

LEADER Bible Study

Following God's great display of power at Mount Carmel, Elijah fled for his life and traveled to Mount Horeb where he encountered God in a soft whisper. God instructed Elijah to anoint a man named Elisha as his successor. Elijah found Elisha plowing a field. Elijah put his cloak over Elisha to show that Elisha would be a prophet like Elijah. Elisha followed Elijah and served him for many years. In time, King Ahab of Israel appointed his son Ahaziah as king. When Ahaziah died, his brother Joram became king.

Elijah's ministry came to an end, and God took him to heaven in an unusual way. First, Elijah and Elisha traveled from Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho and then to the Jordan River. Elijah met with other prophets and their families. Despite Elijah's insistence otherwise, Elisha did not leave Elijah's side.

A group of prophets watched as Elijah parted the Jordan River by striking the water with his mantle (cloak) so he could cross. In Elijah's final moments, Elisha requested, "Please, let me inherit two shares of your spirit" (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha wanted power to continue God's work and confirmation as Israel's next prophet.

A chariot of fire and horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the men. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha cried out after him. When Elijah was out of view, Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak and struck the water of the Jordan River. The water parted—a sign that Elisha had received power from God. Elisha would continue the work of Elijah as a prophet to Israel.

God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could carry out his mission as a prophet. Years later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share the gospel with the world.

The BIBLE Story

Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 2

God told Elijah (ih LIGH juh) to find a man named Elisha (ih LIGH shuh). Elisha would be a prophet after Elijah. So Elijah obeyed God. He found Elisha working in a field, and Elisha followed Elijah.

When the time came for God to take Elijah up to heaven, Elijah and Elisha went to Gilgal. Elijah said, "Stay here, Elisha. The LORD is sending me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "I will not leave you." So they both went to Bethel.

Elijah said, "Stay here, Elisha. The LORD is sending me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "I will not leave you." So they both went to Jericho.

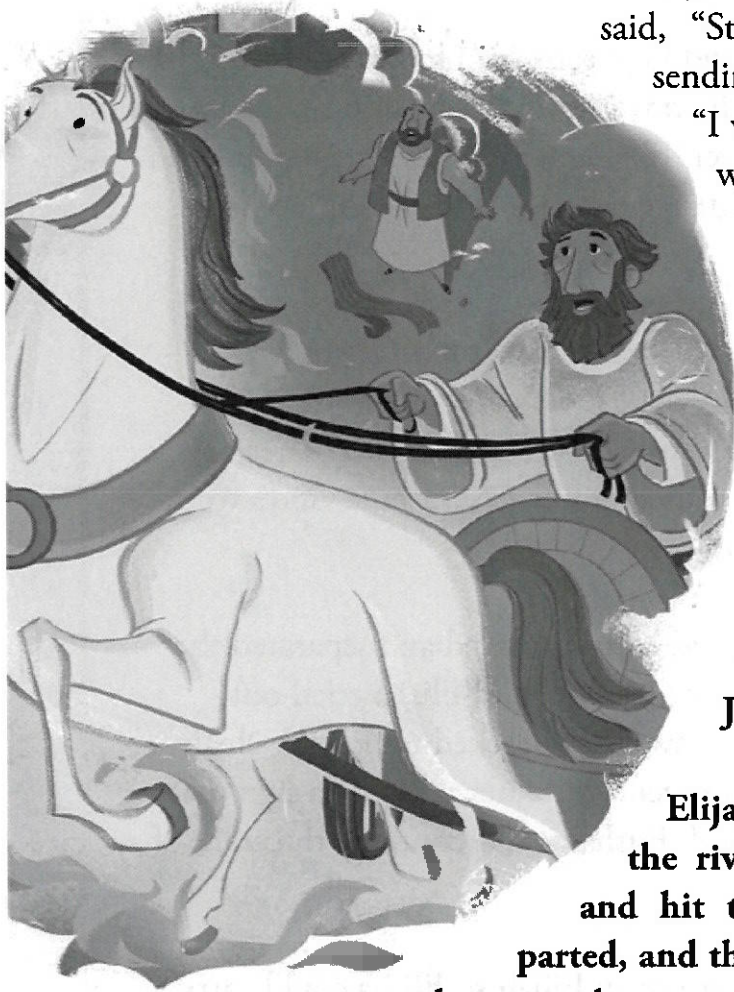
Elijah said, "Stay here, Elisha. The LORD is sending me to the Jordan River." But Elisha said, "I will not leave you." So they both went to the Jordan River.

A crowd of prophets watched Elijah and Elisha as they stood by the river. Elijah rolled up his cloak and hit the water with it. The water parted, and they crossed to the other side on dry ground.

Elijah asked, "What can I do for you before I go?"

Elisha said, "I want the same spirit that gives you power."

Elijah said, "If you see me go, you will have it."



Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire came between them. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha watched as Elijah went away. Then he picked up Elijah's cloak and went back to the river. He hit the water, and it parted for him to cross to the other side.

The crowd of prophets was watching, and they saw that Elisha now had the spirit that was in Elijah. The prophets searched for Elijah, but they could not find him because God had taken him up to heaven.

