

THEME 3

Prophets, Kings, and Queens

After King Solomon's reign, Israel was divided into the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. **Elijah** and **Elisha** served as prophets in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal demonstrated the futility of idolatry and the mighty power of God. Elisha brought God's message during the reign of six different kings. Both Elijah and Elisha performed mighty works.

Many kings of Judah encouraged idol worship and other forms of wickedness. Young King **Josiah** of Judah (the Southern Kingdom), however, led a reform. He abolished idolatry and encouraged worship of the Lord God.

Esther was born in faraway Persia, after the fall of both Israel and Judah. She became queen and courageously used that position to rescue the Jewish people from destruction.

Grade 3—Unit 6

Prophets

Elijah came as a mighty messenger to the Israelites during the reign of King Ahab, who led the people astray with the help of his cunning wife, Jezebel.

Elisha continued the work of his mentor, the prophet Elijah. Elisha struggled against the wicked ways of the Israelites. God gave Elisha the power to work many miracles.

LESSONS

1. Elijah, God's Mighty Messenger
2. Elisha Shows God's Power, Part 1
3. Elisha Shows God's Power, Part 2

Unit 6: Prophets

Unit Information

SUMMARY

Elijah was a straightforward prophet of God. He told the Israelites to turn away from Baal worship and return to worshiping the one true God. Elijah remained faithful to God and spent his life trying to rid Israel of idolatry. Some people did not want to hear the message Elijah brought.

The stories of God at work through Elisha provide an overview of Israel and Judah's history. Elisha performed many miracles that demonstrated God's love and concern for the people.

KEY BIBLE TEXTS

1 Kings 17:7-24

1 Kings 18

1 Kings 19

2 Kings 1:13-20

2 Kings 2:1-14

2 Kings 4:8-36

2 Kings 8:1-8

Psalms 42:1-3, 5 (main memory verses)

John 14:27 (memory verse)

Galatians 5:13-15 (memory verses)

Galatians 6:7-10 (memory verses)

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

Elijah, God's Mighty Messenger

After King Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam became king. Rehoboam did not rule wisely, and the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom, comprised of the ten northern tribes, became known as *Israel*. The Southern Kingdom, comprised of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, was called *Judah*. The kingdom was divided in 931 B.C. The two sections never reunited.

Fifty-seven years later, Ahab became king of Israel (the northern kingdom). Ahab was an evil king whose wife, Jezebel, worshiped Baal. She encouraged the Israelites to turn to idol worship. God sent the prophet Elijah to convince Ahab to worship the one true God.

Elijah's name means "the Lord is my God." Elijah encouraged the Israelites to reject pagan ways and worship the Lord God, the one true God.

Elijah performed miracles to expose Baal as a fraud. Worshiping the god Baal was thought to guarantee rain and successful crops. Elijah announced to King Ahab that a drought would come to Israel. In the name of Yahweh, the prophet challenged Baal, and the Lord God took away Baal's own specialty—rain.

During the drought, God provided for Elijah, who was hiding in a ravine, by sending ravens with food. When the brook dried up, Elijah went to Zarephath, where a widow and her son shared their last meal with him. God miraculously replenished the widow's meager supply of flour and oil.

Despite the drought, which lasted three years, neither King Ahab nor Israel

was convinced that the Lord was God. Elijah then challenged Ahab to a contest between himself and all the prophets of Baal. All of Israel witnessed this memorable contest—to see whether Baal or the Lord God could bring fire to the altar. Elijah’s method of calling on God contrasted sharply with that of the Baal worshipers. The priests of Baal shouted and danced ever more frantically as the day wore on. They received no answer.

Late in the afternoon, Elijah built an altar with twelve stones. These stones symbolized the covenant God had made with the twelve tribes of Israel. Although their kingdom was divided, the people of Israel and Judah were still united as God’s people. Elijah prayed to God, and God answered. The people confessed the Lord as the one true God, and the drought ended.

Queen Jezebel’s god had been defeated, and the prophets of Baal slain. Elijah fled from the queen’s wrath. He went south to Judah and on into the wilderness to Mt. Horeb, where God met the prophet’s needs for strength, encouragement, and hope. God spoke to Elijah in a still, small voice and commissioned him to return again to Israel. God told Elijah to anoint two kings and to choose Elisha as his successor.

Elisha became Elijah’s helper and companion. Before Elijah was taken into heaven, Elisha was given the chance to say what he would like to inherit from Elijah. He requested a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. The older prophet told Elisha that if he saw him being taken up into heaven, his desire would be granted. Elisha did see Elijah ascend into the heavens, on a chariot of fire, and was empowered with Elijah’s spirit.

Elisha Shows God’s Power

Elisha was chosen by God to follow Elijah as a prophet. Elijah trained Elisha to be God’s voice to the Israelites. When Elisha requested twice the power of Elijah’s spirit, this may have been his way of asking to be Elijah’s successor. It is interesting that the number of miracles performed by Elisha in 2 Kings is double the number of miracles attributed to Elijah.

