



UNIT 13 | SESSION 4

## ELISHA PERFORMED MIRACLES

2 KINGS 4-6

### **CHRIST CONNECTION:**

Elisha's miracles showed that he was a prophet of God. Jesus' miracles show that He is the Son of God.

### **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

What is idolatry? Idolatry is loving something else more than God.

### **KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:**

Love the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 6:5



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

Miracles are often found in Scripture as a means of God doing what nature cannot explain to show His own power and authority over all things. This portion of 2 Kings 4–6 is no different. But these miracles don't just teach us about God; they also demonstrate our human nature—to doubt when circumstances appear to leave us with little to no control.

Many of the miracles performed by Elisha in 2 Kings 4–6 come in moments when the human dilemmas of sin, death, fear, worry, and lack are realized and people are overtaken with doubt.

Have you ever felt this way? Have you ever felt as if your back was against the wall, your limits had been reached, and there was no way and no reason for hope in a particular situation? If so, you're not alone. We all have moments when it seems as if we're done and there's no way out.

The reason we all experience these things is because we are humans. Our limitedness leaves us lacking and in moments where that lack prevents us from saving ourselves, we cannot help but feel doubtful.

But God.

It is often in these moments that we are reminded of just how self-reliant we tend to be and just how God-dependent we truly are.

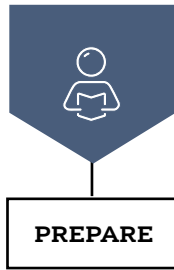
God in these moments of doubt becomes our only hope, our beacon, our help. And though we ought to have some sense of confidence in this all the time, the reality is that we often lose sight of how deeply we need the Lord until He is our only way out.

What if we lived dependent on God to this degree all the time? What if we lived knowing that our only hope was God's provision, even when it doesn't feel like we need it? What if we saw that even our own ability to find a way out of a dire situation was a gift from Him?

The mystery that God wants to make known to those around us is this: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). Is your confidence so firm in the Lord as provider and sustainer that it demonstrates the hope of Christ to those around you? If not, be reminded today that He isn't just your help from time to time, but your only hope time and time again.

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

**Naaman:** Syrian general cured of leprosy under the direction of the prophet Elisha. Following his cleansing, he professed faith in Israel's God.



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH

### GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



#### WELCOME

##### Find the bandage

- Big Picture Question Poster
- small box with lid, used last session in “Discover the sound” (keep to use throughout the unit)
- adhesive bandage



#### LEARN

##### Apply a bandage

- latex-free adhesive bandages, 1 per child

##### Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster

##### Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



#### LOVE

##### Explore items that sink or float

- large towel
- large, clear plastic container
- objects that will sink or float such as a plastic straw, plastic interlocking block, a crayon, and a metal spoon
- plastic smocks

##### Make a meal

- play food, including bread
- plastic toy plates, utensils, and cookware



#### LIVE

##### Make a bandage collage

- latex-free adhesive bandages, several per child
- gauze
- cotton balls

##### Make trail mix

- “Send Relief Photos” printable
- large bowl
- large spoon
- plastic or paper cups
- O-shaped cereal
- cheese crackers
- chocolate chips
- pretzels
- snack-sized ziplock bags, 2 per child

##### Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child



#### BONUS

##### Practice the key passage phrase

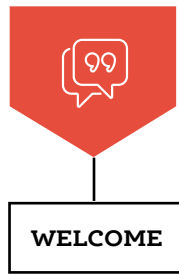
- Key Passage Phrase Marker

##### Care for babies

- toy medical kit
- gauze bandages

##### Create a forest

- cardboard tubes
- green construction paper



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

## WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

### FIND THE BANDAGE

Gather the small box with a lid used in “Discover the sound” last session. Place an adhesive bandage in the box. Post the big picture question poster near the classroom entrance and show it to each child as he enters the room. Greet preschoolers. Encourage boys and girls to shake the box and guess what is inside. Talk about the bandage. Keep the box to be used in the next session.

**SAY** “ I am so glad that you are at church today. What do you think is inside the box? It does not make much noise. It is a bandage. In the Bible story we will hear today, Elisha performed many miracles. God used Elisha to heal a man of a terrible skin disease. The power to heal comes from God. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 APPLY A BANDAGE

Give each preschooler an adhesive bandage as she comes to group time. Assist children as needed to apply the bandages.

**SAY** “ You put the bandages on your skin. In today’s Bible story we will learn about Elisha. He was a prophet to the people of Israel. He performed many miracles. God used him to heal a man of a terrible skin disease. ”

### 2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4–6 and tell the following Bible story.

#### ELISHA PERFORMED MIRACLES

**SAY** “ Elisha was a prophet to the people of Israel. One day, a man brought Elisha 20 loaves of bread. Elisha told the man to give the bread to a big group of people. The man was confused because there were 100 men in the crowd. Didn’t they need more bread? But Elisha said, “The LORD says there will be enough.” So the man gave the bread to the crowd and everyone ate. They even had some left over.

