

Elisha Crosses The River

2 Kings 2:13-15

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 2:15

“Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, ‘The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.’...”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A rope (as long as you like), a blindfold, and a garment to represent a cloak.

A sheet of white construction paper for each child, several scraps of multicolored construction paper, scissors, glue, and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Walking a Tightrope of Faith

Remember last week? Elijah put his cloak, or mantle on Elisha, which showed Elisha that he was God’s choice to follow Elijah as a prophet. When Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha had to trust in the Lord and walk by faith. We also need to learn how to walk by faith. This activity will help us to understand walking by faith. You will need a rope, a blindfold, and a garment to represent a “cloak.”

Clear the room in the center and spread the rope across the room, laying it on the floor. The rope can be as long as you like and should curve in different directions instead of remaining straight. To choose a player, place the cloak on child and then blindfold them. Either you or another child can then lead them to the rope. Have them walk and feel with their feet the path to the end. After each player is blindfolded, change the route. When each child is done have them place the cloak on another child. Keep playing until everyone has had a turn. Introduce today’s lesson and theme using this activity.

LESSON TIME!

Did you know that God has a plan for your life? Have you ever felt God's call? Perhaps, you have had a desire to do something for the Lord. Perhaps, He wants you to become a Sunday school teacher, a missionary, or a pastor. Maybe He wants you to do something special in your own neighborhood or tell a friend or family member about Jesus. God desires that our lives be a witness for Him. We can be confident that **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

Do you remember the chariot of fire in last week's lesson? God caught Elijah up into heaven to be with Him. Elisha, who had served Elijah, his mentor, for many years, was now left alone. The responsibility of leadership as a prophet to God's people will be upon Elisha.

As you grow up and learn about the Lord, it is good to have an Elijah to help you learn about the ways of the Lord. Perhaps your Elijah will be an older family member or adult within the church who has walked with the Lord a long time. It is good to have a mentor, someone who can help you learn how to walk with the Lord. As Elijah to Elisha, a mentor will help you be prepared for the day when the Lord calls you for His service. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

2 KINGS 2:13

He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

Elijah had dropped his prophet's mantle in front of Elisha to signify that Elisha was God's choice to replace him. Elisha picked it up, accepting the responsibility before him and showing his willingness to follow God and to lead the people. He then went back to the river, not sure of what to do or where God was leading him next.

Do you suppose Elisha was a little scared as he faced his new assignment? Elisha would now be all by himself. Being a prophet, a spokesman for God, was a huge responsibility.

But, the *Lord* was going to help him. When God asks us to do something, He is always there to help us to do it. Remember the day when Elijah asked Elisha to make a request? Elisha said that he wanted a double portion of the Spirit. It is the Spirit of God who helps us to do what God asks us to do. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

Special Memories

As an illustration to today's story, refer to the cloak (mantle) that Elijah placed on Elisha. Have the children sit in a circle and ask a few to share if they have had any loved ones who have gone on to heaven to be with the Lord. We can remember those we love by keeping special things that were once theirs. Ask the children to share if they have any special things that their family has kept as a special way to remember them by.

Elisha had Elijah's cloak. This was no doubt very special to Elisha. It helped him to remember his teacher and his friend. But to Elisha it also represented God's purpose for him. God had wonderful plans for Elisha's life and **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

2 KINGS 2:14

Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

As Elisha stood there, he asked, "Where is the God of Elijah?" Full of faith and anticipation, Elisha knew that as God had been with Elijah and moved in powerful ways, so now God would be with Him. God showed Elisha that He would be with Him by the parting of the waters.

Just as God reassured Elisha of His presence and power, so God would like us to have the assurance of His presence and power continually with us. Before ascending to heaven, Jesus told His disciples, "...lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

Racetrack of Faith

For this craft you will need a sheet of white construction paper for each child, several scraps of multicolored construction paper, scissors, glue, and markers. Tear the scraps of construction paper into small 1" squares or 1/2" x 1" rectangles.

Starting at one end of the white construction paper, have the children write "Start." Then place one square or rectangle at a time, gluing them onto the paper. Make a trail that swerves in several directions. Have it eventually end and write "Heaven" at the other end. Have the children draw a runner at the start. They can also write 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 on the paper (or the teacher can assist younger children).

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Review the story and talk about Elisha and his race of faith. We, too, are in a race.

2 KINGS 2:15

Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

A group of prophets from Jericho standing there recognized God's call on Elisha's life and turned to follow his leadership. God also worked in the hearts of His people. Elisha did not have to prove that he was God's choice to replace Elijah. God had already prepared the hearts of the people.

God wants to use us for His plans. We need not promote ourselves. God will work in the hearts of others to show them that He wants to use us. We do not need to worry about whether or not people will listen to us or believe that God really wants to use us.

How can we know God's plan for our lives? In Old Testament times, God spoke to His people through His chosen prophets. Today, God also speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. He wants us to read, memorize and to understand His ways. His Word will help prepare us and help us to understand what He wants us to do with our lives. Proverbs 3:5-6 states, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Are we ever too young for God to use us? Remember Samuel. He was just a young boy when God called him. He became a great leader. Timothy also was very young. God was preparing him from a child through His Word so that he could one day be a good pastor. Paul once told Timothy, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). God had a plan for his life and it began at a young age. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

Have you taken the first step in preparation for God using you in the future? We must begin an exciting relationship with Him by accepting Jesus Christ into our hearts. When Jesus is our Lord and Savior, God will direct us and begin to unfold His plans. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to yield their lives to God and find out what God’s plans are for their lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.