Many wicked kings ruled during Elisha’s prophetic ministry. He served as God’s spokesperson in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the reigns of five kings: Ahaziah, Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash. For a short time, King Jehu tried to stop idol worship. However, he did not always do the right things for the right reasons. He soon turned away from God.

Elisha not only spoke to kings but also to the common people. When a Shunammite woman realized that Elisha was a man of God, she and her husband offered to let him stay in their extra room any time he was in the area. Because of her kindness, God blessed her in many ways. God was faithful to those who listened to the words of the prophets and trusted in God.

Some of Elisha’s demonstrations of God’s power were intended to convince people that Elisha was a true prophet of God. Many of his miracles portrayed God’s love and concern for all people, just as Jesus’ miracles met the needs of many people. Some needs were hidden in people’s hearts and seen only by God.

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- Wicked kings and idol worship infested the nation of Israel.
- God called Elijah and Elisha to prophesy to the Israelites.
- God uses ordinary people like Elijah and Elisha to do great things.
- God rewards those who are faithful.

- The widow of Zarephath and the Shunammite woman willingly gave what they had in service to God. In return, God blessed them and provided for them.
- Small sacrifices are great in the eyes of God.
- Each of us has special ways of serving God throughout our lives.
- God continues to work toward his purposes even in the darkest days, when people forget the one true Lord.

WORSHIP

Elijah

1. After reading 1 Kings 19, discuss what we can do when we are feeling afraid, discouraged, and alone. Invite students to share things that frighten them or times when they have felt discouraged and alone. Share from your own life.
2. Have students bring symbols for the worship table that show trust in God when we are afraid. If they are willing, have them share about times when they were afraid. How did God help them?
3. Hand out page 166, “Bigger Than All My Fears.” Share responses.
4. Using the Hall of Faith card for Elijah, discuss the price one often pays to be a servant/prophet of God. Think about Elijah’s life. Some people didn’t like the messages he brought from God. They thought he brought them bad luck. Would we have the same courage Elijah had, to carry out God’s work?

Elisha

1. Focus on individuals, families, or agencies in your community who serve and provide care for others: foster families, halfway houses, women’s shelters, hospital volunteers, support groups, adult literacy tutors, meals-on-wheels, hospital chaplains, schools for the disabled, families with children who have special needs, etc. Invite families, volunteers, or workers from agencies to come and share about their work.
2. Elisha was faithful and brave enough to take Elijah’s place as God’s prophet. As prophet and spokesperson for God, Elisha performed many miracles that showed God’s love and concern for people.
 - What would God command Elisha to tell us if he were here today?
 - What miracles would he perform?
 - How can we be God’s helpers in our homes, churches, communities, and world today?

MEMORY PASSAGES

This unit offers a main memory verse passage, plus several bonus passages. These are provided in large format on pages 153-156, to be used as posters or overheads.

ASSESSING TEACHING / LEARNING

- Symbols drawn on students’ Faith Hero T-shirts may be used to assess their understanding of Elijah and Elisha.
- Participating in a play will allow students to feel the action and emotions of Elijah’s efforts to rid Israel of idol worship and turn the people back to God.
- Students’ comprehension of Elijah’s and Elisha’s stories will be evident in their writing, group projects, and answers given on worksheet pages.

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

My tears have been my food
day and night, while men say to me
all day long, "Where is your God?" . . .

Why are you downcast, O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet
praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 42:1-3, 5



"Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you.
I do not give to you
as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts
be troubled and
do not be afraid."

John 14:27





You, my brothers (and sisters),
were called to be free.

But do not use your freedom
to indulge the sinful nature;
rather, serve one another in love.
The entire law is summed up in a
single command:

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

If you keep biting and devouring
each other, watch out or you
will be destroyed by each other.

Galatians 5:13-15

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:7-10

Prophets

LESSON 1: ELIJAH, GOD’S MIGHTY MESSENGER

Objective

Students will identify ways God was faithful to Elijah as Elijah followed God.

Key Concepts

- God cares for those who love and serve God, and is always faithful.
- Elijah had faith in God and spent his life serving God.
- God was with Elijah when he ran away in fear.
- God is with us when we are alone and frightened.
- Elisha became Elijah’s successor.

Texts: 1 Kings 17:7-24; 1 Kings 18; 1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 2:1-14

Estimated Lesson Time: 45 minutes or more

Materials

- Bibles
- Hall of Faith cards of Elijah and widow from Zarephath
- “The Lord Is God!” drama (pp. 159-163)
- *Songs from old curriculum:* “How Long Will You Waver?” (p. 269), “Shout Louder!” (p. 270), and “The Lord Is God!” (p. 271)
- Props, costumes, and scenery for drama (see p. 159), *optional*
- Song, “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” (p. 164)
- For Extend the Lesson, option one: map of “Elijah’s and Elisha’s World” (p. 165)
- For Extend the Lesson, option two: Faith Hero T-shirts, fabric crayons/markers
- For Extend the Lesson, option three: “Bigger Than All My Fears” worksheet (p. 166)
- For Extend the Lesson, option four: Bible memory journals, markers/pens, etc.

