

Elijah & Elisha

2 Kings 2-5



Elijah was taken bodily into heaven and Elisha served in his place.



The Story

The Lord did many wonderful signs and miracles through Elijah, His prophet. Elijah was getting old. He served the Lord for many years. He was ready to go to heaven. The Lord had chosen a new prophet to take Elijah's place. His name was Elisha. He followed Elijah everywhere.

It was time for Elijah to go to heaven. Elijah knew it was time. Elisha knew that it was time. "I will not leave you," Elisha said to Elijah. They walked until they came to the Jordan River. At the river, Elijah took off his coat and hit the water. The water split apart and Elijah and Elisha walked across on dry ground.

Elijah asked, "Elisha, what may I do for you before I go to heaven?" Elisha said, "I would like a double share of your spirit." This means that Elisha wanted the Lord to be with him just like the Lord was with Elijah. Elisha wanted this done two times.

Elijah knew that only the Lord could give that gift to Elisha. Elijah said, "If you see me go into heaven, then you will get your answer."

They kept talking and walking. All of a sudden, a chariot of fire and horses appeared. It went between Elijah and Elisha. Then Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw it all happen and yelled, "My father, my father." Then he didn't see Elijah anymore.

Elisha remembered that if he saw Elijah go into heaven, he would get a double share of the Lord's Spirit. Elisha didn't feel any different. He wondered if the Lord's Spirit was with him. Elisha picked up Elijah's coat and asked, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" He took the coat, rolled it up, and hit the water just like Elijah had done. The water separated and Elisha knew that the Lord was with him.

Elisha was the new prophet of the Lord. The Lord was with him. He did miracles like Elijah had done. The people of Israel knew that the Lord was with him. The Lord also promises to be with us. The Lord is in our hearts, just like He was in Elisha's heart.

Activity One - Answer these Review Questions together.

1. Who was the old prophet of the Lord?
2. Where was Elijah ready to go to?
3. Who did the Lord pick to take Elijah's place as prophet?
4. Did Elisha think he was ready to take Elijah's place as prophet?
5. What separated Elijah and Elisha just before Elijah was taken to heaven?
6. What took Elijah to heaven?

7. How did Elisha know that the Lord was with him?

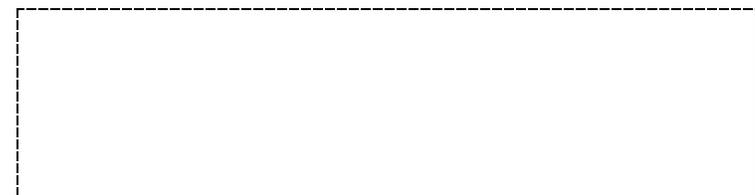
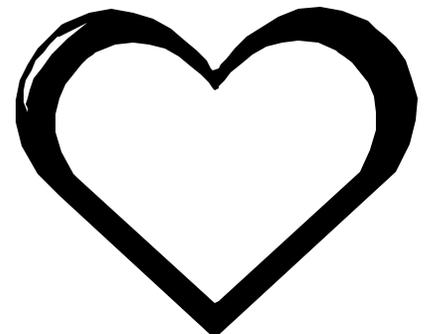
8. Who is the Lord with today just like He was with Elisha?

Activity Two - There are two prophets in our lesson, circle "Elisha and Elijah."

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| 1. I was old and knew I would go to heaven soon. | E <u>l</u> isha | Eli <u>j</u> ah |
| 2. I was Elijah's helper. | E <u>l</u> isha | Eli <u>j</u> ah |
| 3. I was the first person to hit the water. | E <u>l</u> isha | Eli <u>j</u> ah |
| 4. I asked for God's Spirit. | E <u>l</u> isha | Eli <u>j</u> ah |
| 5. I was taken to heaven in a whirlwind. | E <u>l</u> isha | Eli <u>j</u> ah |
| 6. I was the new prophet of the Lord. | E <u>l</u> isha | Eli <u>j</u> ah |

Activity Three - Follow the directions.

1. Color the two rectangles brown and the heart red.
2. Cut all the pieces out.
3. Glue them onto another sheet of paper. The brown pieces form a cross with the red heart in the middle of the cross. You may wish to copy Matthew 28:20 at the bottom of the paper.
4. Alternate activity—Make patterns of the pieces and have children trace them onto the appropriate color of construction paper. Then have them glue the pieces onto another sheet of paper.



The same Lord who worked so powerfully through Elijah and Elisha has also promised to be with us today.

Passages

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Matthew 28:20 - Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Hymn - TLH #434 or v. 1, 4

O God of Jacob, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who thro' this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Oh, spread Thy covering wings around
Till all our wanderings cease
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Please be with me just as You were with Elijah and Elisha. I know that I will change as I grow older, but You will always stay the same. Amen.