Preschool–Grade 5

Elijah and Elisha Craft

Elijah went up by a whirlwind · 2 Kings 2:1–15 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



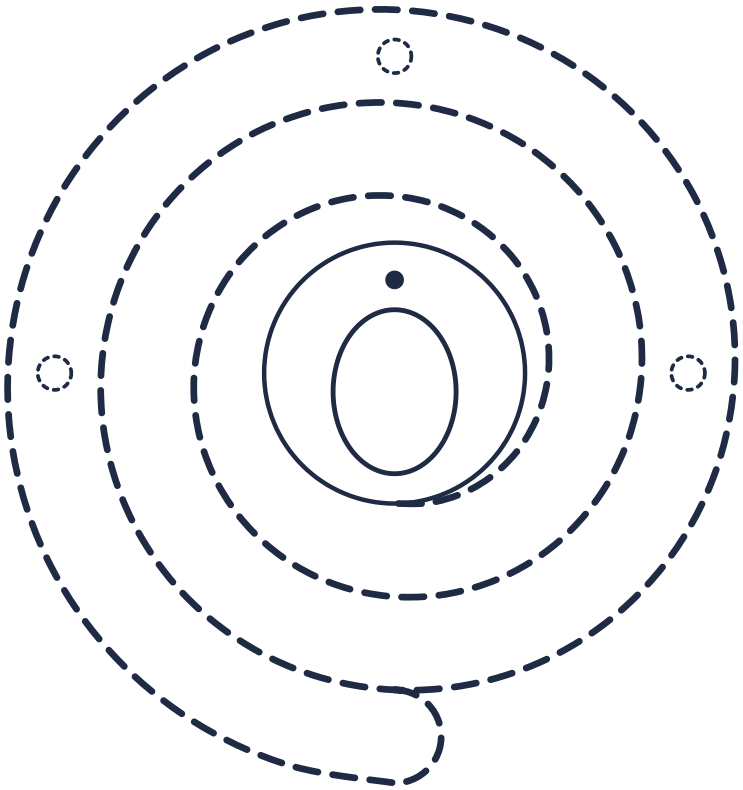
Harder

Both levels are a paper whirlwind cut in a spiral: a light blue whirlwind turning around a yellow middle circle, where each child draws Elijah, with a yarn loop at the top to hang it. Elijah's brown mantle hangs from the end of the whirlwind, because Elijah "went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Kings 2:11) and Elisha "took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him" (2:13). Medium (left): the whirlwind and the mantle. Harder (right): the same with three orange and yellow flames glued around the outside, for the "chariot of fire, and horses of fire" (2:11).

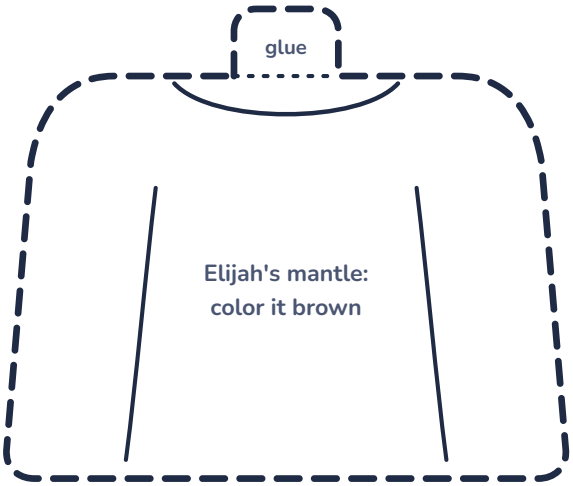
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



whirlwind: color it light blue · middle circle: yellow · draw Elijah in the white oval
Cut along the dashed line all the way around to the middle circle. Poke a hole at the black dot.