Teacher Preparation

- Make a copy of the drama “The Lord Is God!” for each student. If using the songs from the old curriculum, make copies of those.
- Make copies or an overhead of the song, “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.”
- If using Extend the Lesson, option one, make copies of the map, one for each student.
- If using Extend the Lesson, option three, make copies of the “Bigger Than All My Fears” worksheet, one for each student.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

The widow from Zarephath. Read the Hall of Faith card of the widow from Zarephath and discuss the following questions.

- The widow was a Phoenician (not an Israelite), yet she seemed to understand that Elijah’s God could be trusted. She was willing to do what God asked her to do. What might she have been thinking as she prepared her last bit of food to give to a stranger?

- In what ways do you think the widow was blessed because she willingly served God?
- Can you think of other times when something precious was given out of love?

LESSON STEPS

- 1. Read 1 Kings 18:17-40**, Elijah’s challenge to the prophets of Baal.
- 2. Present the drama “The Lord Is God!”** (pp. 159-163), assigning parts to the students. Depending on time available, you may choose to do this as a readers’ theater or as a skit with props and costumes. *Option: You may want to allow time for practice during this session and on another day present the drama for a younger class.* Students may include the songs “How Long Will You Waver?,” “Shout Louder!,” and “The Lord Is God!” (from old curriculum) in the drama.
- 3. Have students read 1 Kings 19.** Think of adjectives or words that describe how Elijah might have felt in verses 1-10 (*afraid—verse 3, worthless—verse 4, etc.*) How did God respond to Elijah’s needs in verses 5-18? (*Gave Elijah food and water for strength; spoke to him; told Elijah that 7,000 people in Israel had not worshiped idols; gave him three specific jobs to do.*)
- 4. Read aloud 2 Kings 2:1-14.** Have each student write a paragraph about the story and draw a picture of Elijah ascending to heaven in a whirlwind of fire and chariots. Sing “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” p. 164.

EXTEND THE LESSON

(These activities will extend the lesson to longer than 45 minutes.)

- **Find it on the map.** Hand out copies of “Elijah’s and Elisha’s World” (p. 165) and review on the map the places where events in Elijah’s life took place.
- **Work on Faith Hero T-shirts.** Invite students to add Elijah’s name and a symbol from his life to their T-shirts.
- **“Bigger than All My Fears.”** Distribute copies of this worksheet from page 166 and have students fill it out.
- **Bible memory journals.** Allow time for students to add Psalm 42:1-3, 5 to their journals and decorate the page. As they work, wonder together about Elijah:
 - I wonder how much Elijah longed for God’s presence near him.
 - I wonder what the verse means when it says, “My tears have been my food day and night.”
 - I wonder how Elijah showed the people where to find God.
 - I wonder how Elijah put his hope in God.

The Lord Is God!

Drama

One of the most dramatic moments in the Old Testament is the contest on Mount Carmel between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The following is based on 1 Kings 18.

Speaking parts: Elijah, Obadiah, Ahab, Widow, two Israelites, two Baal prophets, chorus

Props: 20 or more shoe boxes (or similar cardboard boxes), sealed and painted gray or brown to resemble stones; several pieces of wood; large yellow posterboard circle to represent sun; large bright red cloth; 4 water jugs; dried greenery (real or made of posterboard or construction paper); two bulls made from posterboard and cut in large pieces; several pots and pans

Costumes: White tops and dark skirts or pants (chorus); black or brown tunics (Baal prophets); many-colored tunics (Israelites); burlap or animal skin (Elijah); brightly-colored robe (Obadiah); gold-trimmed robe and crown of posterboard sprayed with gold paint (Ahab)

Scene: Set up a Baal altar, stage left, with 8-10 cardboard stones. Scatter 12 stones around, stage right. Place dried greenery at various points. Position bulls near Baal altar and the scattered stones. Place pile of wood nearby. Water jugs are offstage. Place red cloth on floor, in front of chorus, and sun to left of chorus. Place pots and pans at feet of assigned chorus members.

(Chorus enters both stage left and right and stands in middle of background. Ahab enters stage right and stands near front of stage. Obadiah hurries in from stage left and bows before Ahab. He rises.)

Obadiah: O mighty Ahab, I have come with news about Elijah.

Ahab: Tell me he is dead and make me a happy man!

Obadiah: No, I have just now spoken to him.

Ahab: What! Where is that evil man who brought this terrible drought upon my kingdom?

Obadiah: He comes now, Your Highness.

(Elijah enters stage left. Ahab moves to meet him.)

(Drama, p. 2)

Ahab: So, it's you, is it? The man who brought disaster upon Israel!

Elijah: You are talking about yourself! It was *you* and your evil queen who refused to obey God and worshiped stone idols instead!

Ahab: Queen Jezebel has the right to worship whom she pleases. If the people wish to follow, that is no fault of ours.

