Preschool–Grade 6

Elijah and Elisha

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Stay close to God.
Bible passage: 2 Kings 2. Read 2 Kings 2:1–15 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven" *2 Kings 2:11 (KJV).* A **whirlwind** is a wind that spins around and around.
You need: a Bible, a towel or a jacket to be Elijah's "mantle" (his big coat), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Kings 2.

1. Opening game: Follow Me (5 minutes)

The kids line up behind you. Walk around the room and do motions as you go (tiptoe, march, flap your arms). Everyone follows and copies you. Every few steps, turn around and say, "Stay here!" The kids say, "No! I will stay with you!" and keep following. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a man who stayed with his friend all the way."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Kings 2. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Elijah was a man who spoke God's words (1 Kings 18:36). *(Point up to God.)*
Elisha went with Elijah (2 Kings 2:1). *(Walk in place.)*
Elijah said, "Stay here." *(Hold up your hand: stop!)*
Elisha said, "I will not leave thee" (2:2). *(Shake your head no.)*
Say it with me: "I will not leave thee!"
They came to a river, the Jordan (2:7). *(Wiggle your hands like water.)*
Elijah hit the water with his coat. The water parted (2:8)! *(Swing the towel down, then open your arms wide.)*
They walked over on dry ground (2:8). *(Walk in place.)*
A chariot of fire and horses of fire came (2:11). *(Gallop in place.)*
Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind (2:11). *(Spin your finger up, up, up.)*
Elijah's coat fell down (2:13). *(Drop the towel.)*
Elisha picked it up (2:13). *(Pick up the towel.)*
He hit the water, and it parted for him too (2:14)! *(Swing the towel, then open your arms wide.)*
Say it with me: "God is with me!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Elisha say? *("I will not leave thee," 2 Kings 2:2)*
2. How did Elijah go up to heaven? *(In a whirlwind, 2:11)*
3. What did Elisha pick up? *(Elijah's coat, his mantle, 2:13)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The Bible says, 'and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.' A whirlwind is a wind that goes around and around." Teach the motion: spin one finger around and around, and move it higher and higher until your arm is straight up. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "2 Kings 2:11" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Whirlwind Picture (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big round whirlwind going up, around and around, and a river at the bottom. While they color, ask: "What did Elisha say? Where did Elijah go?" Kids who finish early can take turns "smiting the water" with the towel and saying, "I will not leave thee!"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for being with me.
Help me stay close to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child hold the towel "mantle" and swing it down on the "river." If they get wiggly, do the Follow Me game again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks where Elijah went: say just what the Bible says: God took Elijah up into heaven by a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:11).

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