prayer (see attached prayers for ideas).

He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you,
But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk
humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

"If you love Me, keep My commandments.
He who has My commandments and keeps
them, it is he who loves Me. If anyone
loves Me, he will keep My word. He who
does not love Me does not keep My word."

John 14:15, 21, 23-24

"You shall love the LORD your God with
all your heart, with all your soul, and with
all your mind. This is the first and great
commandment. And the second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments hang all the
Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

"If you abide in My word, you are My
disciples indeed, and you shall know the
truth and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:31-32

The steps of a good man are ordered by the
Lord, And He delights in his way.
Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast
down; For the Lord upholds him with His
hand...

The law of his God is in his heart;
None of his steps shall slide...
Wait on the Lord, And keep His way;
And He shall exalt you to inherit the land.

Psalms 37:23-25, 31, 34

"Behold, I send an Angel before you to
keep you in the way and to bring you into
the place which I have prepared."

Exodus 23:20

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may die,
he shall live. And whoever lives and
believes in Me shall never die"

John 11:25-26

The Lord leads a person as if by the hand,
permitting and withholding as far as a he is
willing to follow in freedom. If a person
looks to the Lord, he is brought by
continual steps out of hell up towards
heaven and into heaven.

Apocalypse Explained 1174:2

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

Psalm 23:1-3

“Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”

Matthew 6:13

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
He is their strength in the time of trouble.
And the Lord shall help them and deliver them;
He shall deliver them from the wicked,
And save them,
Because they trust in Him.

Psalm 37:39-40

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’...But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Matthew 6:31,33

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

Trust in the Lord, and do good....
Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:3, 5

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law;
Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.

Psalm 119:34-35

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

Luke 10:27

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6: 19-21

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you....”

John 13:34

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Matthew 5:27-28

“Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets”

Matthew 7:12

Show me Your ways, O Lord;
Teach me Your paths.
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
On You I wait all the day.

Psalms 25:4-5

“When I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.”

Micah 7:8

Asking the Lord a question is done by consulting the Word. For the Word has the Lord present within it. He is present there because the Word consists of Divine Truth that comes from Him.

Arcana Coelestia 10548:2

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Luke 11:28

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him....”

Revelation 3:20

Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Psalms 119:133

Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in
the morning,
For in You do I trust;
Cause me to know the way in which I
should walk,
For I lift up my soul to You.

Psalm 143:8

Let us search out and examine our ways,
And turn back to the Lord; Let us lift our
hearts and hands To God in heaven.

Lamentations 3:40-41

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Execute true
justice, Show mercy and compassion
everyone to his brother.

Zechariah 7:9

You shall not hate your brother in your
heart.... You shall not take vengeance,
nor bear any grudge against the children of
your people, but you shall love your
neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:17-18

“If one of your brethren becomes poor, and
falls into poverty among you, then you
shall help him, like a stranger or a
sojourner, that he may live with you.”

Leviticus 25:35

Let your light so shine before men, that
they may see your good works and glorify
your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you
did it to one of the least of these My
brethren, you did it to Me.”

Matthew 25:34-46

Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe Your commandments.

