

LESSON 3—ELISHA, Part 2: SURROUNDED

Bible Reference: 2 Kings 6:1-8-23

Key Verse: Romans 8:28—And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

OVERVIEW

- Bible Story
- Key Verse
- Prayer Part
- Small Group Activities

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Signs that say: *Elisha, Servant, King of Aram, Servant, and Servant*
- Signs for: The Lord's Prayer sign
- Each small group will need items to draw their favorite Bible stories

BIBLE LESSON

(Based on 2 Kings 6:1-8-23)

SAY: We are so glad that you're here today. Today we're continuing our series called "The Choice to Rejoice."

CONTROL TOOL

Anytime I say, "*Make the choice!*" I want you to say, "*To rejoice!*"
Practice a few times.

REPEAT after me: *Give thanks In EVERYTHING, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus—1 Thessalonians 5:18.*

Use other variations as well:

Have boys say the first part / Girls say the second part.

SAY: Because God is so good and we can trust Him, we can give thanks even when "bad" things happen.

ASK: **Who remembers what last week's Bible stories were about?** (We started learning about Elisha—the poison pot of stew and the floating axhead.) *Briefly review these with your students.*

SAY: Today we have another story about Elisha. Last week we saw how he didn't just look at a bad situation—He had a unique way of looking beyond the situation to what God could do. You're really going to see this happen in today's story.

Bible Story

Choose 2 volunteers and give them signs that say: Elisha and Servant.

SAY: In both stories last week something bad happened, the people responded one way, Elisha respond in faith and God did something great. Listen in today's story for these same four things:

SAY: Hold up a finger for each of the four things I want you to listen for...

- What was the bad thing that happened?
- How did the people respond?
- How did Elisha respond?
- What did God do?

SAY: I'm going to read part of the story and then our volunteers will help us act it out. Since today's story has two scenes in it, we're going to have the volunteers for each go to different sides of the room.

Send the Elisha and Servant volunteers to one side; the King of Aram, Servant, and Servant volunteers to the other side.

Read 2 Kings 6:1-8-14 from your Bible

Walk back through the story by helping the volunteers act it out, repeating any speaking parts.

Give the King of Aram, Servant, and Servant volunteers a hand and ask the Elisha and Servant volunteers step forward.

Read 2 Kings 6:15 from your Bible

Have your volunteers act out the story as you read.

ASK: How would you feel if you woke up and a massive army had surrounded the city you were in?

ASK: What if they had come to kill you? What would you do?

ASK: You've seen how Elisha responded in the past—What do you think he's going to do? (Let's find out...)

Read 2 Kings 6:16-23 from your Bible

Help your volunteers act out their parts and then summarize the end.

ASK: Did the end of the story surprise you? Why or why not?

ASK: In today's story, what was the "bad" thing that happened? (The King of Aram sent a large army to get Elisha.)

ASK: How did the people respond? (Elisha's servant was scared.)

ASK: How did Elisha respond? (He wasn't shaken. He just acted in faith by praying that God would make them blind.)

ASK: What did God do? (He blinded the army so that Elisha—one man—could capture them all.)

SAY: Elisha had a special way of looking beyond the situation to what he knew God could do in that situation and he immediately acted in faith.

Hold up one finger—ONE—When Elisha faced a “bad” situation, he didn’t accept the situation for what he saw.

Hold up two fingers—TWO—Elisha didn’t focus on the “bad”; He focused on God and what God could do.

Hold up three fingers—THREE—Elisha wasn’t afraid to act in faith or to ask God for the impossible. He wasn’t afraid that God wouldn’t come through for him.

Hold up four fingers—FOUR—Elisha never seemed surprised when God did something great because it’s what he expected.

SAY: The next time you face a tough spot, be like Elisha—Look beyond what you see to what God can do and don’t be afraid to act in faith or to ask God for the impossible.

CONTROL TOOL

Leader: “*Make the choice!*” Students: “*To rejoice!*”

KEY VERSE

SAY: Raise your hand if you've ever made a promise.

Raise your hand if someone has ever made a promise to you.

Raise your hand if someone has ever broken a promise to you.

ASK: **Does God make promises?**

ASK: **Will God ever lie?** (God will never lie. He is truth.)

SAY: In the Bible God never has to say, "I will do such and such...I promise!" If God says it, He will do it. His Word is true, and today I want you to see a promise that God has given us in the Bible.

SAY: Get your Bibles ready for a Bible Drill...

SAY: Don't turn to it yet, but today's key verse come from the letter Paul wrote to the church in Rome. It's a book called Romans. The New Testament begins with the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each of these tells the story of Jesus. The Gospels are followed by Acts, which is the story of what the followers of Jesus did after His death and resurrection. The book of Romans follows Acts. Every book after Acts is a letter written to a church or a person or a group of people and Romans is the first letter found in the New Testament.

Ready...Romans 8:28...Go!

Read this verse aloud...

ASK: **What does this verse say that God will do?** (Turn or work all things to the good. All includes everything, even "bad" situations. When God says "all," He means "all.")

ASK: **To whom was this promise given?** (To those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.)

SAY: Those who have given their lives to Jesus are the ones who are called according to His purpose and the Bible is very clear that those who love Him will obey Him. In other words, if you have given your life to Jesus (you've been called according to His purpose) and you love Him (which leads to you following and obeying Him), then you can know FOR A FACT that God will take every situation that comes your way and work it to your good.

OPTIONAL—Share a personal story of how something bad happened in your life and how God worked it to your good.

SAY: Knowing who God is, seeing what He has done in other people lives and knowing His Word and promises like this are just another reason that you can make the choice to rejoice.

Control Tool

Leader: *Make the choice* / Students: *To rejoice!*

PRAYER PART—“As we also have forgiven our debtors”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week using posters but today we’re going to say two times—Once with the posters and once without the posters.

Say the Lord’s Prayer together looking at the posters. Then hide the posters by having your volunteers turn around.

ASK: What do you think this sample prayer means when it says, “As we also have forgiven our debtors”?

SAY: The “debtors” here is talking about people who have wronged you.

Raise your hand if anyone has ever hurt you.

Raise your hand if it was easy to forgive them.

Raise your hand if it was hard to forgive them.

ASK: But what do you do if they don’t deserve to be forgiven—I mean, they did something really wrong and it really hurt you?

SAY: The Bible says to forgive in the same way that we’re forgiven. Do we deserve God’s forgiveness? No. None of us do but God gives it to us. And if God forgives our sins, how much more quickly should we choose to forgive those who have sinned against us.

SAY: Forgiveness isn’t telling someone that what they did was okay—Far from it, it’s saying that what they did was wrong—they know, you know and God knows it, but you’re not God to bring judgment on them, so you give them into God’s hands for Him to deal with them. You release them to Him.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed. I’m going to call out some of today’s prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

Dismiss to Small Groups

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I’m going to dismiss you one row at a time.

Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.

“My Favorite Bible Story” Pictures

SMALL GROUPS

Today our students are going to draw and color their favorite Bible stories on large sheets of paper. Then display these pictures for all to see.

Let each person in your small group share their favorite Bible story and what happened in it. Point out times when these stories illustrate key points from today’s lesson such as trusting God, acting in faith, seeing beyond the situation to what God can do, how God can turn bad to the good, etc.

Prayer—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.