Elijah: This matter must be settled. I challenge the prophets of Baal to a contest. Send all 450 of them to Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Asherah, also. The people of Israel must witness this contest. Send forth messengers and call them all to Mount Carmel. They will see with their own eyes who is the one true and powerful God.

(Ahab turns to Obadiah.)

Ahab: Obadiah, do all that he says. This fool must be put in his place, once and for all.

(Obadiah exits stage left. Ahab follows and also exits stage left, as Elijah exits stage right.)

Chorus: *(Boys)* Elijah has challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest.

(Girls) Poor Elijah! He will be only one against so many.

(Boys and Girls) Look! The prophets are coming!

(Prophets enter stage left and gather around the Baal altar.)

Chorus: *(Girls)* The people of Israel have been called to see the contest.

(Boys) Poor Elijah! They will surely laugh at him.

(Girls and Boys) Now the people are coming!

(Israelites enter from stage right and stand around. Widow and two Israelites move to center stage.)

Israelite 1: This will be a quick contest. Elijah doesn't have a chance against Baal.

Israelite 2: You're right! That man is crazy. He even claimed his God brought this drought upon us.

(Drama, p. 3)

Widow: You are both so wrong about Elijah.

(Israelites turn and glare at widow.)

Israelite 1: You aren't from around here. What do you know about this?

Widow: Three years ago, Elijah came to my village and asked for food and water. I had none to spare, but his God brought a miracle and provided food for us. Then my son became ill and died. I blamed Elijah, but he took my dead son in his arms and carried him to his room. In a short while, my son walked out of that room alive! Elijah's God brought him back to life!

Israelite 2: I don't believe a word of this! Come, Isaac. Let's be sure to find a good spot to watch this Elijah make a fool of himself.

(Israelites move away, laughing. Widow moves to stage right as Obadiah enters stage left.)

Obadiah: Bow down, all you people. The king is coming! The king is coming!

(Ahab enters stage left and stands near Obadiah and the Baal prophets. The Israelites and Baal prophets bow down.)

Chorus: The contest will soon begin, for Elijah is coming!

(Israelites and prophets rise as Elijah enters stage right and stands near scattered stones. Israelites and prophets whisper among themselves and some point at Elijah and laugh.)

Elijah: You people are trying to worship many gods. You must decide who is truly Lord. If it is God, then follow God. If it is Baal, then follow him.

Chorus: *(Sings "How Long Will you Waver?" Verse may be repeated.)*

Elijah: I am the only prophet of God left, but Baal has 450 *(points to Baal prophets)*. The time has come to see who worships the true God. Here are two young bulls, prepared for sacrifice. You prophets lay wood and a bull on your altar. Then pray to Baal to set the wood afire and consume the sacrifice. I will do the same.

(Drama, p. 4)

Chorus: *(Boys)* That is a fair contest.

(Girls) But who will win?

(Boys and Girls) Let the contest begin!

Elijah: The prophets of Baal can go first, since there are so many of them and only one of me. Let's see if Baal can set the wood afire.

Baal Prophet 1: This is an easy task for our mighty god. Elijah, you'll never have a chance to even set up your altar.

(Prophets place wood and cut up bull on altar. They move around the altar waving arms and praying in loud voices for Baal to send the fire. Elijah lies down on stage with head propped on elbow.)

Elijah: You'll have to shout louder than that, to get your god's attention. Perhaps he is on a trip, or asleep, or talking to someone else. You're just going to have to shout louder.

Chorus: *(Sings "Shout Louder!")*

(Elijah stands and chorus passes yellow sun from left to right over their heads.)

Elijah: You have shouted and prayed all day long. Baal has not sent a spark or flicker to light the fire. Now it's my turn. All of you gather close to me.

(Israelites move closer to Elijah. He begins to stack the 12 "stones," making an altar.)

Elijah: These twelve stones represent the twelve tribes of Israel.

(He places wood and bull on altar. Taking a piece of wood, he pretends to dig a trench around the altar.)

Elijah: You men *(pointing toward Israelites)* bring four jugs of water and pour it over the altar.

(Four Israelites move offstage and return with the water jugs. They pretend to pour water over altar.)

Elijah: Do it again.

(Drama, p. 5)

(Four Israelites repeat the action.)

Elijah: Now, do it again.

(Action is repeated. Israelites and prophets are whispering and becoming restless. Many are mocking Elijah.)

Prophet 2: No god is that powerful. The wood is soaked! It can't be set afire.

Ahab: I told you that Elijah is a fool.

Obadiah: I'm not so sure, Your Highness.

Ahab: Who asked your opinion?

(After a final jug is emptied, Elijah bows down before the altar and raises his arms above his head. He looks to the sky.)

Elijah: O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, prove today that you are the God of Israel, and I am your servant; prove that I have done all this at your command. O Lord, answer me! Answer me, so these people will know you are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.

(Everyone looks up to the sky. Assigned chorus members bang pots and pans together. Lights may be turned on and off. Assigned chorus members pick up red cloth, quickly throw it over the altar, and return to chorus.)