Psalm 119:66

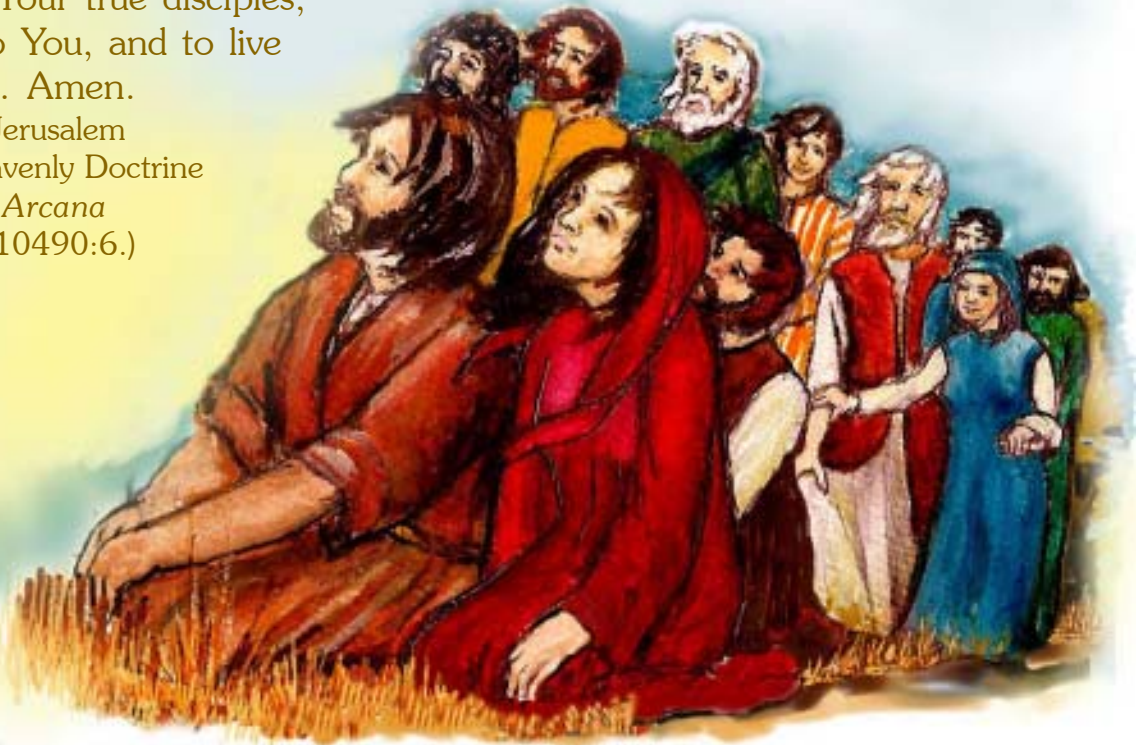
Prayers for Teens on Being True Disciples of the Lord

Lord, help us to be inspired by Your Word and guided to do what is right, to love one another as You love us, and to follow You so that we may come into Your heavenly kingdom one day and live with You there. Amen.

O Lord God Jesus Christ, teach us to live in the light of Your Word, for then we will be Your disciples. And we will know the truth, and the truth will make us free. For we know that nothing is of more importance to us than to know what the truth is. Amen.
(See John 8:31-32; *Arcana Coelestia* 794:2.)

Lord, You have told us that the life of heaven is made up of the good of love and the truth of faith. To be Your disciples we must be led by You and not by ourselves. For all good and truth come from You. And what is true of the life of heaven is also true of the life of the church. For the church, like heaven, is within us. Help us to be Your true disciples, to look to You, and to live from You. Amen.

(See *New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 246, 281; *Arcana Coelestia* 10490:6.)



Look Closer: Hidden Meanings Challenge Memory Game

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

Based on *The Correspondence Game* by Wendy Soneson

Each detail of the stories in the Word reflects a spiritual aspect of our lives. The relationship between the objects and people in the stories and the spiritual reality is called a correspondence. This game will help you learn about correspondences in the Elijah story.

Game supplies

- 32 cards with identification pictures and no correspondences printed on white paper (see attached sheets)
- 32 cards with correspondence words: Lord, Word, Church, *etc.* print on colored paper (see attached sheets)
- answer key (see attached sheets)



Preparation Needed

- Print picture cards on heavier white paper.
- Print correspondence word cards on heavier colored paper.
- Cut cards apart for playing.

Object of the Game

Each set of cards contains four pictures with the same correspondence (white), and four cards with the like corresponding word (blue). Players match a picture card with a corresponding word card. The winner may be the player with the most pairs. But the real object is non-competitive, to learn the correspondences.

Rules

1. Introduce students to the objects on the cards and their correspondences. Use the answer sheet as an overview guide.
2. Practice matching colored correspondence cards with picture cards as a group until the students feel confident about matching pairs correctly.

