

Adventures with GOD!

MIRACLES (C.2.FALL.12)

Biblical Reference	Various texts in 2 Kings 2-7 (see attached sheet)
Key Verse	1 Chronicles 16:24-25
Key Concept	God's power and miracles are reasons to give thanks and praise to God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the miracles that God performed through Elisha. 2. Identify how God still does miracles today. 3. Praise God for who God is and what God has done.

Life Application

The Lord delights in the praise and worship of his people. The word of God, the Bible, tells us that we have been created for "the praise of his glory." We are to live lives of praise. We must recognize the power, love and mercy of God and give praise. Today the children will have the opportunity to review the miracles of Elisha, some they will have already read about and others will be new. This week the children will glorify God for who God is and what God does.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations	15 minutes
Activity	Crossword	5 minutes
Activity	Booklets, pencils, bibles	10 minutes
Praise	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible key verse for the day (1 Chronicles 16:24-25) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the verses?

Bible Exploration: Together review "The Story of Elisha" (attached) to have a general outline of the miracles that God performed through Elisha. Review the miracles that you have already learned about. Talk more about the new miracles that are being introduced in this lesson (pick a few from the list and have the children divide up into groups and present them). Emphasize that as we see God at work and witness God's miracles, our response is to give God thanks and praise. What are miracles that God performs today?

Activity: Children can do the crossword that is found in this lesson. It is an excellent activity to reinforce the important concepts of history today.

Activity: Complete the booklets, "classified information," to take home.

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Praise: Again this is an appropriate time to worship God together through singing, giving glory to God for his power. Today is a day of celebration! It would be great if you could prepare ahead of time a special refreshment. You could ask for help from children or parents. It's time to celebrate so before leaving this time of celebration, give thanks to the Lord for all that you have studied during the quarter.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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Bible Exploration

Elisha was a prophet who performed miracles (with the power of God) and who predicted the future (with the power of God). He acted on God's behalf, bringing glory to God.

Miracle # 1: TRANSFORMING BAD WATER: 2 Kings 2:19-22

The water of Jericho was bad. Elisha threw salt into the water, as God commanded him to do. The water became pure and has been pure since then.

Miracle # 2: ELISHA HELPS A POOR WIDOW: 2 Kings 4:1-7

A widow could not pay her debt and a man threatened to take her children for slaves as payment. The only thing the widow had was a tiny jug of oil. Elisha told her to go home and collect more jugs from the neighbors. She began to pour the oil in the other jars. When they were all filled the oil stopped flowing. Elisha told her to sell the oil, pay her debt and use the remaining money to live.

MIRACLE # 3: ELISHA AND WEALTHY WOMAN: 2 Kings 4:8-17

Elisha ate and lived in the house of a rich woman every time he was in their city. One day Elisha asked his servants what he could give her as a reward for her kindness. They told him that she wanted a child. Elisha told the woman she would have a child the following year; and she did!

MIRACLE # 4: ELISHA GIVES LIFE TO A CHILD: 2 Kings 4:18-37

The son of a wealthy woman had an accident and died. The woman ran to Elisha. He returned to her home, prayed and raised her son from the dead.

MIRACLE # 5: TRANSFORMING BAD FOOD TO GOOD FOOD: 2 Kings 4:38-41

There was a drought. Elisha's servants made a meal with poisonous pumpkins (without realizing it). Elisha put some flour in the stew and transformed it into good food.

MIRACLE # 6: MULTIPLIED BREAD: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Elisha was given 20 loaves of barley bread to feed 100 prophets. His servants thought it would not be enough, but Elisha told them that the Lord had told him it would be enough and that there would be leftovers. And there were leftovers.

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MIRACLE # 7: NAAMAN CURED: 2 Kings 5:1-19

Naaman was a commander of the Syrian army. He had leprosy. His servant, a girl, told him that Elisha could heal him. Elisha told Naaman to go and wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. This greatly angered Naaman (because of his pride). His servants were finally able to convince him to do what Elisha had said. And he was cured!

MIRACLE # 8: THE CASE OF LOST AX : 2 Kings 6:1-7

Elisha and a group of prophets were to cut down some trees to make his house bigger. When they began to work one man lost his ax in the water. This was a problem as it was a borrowed ax. Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water and the ax floated to the surface.

MIRACLE # 9: THE LORD PROTECTS AND HELPS ELISHA: 2 Kings 6:8-23

The King of Syria went to war against Israel. Elisha knew what was to happen and betrayed all his plans to the leaders of Israel; therefore, the King of Syria wanted to capture Elisha.

When the army of Syria came to the city where Elisha was, his servant was frightened. Elisha prayed that his servant would have his eyes opened and what was invisible to the human eye. Immediately he could see in the mountains an army of horses and chariots of fire and angels protecting Elisha.

