

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 the prophet Elijah (ih LIGH juh) to find a man named Elisha (ih LIGH shuh). **Elisha would be a prophet to Israel after Elijah.** So **Elijah** obeyed God. He **found Elisha** plowing a field, and **Elisha followed Elijah and served him.**

When the time came for the Lord to take Elijah up to heaven, Elijah and Elisha traveled to Gilgal. At Gilgal, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together to Bethel.

At Bethel, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to Jericho.”

But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together to Jericho.

At Jericho, Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to the Jordan River.”

But Elisha said, “As long as you are alive, I will not leave you.” So they went together 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 river parted, and they crossed to the other side.

Elijah asked, “Is there anything I can do for you before I go?”



Elisha said, "I want a double portion of the spirit that you have."

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

Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and drove 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 just as it had for Elijah.

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

Christ Connection: 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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props:** Roll up a robe or long scarf to hold up when referencing Elijah's cloak.
- **Display art:** Show the Bible story picture as you tell the story. Point out Elijah and Elisha.

Looking Up

INSTRUCTIONS: Write about or draw a picture of a person you admire or want to be like.



Younger Kids Activity Pages Unit 13 • Session 3 Elijah and Elisha

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Elijah's time as prophet was almost done.
- God told Elijah to find Elisha.
- Elisha followed Elijah and saw God take Elijah up to heaven.
- God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

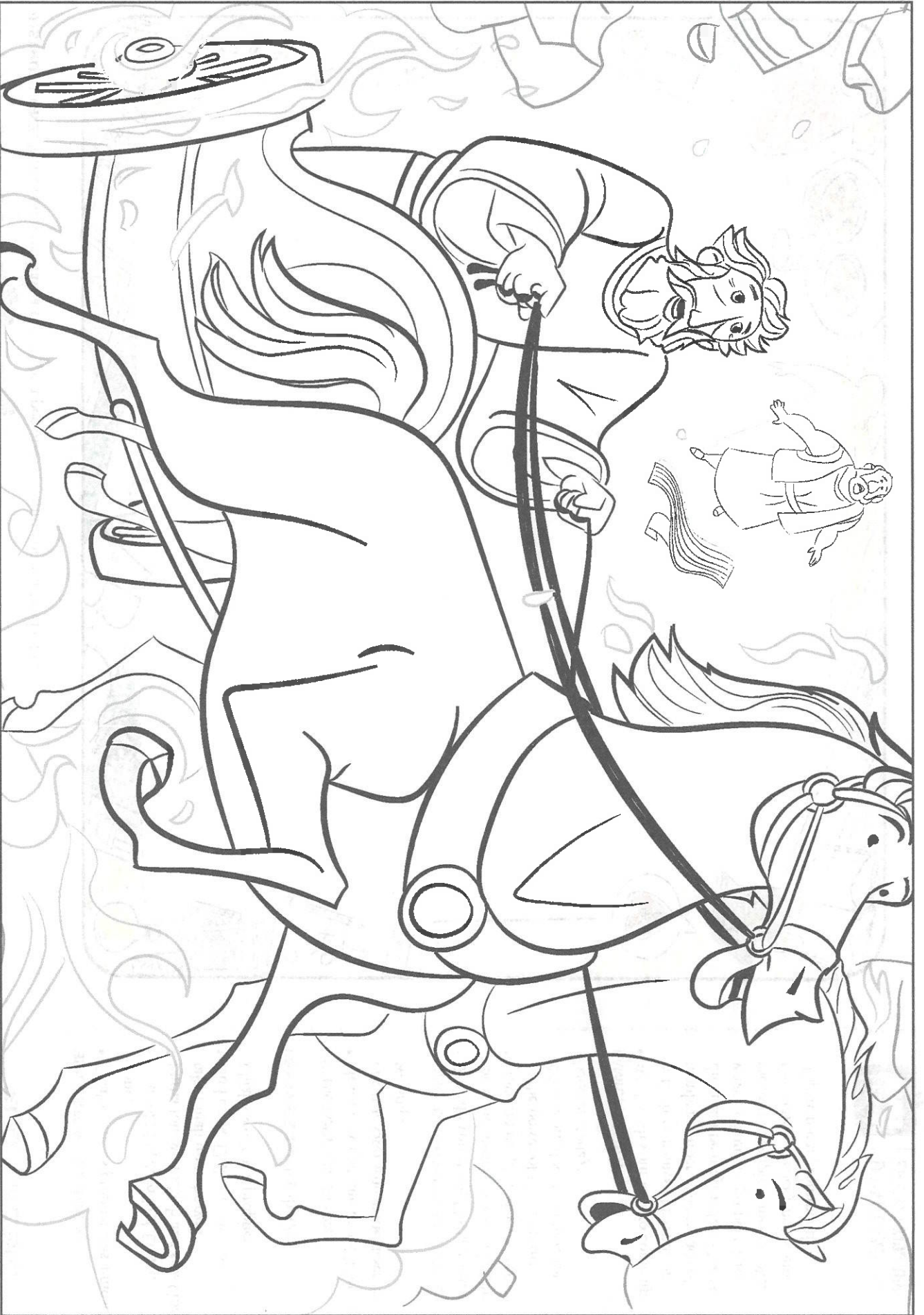
- Why do you think Elisha wanted the same spirit that was in Elijah?
- How can people today have access to the power of God's Spirit?
- What work does God have for believers today?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Work with your kids to come up with three names of friends or family members whom each of them can be praying for. Discuss ways to share the gospel what it means to disciple someone. Write the names on sticky notes and display them prominently.



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LIFEWAY KIDS APP



STORY POINT: GOD CHOSE ELISHA TO CONTINUE ELIJAH'S WORK AS A PROPHET.