Page 2 - Hidden Meanings Challenge Memory Game

3. Place all 64 cards face down on table or floor.
4. The first player turns over 2 cards: one colored and one white. If the picture on the white card corresponds to the printed word on the blue card, the player keeps that pair and may take another turn. If the cards do not match, they are returned to their original position.
5. The next player turns over two cards to look for a match. Players should watch so that they can remember where the cards are placed.
6. Play until all cards are paired.

Variation

1. Divide the colored correspondence cards evenly among the players. Players hold these cards so that others can't see them.
2. Place 32 picture cards face down on the table.
3. Players take turns drawing cards from the table. Each time a match is found (for example Love and Oil), the player keeps the two cards as points. If the card does not match, it is returned face down. Players should watch so they can remember where cards are placed.
4. The first player to match the colored cards in his or her hand wins.

LORD

LOVE

FALSITY

CHURCH

SELFISHNESS

TRUTH

TEMPTATION

THE WORD

Choosing



Baal



Forty



Idol worship



Wilderness



Jezebel



Storm



Brambles



Oil



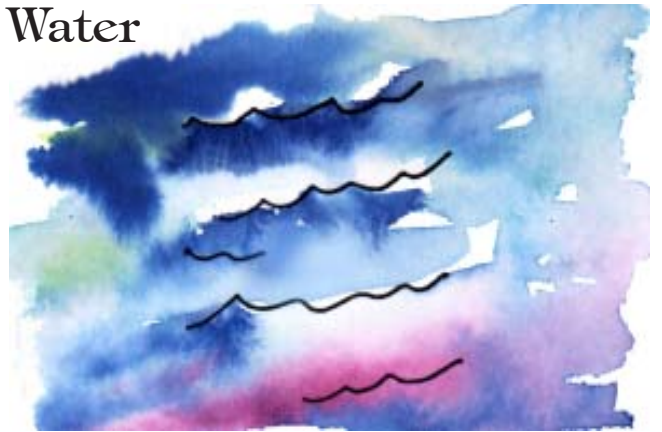
Mantle



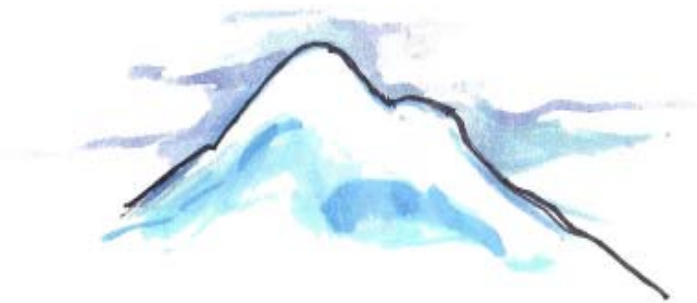
Bread



Water



Mountain



Light



Fire



Stone