Israelite 1: It isn't possible! The whole altar is on fire! Everything is burning!

Widow: I tried to tell you, Elijah's God is the most powerful.

Israelite 2: I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes!

(Israelites bow down, one by one. Baal prophets cover their eyes and exit stage left. Obadiah moves to the altar and bows. Ahab looks around and realizes he is alone. He rushes to exit stage left.)

Chorus: *(Sings "The Lord Is God!")*

(Israelites and Elijah stand and join in repeating the phrase, "The Lord is God!")



Swing Low Sweet Chariot

Spiritual

mp SOLO *mf* CHORUS

Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, Com-in' for to car-ry me home!

SOLO CHORUS Fine

Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, Com-in' for to car-ry me home.

f SOLO

I looked o-ver Jor-dan, an' what did I see,—
If you get there be-fore— I do,—
I'm some-times up an' some-times down,—

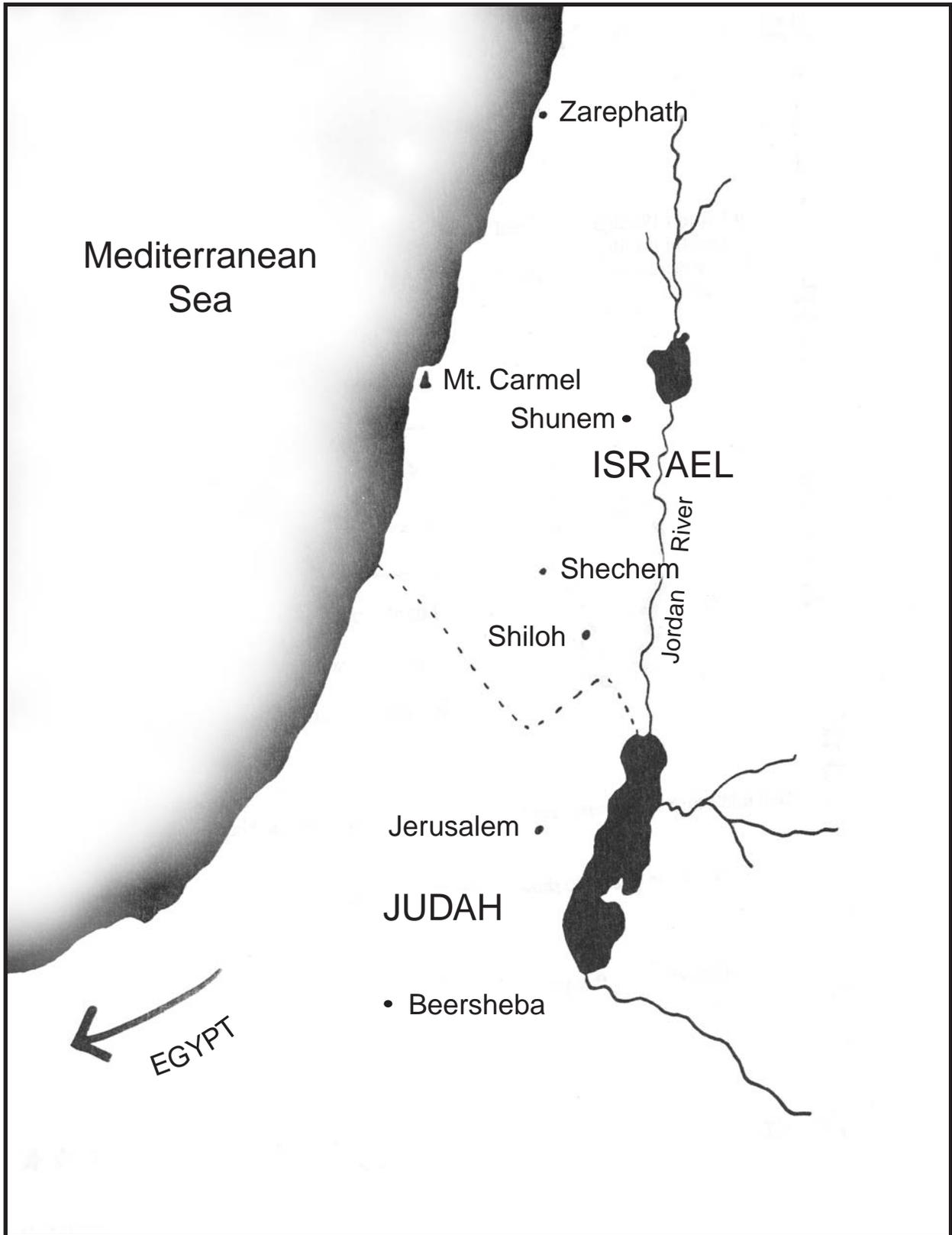
ff CHORUS *mf* SOLO

Com-in' for to car-ry me home! A band of an-gels
Jes' tell my fren's that
But still my soul feels

mp CHORUS D.C.

com-in' af-ter me,—
I'm a-com-in' too,— Com-in' for to car-ry me home.
heav-en-ly boun',—

Elijah's and Elisha's World



Bigger Than All My Fears

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. Draw a picture of a time you were afraid.