And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

2 Kings 2:11 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the mantle
(the 3 small dotted circles are for the harder level)

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the whirlwind, the mantle and the verse strip. You also need a piece of yarn about 12 inches long.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Fire (harder level)



3 flames: color the outside orange and the inside yellow

How to add the fire

1. Make the whirlwind with the mantle from page 2 first, but don't hang it up yet.
2. Color the outside of each flame orange and the inside yellow. Cut out the 3 flames on the dashed lines.
3. Look for the 3 small dotted circles on the outside ring of the whirlwind: one on the left, one at the top and one on the right.
4. Put glue on the round bottom of one flame. Press it on a dotted circle with the flame pointing out, away from the middle. Do the same with the other two flames.
5. Tell it: as Elijah and Elisha "still went on, and talked," a chariot of fire and horses of fire "parted them both asunder," which means pulled them apart, "and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Kings 2:11). Elisha saw it and cried, "My father, my father" (2:12).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/elijah-and-elisha-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light blue, yellow and brown crayons or markers, crayons for drawing Elijah, 1 piece of yarn about 12 inches long for each child, scissors, glue sticks and a sharp pencil. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and orange crayons.
Before class: cut the yarn. For preschoolers, also cut out the whirlwind, the mantle and the verse strip, and poke the yarn holes. At every level a grown-up pokes the yarn hole.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's whirlwind, mantle and verse strip, and poke the holes. Kids color the pieces and draw Elijah. You glue the verse strip and the mantle on and tie the yarn. Then they hold it up and watch it turn.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut out and glue the pieces themselves; a grown-up pokes the hole. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the whirlwind like the medium level. Then add the three flames from page 3 around the outside, for the "chariot of fire, and horses of fire" (2 Kings 2:11). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the whirlwind light blue and the middle circle yellow. Leave the oval in the middle white. Color Elijah's mantle brown.
2. **Draw:** in the white oval, draw Elijah going up by a whirlwind into heaven (2 Kings 2:11).
3. **Cut:** cut out the mantle and the verse strip on the dashed lines. Then cut out the whirlwind: start at the rounded end at the bottom and cut along the dashed line around and around until you reach the middle circle.
4. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the mantle. Read it together.
5. **Mantle:** put glue on the front of the mantle's small tab. Press the tab on the back of the rounded end of the whirlwind, so the mantle hangs down below it.
6. **Hang it:** a grown-up pokes a hole with a sharp pencil through the black dot above the oval. Push the yarn through the hole and tie the ends together to make a loop.
7. **Tell it:** hold the whirlwind up by the yarn. It opens and turns, and Elijah goes up in the middle, "and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Kings 2:11). The mantle hangs at the bottom: Elisha "took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him" (2:13).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Where did Elijah and Elisha start out? *(From Gilgal, 2 Kings 2:1)*
- Elijah told Elisha to stay behind three times. What did Elisha say each time? *("As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee," 2:2, 2:4, 2:6)*
- Hold up the mantle. What did Elijah do with it at the river Jordan? *(He wrapped it together and smote the waters, and they two went over on dry ground, 2:8)*
- What did Elisha ask for? *("Let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me," 2:9)*
- Point to the whirlwind. What appeared, and how did Elijah go up? *(A chariot of fire and horses of fire parted them, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven, 2:11)*
- What did Elisha pick up? *(The mantle of Elijah that fell from him, 2:13)*
- What happened when Elisha smote the waters with the mantle? *(They parted, and Elisha went over, 2:14)*
- What did the sons of the prophets say when they saw him? *("The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha," 2:15)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: tarry** means stay; a **mantle** is a cloak, a big loose coat worn over the clothes; **smote** means hit; **hither and thither** means this way and that way; a **double portion** is a double share; **asunder** means apart; a **whirlwind** is a strong wind that spins around and around.
- **What the Bible says:** 2 Kings 2 does not say what the whirlwind, the mantle or the fire looked like, or what color they were. The spiral, the flames and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story. The three flames are not a number from the Bible.
- **No one is drawn on the template:** each child draws Elijah in the oval. The Bible names no angels in this story, so none are drawn.
- **Cutting the spiral:** cardstock works best. Show kids how to turn the paper, not the scissors, as they cut around. If a whirlwind gets cut in two, glue the ends back together on the back.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and poke the holes ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child hold up the whirlwind and watch it turn.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Elijah and Elisha lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/elijah-and-elisha.

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