Sun



Elijah



Father



Elisha



Still small voice



Well



King



Clouds



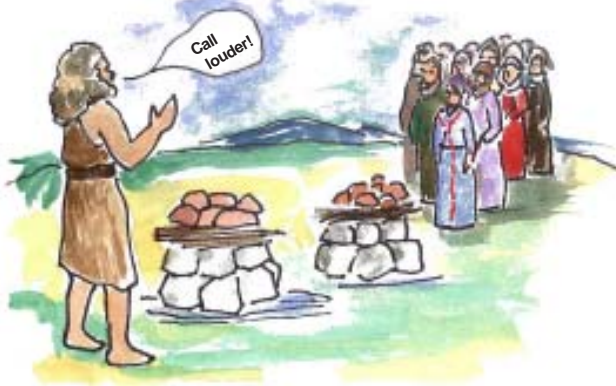
Ravens



Crown



Mocking



Mother



Wind



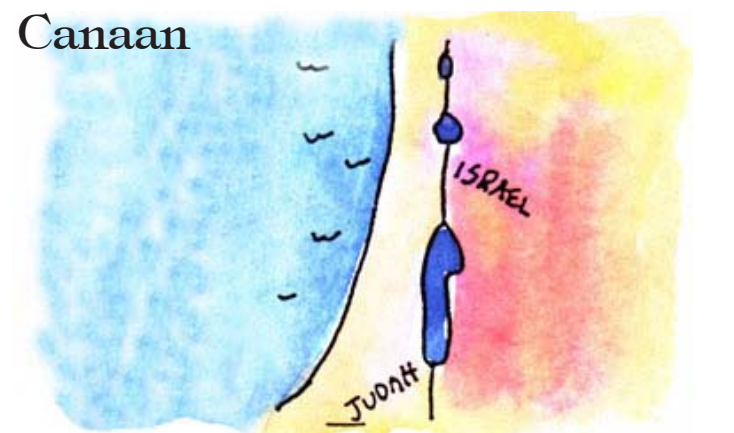
Jerusalem



Drought



Canaan



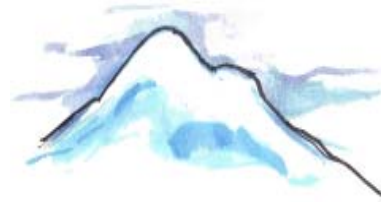
The Lord



The Word



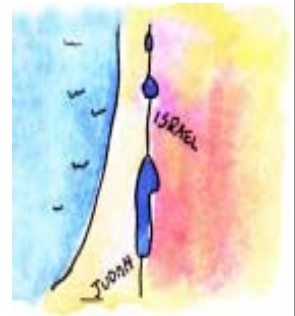
Love



Truth



Church



Selfishness



Temptation



Falsity

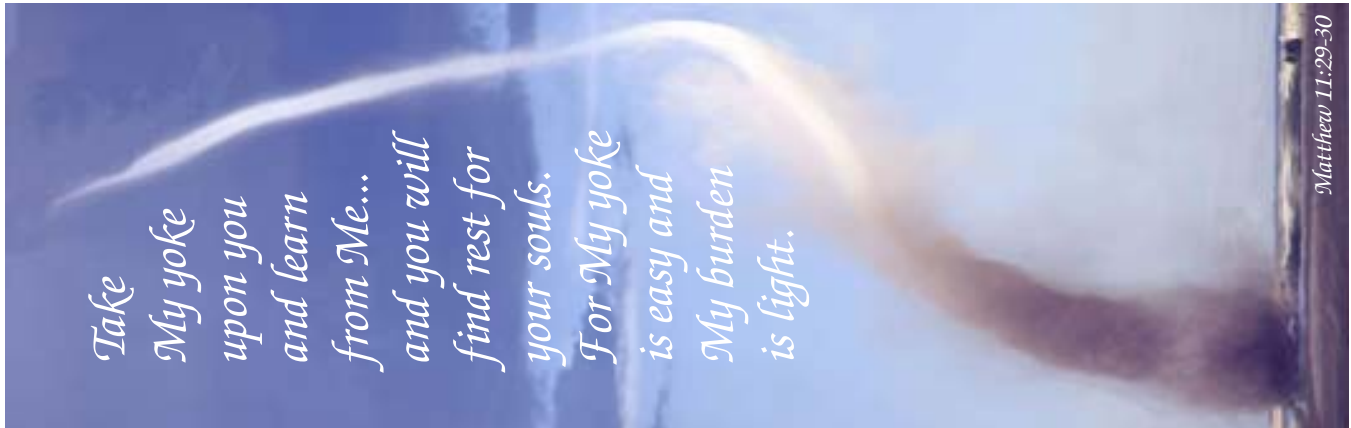


Meditate & Activate

Thinking or meditating about a passage from God's Word and finding opportunities to put it into action can be a powerful experience. Keep this card intact or cut out the illustrated quotation to use as a bookmark or put up somewhere in your home.

Meditate: Does it seem hard or easy to follow the Lord? A yoke is a tool used to aid in work. Often it joins two or more horses or oxen together so that they can pull a heavy load together as a team.

Activate: Think of something you can do to take up the challenge of serving the Lord and your neighbors and find opportunities to do it with another person. For example, volunteer with a friend or read the Word with a family member. Find ways to both give and get support in following the Lord.



To make a stronger bookmark, print this page on heavy paper or cardstock, cut in half and give half to each student.

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