Dear God,

I felt frightened and alone when

_____.

Help me _____

_____.

Thank you that you will always be with me and care for me.

Amen.



Prophets

LESSON 2: ELISHA SHOWS GOD’S POWER, PART 1

Objective

Students will review how God worked through Elisha’s life of miracles.

Key Concepts

- The Shunammite woman offered hospitality to Elisha and served God in this way.
- God blessed the Shunammite woman for her faithfulness.
- God wants us to serve others.
- God is concerned about the needs of ordinary people.
- God worked through Elisha in miracles that touched many people.

Text: 2 Kings 4:8-36

Estimated Lesson Time: 50 minutes

Materials

- Two readers’ theaters: “The Surprise” (pp. 169-170) and “From Death to Life” (pp. 171-172)
- Name tags of characters in dramas
- Map of “Elijah’s and Elisha’s World” (p. 165)
- For Extend the Lesson, option one: resource books about life in Bible times
- For Extend the Lesson, option two: supplies for a Bible-times snack
- For Extend the Lesson, option three: Bible memory journals, markers/pens, etc.

Teacher Preparation

- Invite guest(s) for Introducing the Lesson, if you choose that option.
- Make five copies of the readers’ theater, “The Surprise,” and seven copies of “From Death to Life,” for student readers.
- Make name tags of the characters in the dramas, for student readers to wear.
- If using Extend the Lesson, option two, check in resource books ahead of time for snack possibilities. Bring enough items so the students can make a choice of what to serve.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

Choose one of these ways to introduce the lesson:

- Invite families of people with disabilities, or volunteers/workers from agencies that serve and provide care for people (hospitals, clinics, etc.). Have them share their experiences, and allow time for students to ask questions.
- Ask students if they remember the name of the prophet who took Elijah’s place. Remember together all the information the students have so far about Elisha.
- On the map of Elijah’s and Elisha’s world, identify the Northern Kingdom, or *Israel* (where Elijah and Elisha served God as prophets), and the Southern Kingdom, or *Judah*. Locate *Shunem*, where today’s story takes place.

LESSON STEPS

1. Read the drama, “The Surprise,” assigning five students to read the parts. Give them each a name tag to wear, with the name of the character they are portraying. Discuss the following:

- The Shunammite woman was blessed by God’s promise of a son. Why do you think God blessed the Shunammite woman?
- This story shows us a special way the Shunammite woman served God. In what special way would you like to serve God?
- Even though the Shunammite would not have considered what she did as a big thing, it was great in God’s eyes.

2. Read the drama, “From Death to Life,” assigning the parts to seven students and giving them name tags of the characters. Discuss the following:

- Why do you think the Shunammite woman went to Elisha when her son died?
- In what way was the Shunammite woman a faith hero?

3. Explain to students that in today’s lesson they were introduced to Elisha. In the next lesson, they will learn more about the miracles that Elisha performed.

EXTEND THE LESSON

(These activities will extend the lesson to longer than 50 minutes.)

• **Make dioramas of Elisha’s guest room.** Provide a variety of resource books about Bible times and locate sections on home and family life. Look for information about homes and furnishings during the time of Elisha. Have students bring small boxes and other items from home to make dioramas of Elisha’s guest room.

• **Offer hospitality to another class.** Use resource books about Bible times to discover what kinds of foods were available in Elisha’s time and place. Prepare some of these foods to serve to another class as a simple snack.

• **Bible memory journals.** Allow time for students to write the memory passage in their journals and decorate it. Wonder about the memory verse in connection to the stories of Elisha and the Shunammite woman.

—I wonder in what ways the Shunammite woman “thirsted for God.”

—I wonder how she wanted to “meet with God.”

—I wonder how Elisha showed her where his God was.

—I wonder how both the Shunammite woman and Elisha were able to put their hope in God and praise God.

The Surprise

Readers' theater based on 2 Kings 4:8-17

Characters: Shunammite woman, Shunammite man (non-speaking), Elisha, Gehazi, Narrator (Identify with name tags hung around necks.)

(Elisha sits on a chair near a desk. On the desk is a small oil lamp. Gehazi sits beside him. The Shunammite woman and man are seated a distance away.)

Narrator: One day, Elisha went to Shunem. A well-to-do woman urged him to stay for a meal. So, whenever he traveled through Shunem, he stopped there to eat. This woman said to her husband:

Shunammite Woman: *(To husband)* I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. Let's make a small room on the roof and put a bed in it, and a table, chair and lamp. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us.

Narrator: One day, when Elisha came to Shunem, he went up to his room and lay down. He said to his servant Gehazi:

Elisha: Call the Shunammite. Tell her, "You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can we do for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king, or the commander of the army?"

Narrator: So Gehazi called the woman, and she stood before him.

Gehazi: You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can we do for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king, or the commander of the army?

