

Adventures with GOD!

ELISHA, SUCCESSOR OF ELIJAH (C.2.FALL.6)

Biblical Reference	2 Kings 2:1-15
Key Verse	1 Corinthians 7:7
Key Concept	When God gives me something to do, God gives me the ability and strength to be able to do it.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a list of the skills and gifts they have. 2. Decide what they will do for someone this week using their skills and gifts. 3. Tell the story of what Elisha received when Elijah was taken up into heaven.

Life Application

Elisha was given a very big task and wanted to have the same spirit that Elijah had to carry out what God had commanded him to do. Children will see in this story that God never gives us a job without also giving us the ability to carry it out. God has also given us the Holy Spirit to help us fulfill God's purposes in our lives. This week the children will do something for someone else using the abilities God has given them.

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
Activity	Paper, pencils	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, signs	10 minutes
Verse		5 minutes
Dialogue	See instructions	10 minutes
Activity	Booklet, Bible	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 so 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 reference for the day (2 Kings 2:1-15) 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 story?

Activity: Each child should make a list of his or her skills and gifts (the things they do well, aptitudes, skills, talents, etc.). They may say they do not do anything right. Help them understand that God could not have failed in what God created! Other children may not want to appear as proud but false modesty denies God's work. We do not have skills because of something we have done; it is a gift of God in our lives. So encourage them to make their lists. You may need to prepare in advance on a large sheet of paper, a list of skills for them to look at and draw from (For example: drawing, running, cooking, cleaning, singing, reading, building objects, building, painting, storytelling, organize their books, in their rooms, homework, help, encourage others, washing, serving, studying, smiling, sewing, embroidery, listening to others, knitting, writing letters, stories, diary, songs, poems, playing an instrument, acting, comforting someone who is suffering, taking care of younger siblings, playing sports, praying for others, etc.).

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Be careful not to do too much emphasis on activities that often seem outstanding or better than others. Remind children that God has given us each skills and gifts and they are all important. Try to create an environment where children feel safe and respected. Encourage them to share what they have written.

Bible Exploration: Children can make signs that say Elisha, Elijah, Narrator, Company of Prophets, Prophets from Bethel and Jericho. Read the story from the Bible (2 Kings 2:1-15), then they can choose the roles they want to play. Ask a group of children act out the story as you read it again.

Dialogue: Having acted out the story, talk about the skills that Elisha had to perform the task that God had given him. What was it that Elisha asked of God? How did God respond? What do we learn from this story of Elisha? Help them see that all the skills we have come from God. What we are and what we can do is because God has created us and given us abilities, skills, and gifts. Ask the children how they will use one of their gifts/skills this week to help another person? How does God want to use the skills they have to touch the life of another person?

Verse: Choose a game to help them memorize the verse for today.

Activity: Keep adding more information to the booklets.

Tasks: 2 Kings 2:1-2

Miracles: 2 Kings 2:8, 2 Kings 2:11, 2 Kings 2:13-14

Problem: 2 Kings 2:1

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).

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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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Illustration

Elijah goes to Heaven