Another time, God used Elisha to heal a man of a terrible skin disease. The man’s name was Naaman (NAY muhn). Naaman had asked the king of Israel for help, but he could not heal Naaman. The power to heal comes only from God.

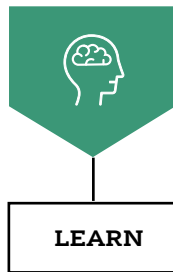
Elisha, the prophet, called Naaman to his house. Naaman stood at the door, ready to be healed. But Elisha did not come to the door. Instead, he sent a message to Naaman: “Go wash seven times in the Jordan River.”

When Naaman went to the Jordan River and dipped in the water seven times, his skin was healed!

Naaman went to Elisha and said, “I know that the God of Israel is the one true God.”

On another day, Elisha met with a group of prophets at the Jordan River. The prophets were cutting down trees by the river. An iron ax head fell into the water and sank. So Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water. The ax floated back to the top. ”

Christ Connection: Elisha’s miracles showed that he was a prophet of God. Jesus’ miracles show that He is the Son of God.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Pass around the Bible story picture poster to each child as you encourage her to remember one of the miracles Elisha performed (feeding a large group of people with only 20 loaves of bread, healing Naaman's skin disease, and causing an ax head to float). Answers may be repeated.

**SAY** “ We talked about the different miracles Elisha performed. Elisha’s miracles showed that he was a prophet of God. Jesus’ miracles show that He is the Son of God. ”

### 4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

“Love the Lord your God.  
Love the Lord your God.  
Deuteronomy 6 verse 5 says  
Love the Lord your God.”

### 5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Deuteronomy 6:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Invite preschoolers to use an excited voice when saying the key passage phrase with you. Repeat several times.

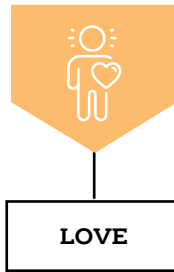
**SAY** “ Deuteronomy 6:5 reminds us to ‘Love the Lord your God.’ Elisha loved God and performed miracles so that others would know Him and love Him as well. ”

### 6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for loving us and for miracles that show His power.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PERFORM SEVEN TIMES



Encourage preschoolers to join you in doing a variety of motions seven times each. Possibilities include jumping, clapping, stomping, and blinking. Allow boys and girls the opportunity to choose actions and then lead the other preschoolers in doing them each seven times, as well. Encourage preschoolers to count aloud as they perform the actions to help them know when they have done the action seven times.

**SAY** “Elisha was a prophet to the people of Israel. God gave him the power to perform miracles. One day, a man named Naaman came to Elisha with a terrible skin disease. Elisha sent a message to the man to go wash seven times in the Jordan River. When Naaman went to the Jordan River and dipped in the water seven times, his skin was healed. The man then knew that the God of Israel was the one true God.”

### 2 EXPLORE ITEMS THAT SINK OR FLOAT

Cover a table or the floor with a towel. Place a large, clear plastic container on the table and fill it at least one-third full with water. Place a variety of objects that will either sink or float on the table near the container such as a plastic straw, a plastic interlocking block, a crayon, and a metal spoon. Assist preschoolers with putting on plastic smocks over their clothes. Encourage children to place the items in the water to see if they will sink or float.

**SAY** “You discovered some items that float on the water and some items that sink down into the water. You cannot make an item sink or float on your own. One day Elisha met with a group of prophets at the Jordan River. The men were cutting down trees by the river. An iron ax head fell into the water and sank. Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water. The ax floated back to the top. Elisha’s miracles showed that he was a prophet of God. Jesus’ miracles show that He is the Son of God.”

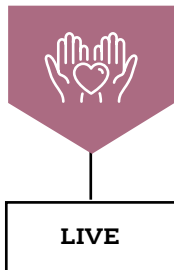
### 3 MAKE A MEAL

Provide pretend food along with plastic toy plates, utensils, and cookware for preschoolers to use. If available, include several pretend loaves or slices of bread. Join preschoolers as they make a meal. Allow boys and girls to serve you the pretend meal.

**SAY** “One day, a man brought Elisha 20 loaves of bread. Elisha told the man to give the bread to a big group of people. There were 100 men in the crowd. The man did not think there would be enough bread for everyone. But Elisha said, ‘The Lord says there will be enough.’ There was enough and they even had some left over. Do you think the people were amazed that there was enough bread for everyone? What would you have thought if you had been there? Elisha’s miracles showed that he was a prophet of God. Jesus’ miracles show that He is the Son of God.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

#### 1 **MAKE A BANDAGE COLLAGE**

Place construction paper, adhesive bandages, gauze, cotton balls, and glue sticks on a table. Ask preschoolers where you can write the key passage phrase on their papers. Read the phrase aloud as you print it. Invite preschoolers to glue or attach the bandages to their papers.