Shunammite Woman: I have a home among my own people. I do not need favors from high officials.

Gehazi: *(To Elisha)* The Shunammite woman said, "I have a home among my own people."

Elisha: What can we do for her?

Gehazi: Well, she has no one, and her husband is old.

Elisha: Call her.

Readers' Theater, p. 2

(Gehazi calls the Shunammite woman.)

Elisha: About this time next year, you will hold a son in your arms.

Shunammite Woman: No, my lord. Don't mislead your servant, O man of God!

Narrator: But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about the same time, she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

From Death to Life

Readers' theater based on 2 Kings 4:18-36

Characters: Boy, Shunammite woman, Shunammite man, Elisha, Gehazi, Narrator. (Identify with name tags hung around necks.)

(Begins near the home of the Shunammite woman, her husband and son.)

Narrator: The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers.

Boy: My head, my head! *(Holds head with hands.)*

Narrator: Immediately his father told a servant:

Shunammite Man: Carry him to his mother.

Narrator: After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. She went upstairs and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door and went out. Then she called to her husband and said:

Shunammite Woman: Please send me one of the servants and a donkey, so I can go quickly to get the man of God and return.

Shunammite Man: Why go to him today? It's not the new moon or the Sabbath.

Shunammite Woman: It's all right.

Narrator: The woman saddled the donkey and said to her servant:

Shunammite Woman: Lead on. Don't slow down for me, unless I tell you.

Narrator: She set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When Elisha saw her in the distance, he said to his servant Gehazi:

Elisha: Look! There's the Shunammite! Run to meet her and ask her, "Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?"

Readers' Theater, p. 2

Shunammite Woman: Everything is all right.

Narrator: When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but Elisha said:

Elisha: Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me why.

Shunammite Woman: Did I ask you for a son, my lord? Didn't I tell you, "Don't raise my hopes?"

Elisha: *(To Gehazi)* Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face.

Shunammite Woman: Surely, as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.

Narrator: So Elisha got up and followed the woman. Gehazi ran ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him:

Gehazi: The boy has not awakened.

Narrator: When Elisha reached the house, the boy was lying dead on his couch. He went in, shut the door on the Gehazi and the woman, and prayed to the Lord. Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out over the boy, the boy's body grew warm. Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room. Then he lay on the bed and stretched over the boy once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha summoned Gehazi and said:

Elisha: *(To Gehazi)* Call the Shunammite.

Narrator: When she came, he said:

Elisha: Take your son.

Narrator: She fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Prophets

LESSON 3: ELISHA SHOWS GOD’S POWER, PART 2

Objective

Students will review how God worked through Elisha’s life of miracles.

Key Concepts

- God wants us to serve others.
- God is concerned with the needs of ordinary people.
- God worked through Elisha.
- Elisha’s miracles touched many people.

Texts: 2 Kings 4:1-7, 38-44; 2 Kings 5:1-27; 2 Kings 6:1-23; 2 Kings 13:10-20

Estimated Lesson Time: 50 minutes

Materials

- Bibles
- Hall of Faith cards, one or two decks for every two students
- For Extend the Lesson, option one: clay, drying rack, plastic mat
- For Extend the Lesson, option two: Faith Hero T-shirts, fabric crayons/markers
- For Extend the Lesson, option three: Memory Verse Activity Sheet (p. 175), colored pencils/markers
- For Extend the Lesson, option four: Unit 6 Review, “Elijah and Elisha Serve the Lord Almighty”

Teacher Preparation

- If using Extend the Lesson, option one, practice making a clay lamp.
- If using Extend the Lesson, options three or four, make copies of the activity sheet or review.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

Review what you have learned about Elisha. In what ways do students think it might be fun to be a prophet? In what ways might it be hard? Give examples from the last lesson about Elisha. Explain that today you will learn about many more miracles Elisha performed. Students will be working in small groups and then sharing their findings with the rest of the class.

LESSON STEPS

1. Learn about Elisha’s miracles. Divide the class into small groups. Assign each group a passage from 2 Kings that describes one of Elisha’s miracles:

- Elisha multiplies a widow’s oil (4:1-7)
- Elisha purifies poisoned food (4:38-41)
- Elisha multiplies food (4:42-44)
- Elisha heals Naaman’s leprosy (5:1-19)
- Elisha cures Gehazi of leprosy (5:19-27)

- Elisha makes an axhead float (6:1-7)
- Elisha enables his servant to see an angel army (6:8-17)
- Elisha blinds an Aramean army (6:18-23)
- Elisha promises Jehoash victory (13:10-20)

When students are ready to share about their story with the class, proceed in the order the stories appear in the Bible. Encourage groups to follow directly after one another, so it feels like one complete story.

2. Play “Prophet!” Have students find the Hall of Faith cards for Elisha and the Shunammite Woman. Read them and discuss the facts. Next, divide the class into pairs, giving each pair one or two sets of Hall of Faith cards. Players do not look at their cards, but take turns laying a card down, face up. When a prophet is laid, the person who slaps the pile first and says “Prophet!” gets to take the whole pile. If the wrong card is slapped, the other player gets the cards. Play continues until one player has all the cards.