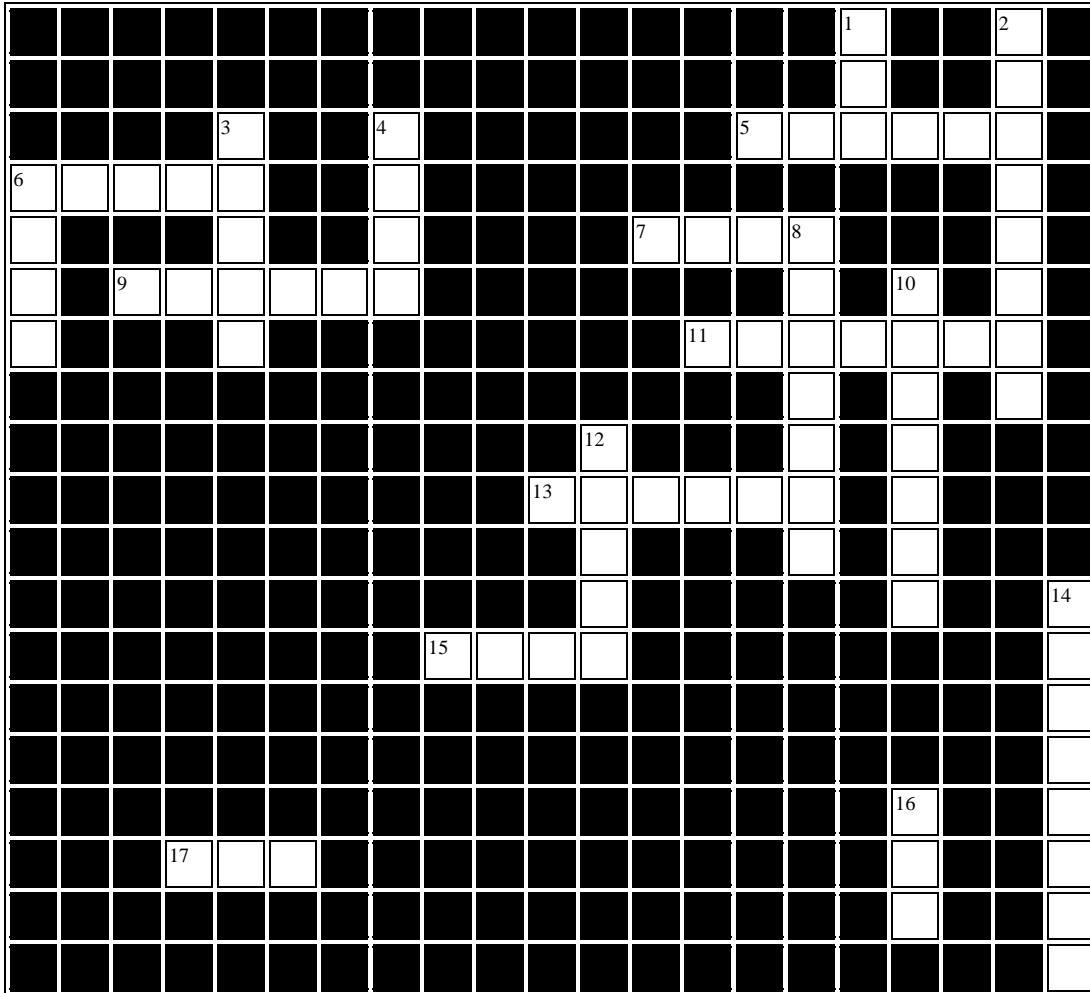
MIRACLE # 10: GREAT FAMINE: 2 Kings 6:24-25, 7:1-20

As a result of the siege on Samaria made by the Syrian army, there was a great famine in Israel. The King of Israel thought that Elisha was to blame and wanted to kill him. Elisha told the king and his assistant the next day everyone was going to have enough to eat, except the assistant. The king and his assistant thought this was ridiculous!

Four starving lepers went to the Syrian's camp to find food. But when they got there they found the camp empty. The Lord had caused them to hear something that looked like a large army with horses and chariots and they thought that the King of Israel had sent armies to attack them. The Syrians fled, leaving everything they had at camp. When the lepers saw that the camp was empty they went in and ate until they were full. Then they went to tell others. Everyone went to eat at camp, trampling the king's helper. The helper died. Everyone else ate everything they wanted! The war was over!

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CROSSWORD - MIRACLES



Across

5. When there is not enough to eat
6. The times that Naaman had to wash to be healed.
7. What King of Israel wanted to do to Elisha when there was hunger
9. The number of loaves that Elisha gave to feed the 100 prophets
11. What did the King of Syria want to do to Elisha when he learned about the situation
13. If the poor widow's debt was not paid, her children were going to be
15. What did the servant of Elisha feel when he saw the army of Syrian
17. What did Syrian's stop doing against Israel after the banquet

Down

1. What did Elisha promise the rich woman as a reward for her kindness
2. The lost ax was
3. What Naaman felt when Elisha told him what he had to do to be healed
4. What did Elisha do before each miracle
6. What did Elisha throw into the water to purify it
8. What disease did Naaman have
10. What made the food poisonous put in by the servants of Elisha
12. What did Elisha put in food to make it good
14. What did Elisha do with the power of God
16. What did the poor widow sell to pay debt