Christ Connection: God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could do his work as a prophet. Years later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share Jesus' good news with the world.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Part the river:

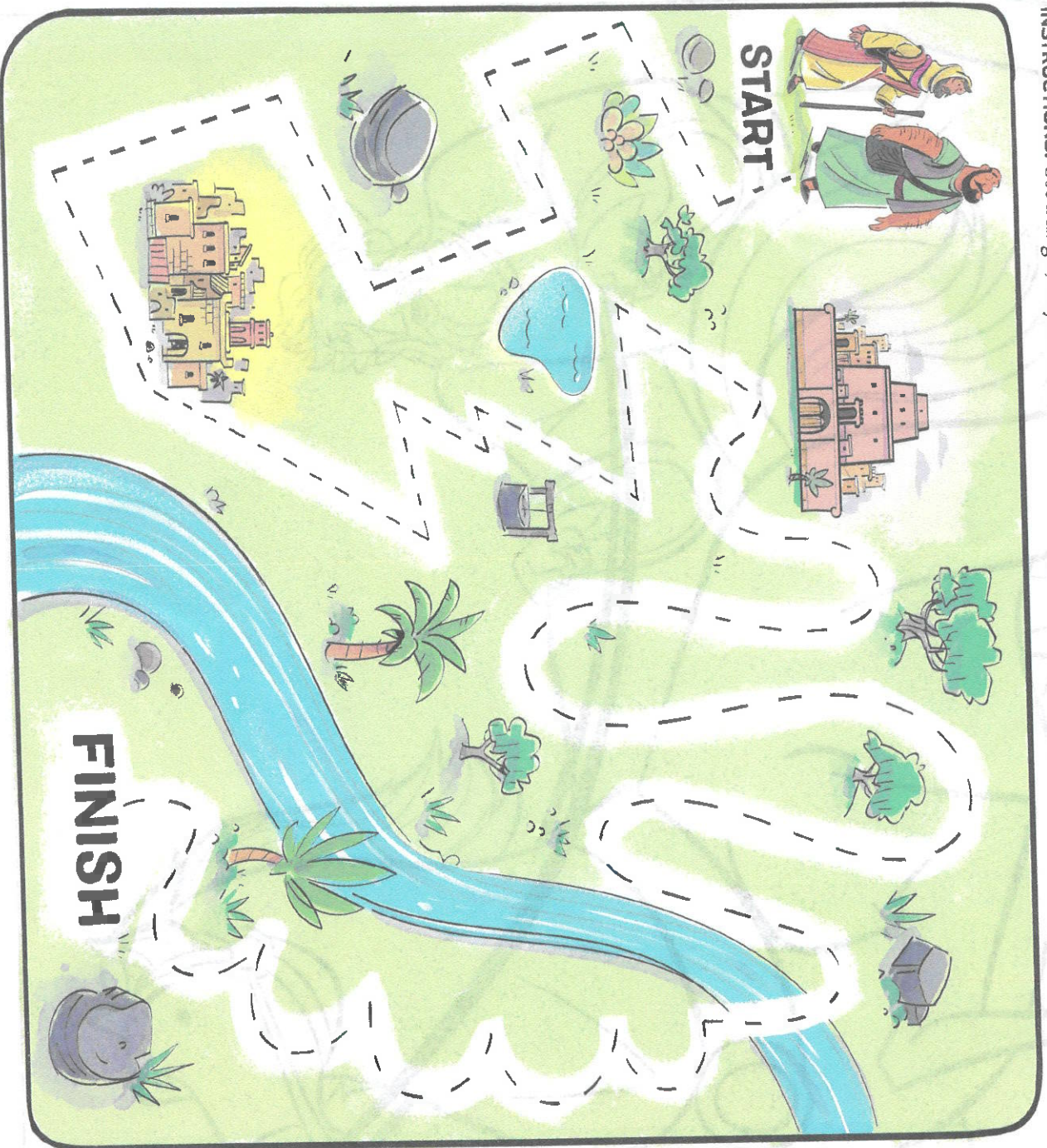
Lay two blue sheets, tarps, or tablecloths on the floor with an aisle between them. Direct half the group to sit on one sheet and the rest to sit on the other. When God parts the Jordan River, walk down the aisle. Tell the rest of the story from the other side of the room until Elisha walks back across the Jordan River.

• Move the figures:

Select two figurines, dolls, or other objects to represent Elijah and Elisha. Move with the figures around the room as Elijah and Elisha travel from place to place. Hide the figure representing Elijah behind your back when Elijah is taken up by the chariot.

Follow the Prophets

INSTRUCTIONS: Use a finger, crayon, or marker to trace the path from start to finish.



Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 13 • Session 3 Elijah and Elisha

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God chose Elisha to be His prophet after Elijah.
- A chariot of fire took Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind.
- Elisha was given the same spirit that gave Elijah power.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How many gods are there? There is one true God.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why did Elisha want the same spirit that was in Elijah?
- How do we know God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah?
- Who does God give us to help us share the good news of Jesus with the world?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Guide family members to practice sharing the gospel with each other using a resource such as “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Preschoolers” poster found at gospelproject.com under “Additional Resources.” Brainstorm times, places, and people you can share the gospel with.



DOWNLOAD the
LIFEWAY KIDS APP

STORY POINT: GOD CHOSE ELISHA TO BE HIS PROPHET AFTER ELIJAH.