EXTEND THE LESSON

(These activities will extend the lesson to longer than 50 minutes.)

- **Make clay lamps.** During Elisha’s time, a lamp made of clay would have provided light in the home. The lamp looked like a small bowl with a spout, and burned olive oil. The wick came out of the narrow end. Follow these directions to make a lamp like the one Elisha would have used in his room.

You will need:

- 3-4 inch balls of clay
- plastic mat
- drying rack

Procedure: 1) Rest clay ball in palm of left hand and press right thumb into clay; 2) Pinch clay ball with right hand, keeping thumb on inside and fingers on outside of ball; 3) Turn clay ball in left hand as you pinch to keep side even; 4) Continue until walls are a uniform ¼-inch thick; 5) Squeeze into lamp shape.

- **Work on Faith Hero T-shirts.** Invite students to add Elisha and the Shunammite woman to their T-shirts. Include symbols that remind students of their stories.

- **Memory verse activity.** Have students complete the Galatians 5 memory verse worksheet from page 175. Provide colored pencils or markers. *Answer: The entire law is summed up in a single command: love your neighbor as yourself, Galatians.*

- **Complete the Unit 6 Review,** “Elijah and Elisha Serve the Lord Almighty” (pp. 176-177). You may choose to use this as an assessment.

Memory Verse Activity Sheet

Find your way to the end of the grid by coloring in verse 14 of your memory verses from Galatians 5:13-15. Write the verse on the lines below.

START



A	T	U	Q	I	R	E	P	O	Y	N	M	F	R
E	H	Y	F	L	H	E	D	U	P	I	C	O	Y
G	E	A	I	P	O	H	E	B	N	N	M	U	T
T	E	N	T	I	D	F	M	B	V	A	Z	U	J
X	F	E	X	R	I	S	M	L	N	S	M	G	R
L	U	T	R	E	W	S	U	E	I	I	N	B	F
V	H	D	T	L	A	O	I	P	M	C	G	N	R
O	B	E	U	H	D	S	A	A	C	E	L	B	S
R	H	G	I	A	L	M	O	G	O	L	D	A	X
A	N	Z	E	T	G	P	H	J	M	O	R	T	P
S	T	R	N	F	L	D	N	A	M	D	S	P	A
Y	O	U	C	Z	O	Y	E	E	R	X	D	E	O
G	U	O	Y	E	V	E	R	C	A	I	A	N	Z
B	R	S	E	L	F	G	A	L	A	T	L	S	A



END





Unit 6 Review— Elijah and Elisha Serve the Lord Almighty



Directions: Match each person with the correct description.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. ____ Ahab | a. She hated the Lord and killed prophets. |
| 2. ____ Elijah | b. Elijah brought her son back to life. |
| 3. ____ Elisha | c. He built a great temple for Baal. |
| 4. ____ Jezebel | d. He went to heaven in a chariot of fire. |
| 5. ____ Obadiah | e. He was in charge of Ahab's palace. |
| 6. ____ Widow of Zarephath | f. He received a double portion of Elijah's spirit. |

Directions: Put a T in the blank if the sentence is true and an F if the sentence is false.

7. ____ Ahab and Jezebel led the people of Israel in worshiping the Lord.
8. ____ The widow of Zarephath never ran out of flour or oil while Elijah was there.
9. ____ There were 450 prophets of Baal that Elijah challenged to a contest.
10. ____ Baal set his prophets' altar on fire.
11. ____ Elijah poured water on his altar and the Lord still set it on fire.
12. ____ The man and woman from Shunem made a room where Elisha could stay when he came to their town.
13. ____ Elisha spoke to the king on behalf of the Shunammite woman and her husband so that they might get special favors from him.
14. ____ Elisha promised the Shunammite woman that she would give birth to a son.

Elijah and Elisha Serve the Lord Almighty—Answer Key

1. C
2. D
3. F
4. A
5. E
6. B

7. F
8. T
9. T
10. F
11. T
12. T
13. F
14. T

15. What did Elijah tell King Ahab would happen in the next few years?
Elijah told King Ahab that there would be a drought [or no rain].

16. Two times, Elijah ran away and hid from danger. What is one way God took care of Elijah when he was hiding?
Possible answers: God told him where to hide and sent ravens to bring him bread and meat. God sent an angel to give Elijah a cake of bread and jar of water.

17. What did Elisha do when he saw the Shunammite woman's boy lying dead on his couch?
Elisha prayed to God, lay on the boy two times and warmed his body.

18. Describe one miracle that Elisha performed that did not involve the Shunammite woman.
Answers may be a description of any of these miracles: Elisha multiplies a widow's oil, purifies poisoned food, multiplies loaves of bread, heals Naaman's leprosy, gives Gehazi leprosy, causes an ax head to float, gives his servant a vision of fiery horses and chariots, blinds an Aramean, promises Jehoash victory.