**SAY** “ The Bible says, ‘Love the Lord your God.’ Elisha loved the Lord and cared for people. His miracles showed that he was a prophet of God. One of his miracles was healing a man named Naaman of a terrible skin disease. He told the man to go wash in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman did this and he was healed. ”

#### 2 **MAKE TRAIL MIX**



Post an allergy alert. Print the “Send Relief Photos” printable. Instruct preschoolers to wash their hands. Invite children to help combine the trail mix ingredients together with a spoon in a large bowl. Give each preschooler a cup and demonstrate how to fill the cup with trail mix and pour it into a ziplock bag. Assist each child in filling up two ziplock bags: one to keep and one to give to someone. Display the “Send Relief Photos.” Comment on each picture and mention that missionaries with the Send Relief organization gave food to people in need. Lead preschoolers to pray for people to continue to find ways to serve others during difficult times like a pandemic.

**SAY** “ Missionaries and volunteers that work with Send Relief showed the love of Jesus by giving food to people in need. Today you made a special trail mix. You can keep one bag and give away the other. Who will you give a bag of trail mix to? What can you say to him as you give the trail mix? ”

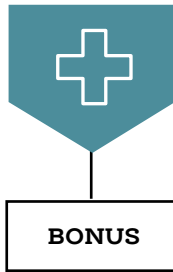
#### 3 **SNACK AND TRANSITION**



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

**SAY** “ Elisha’s miracles showed that he was a prophet of God. Jesus’ miracles show that He is the Son of God. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



## TEACHING HOUR

# **BONUS** Teaching Hour Group Time

### **1 COUNT TO SEVEN**

Invite preschoolers to count with you to seven several times. Vary the way you count including counting quickly, slowly, with a high or low-pitched voice, or with a loud or quiet voice. Tell preschoolers that a man in today's story washed seven times in the Jordan River.

### **2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY**

Open the Bible to 2 Kings 4–6. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

#### **ELISHA PERFORMED MIRACLES**

- Elisha was a prophet to the people of Israel.
- One day, a man brought Elisha 20 loaves of bread. Elisha told the man to give the bread to a big group of people. There were 100 men in the crowd. Didn't they need more bread?
- So the man gave the bread to the crowd and everyone ate. They even had some left over.
- Another time, God used Elisha to heal a man named Naaman. Naaman had a skin disease. Elisha told Naaman, "Wash seven times in the Jordan River."
- Once Naaman obeyed, he was healed!
- On another day, Elisha met people cutting down trees by the Jordan River. An iron ax head fell into the water. Elisha took a stick, threw it into the water, and the ax floated to the top.
- The power to perform miracles comes only from God.

### **3 SING A SONG**

Sing the song below to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

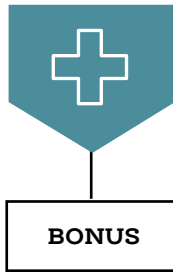
“Love the Lord your God.  
Love the Lord your God.  
Deuteronomy 6 verse 5 says  
Love the Lord your God.”

### **4 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE**

Place the key passage phrase marker in your Bible at Deuteronomy 6:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Invite preschoolers to show a surprised look on their face when saying the key passage phrase with you. Repeat several times.

### **5 PRAY**

Pray, thanking God that the power to perform miracles comes only from Him.



## TEACHING HOUR

### **BONUS** Teaching Hour Activities

#### **6 MAKE BREAD WITH PLAY DOUGH**



Place play dough on a table for preschoolers to explore. Invite children to pretend to make bread with their play dough. Demonstrate how to knead the dough and shape it into loaves. Flatten some play dough to make loaves to resemble bread without yeast. Encourage preschoolers to pretend to place the bread in the oven or break into pieces to share with a friend.

**SAY** “ One day a man brought Elisha 20 loaves of bread. Elisha told the man to give the bread to a big group of people. The man did not think there was enough bread to feed the 100 men in the crowd. The Lord said there would be enough and there was. There was even some bread left over. We call this a miracle. Only God can cause miracles to happen. Miracles show God’s power. ”

#### **7 CARE FOR BABIES**

Place a toy medical kit, gauze bandages, and baby dolls on a table for preschoolers to explore. Invite boys and girls to care for the baby dolls and each other with the items in the medical kit. Demonstrate how to wrap the gauze bandages on a doll’s arms and legs.

**SAY** “ Elisha met a man named Naaman who had a terrible skin disease. Naaman asked the king of Israel for help, but he could not heal him. The power to heal comes only from God. Elisha sent him a message to go and dip in the Jordan River seven times. Would you have wanted to go and wash in the water seven times? Naaman did this and was healed. He knew that the God of Israel was the one true God. ”

#### **8 CREATE A FOREST**

Place cardboard tubes, green construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, and tape on a table. Demonstrate for preschoolers how to cut or tear the construction paper into smaller pieces to glue or tape onto a cardboard tube to create a tree. Invite preschoolers to join you in making a forest of several trees.

**SAY** “ One day Elisha met with a group of prophets at the Jordan River. The prophets were cutting down trees by the river. An iron ax head fell into the water and sank. Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water. The ax floated back to the top. That was a miracle. Miracles are events that show God’s power. Only God can cause miracles to happen. Elisha’s miracles showed that he was a prophet of God. Jesus’ miracles show that He is the Son of God. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.