



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We will see God at work when we serve Him.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God has great and wonderful things in store for those who serve Him with their lives.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Kings 2:1-13, Elijah Taken Up To Heaven

MEMORY VERSE:

"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end." Daniel 4:3 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

The trapeze artist sails through the air with grace and strength. When Elijah had come to the end of his life, instead of experiencing death, God graced him with an amazing chariot ride up to heaven.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us where to serve so we can see You work in us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



MEMORY VERSE

“How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.” Daniel 4:3 (NIV)

“His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end.” Daniel 4:3 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room in half. Pick one side to start and have them all shout the first word, then the other side shouts the second word, and so on until they finish the verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.



SKIT

MEET THE MAN WITHOUT THE FLYING TRAPEZE

ITEMS NEEDED:

A ringmaster's costume for Adam

A Biblical costume for Elijah

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 M

CHARACTERS:

Adam - A circus ringmaster

Elijah - The prophet

Adam enters and takes center stage.

ADAM: Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, gather 'round, and step right up! The Bible Circus is back to astound you with feats and sights, strange and rare! Step right up and be the first to see what God has done for these amazing people. This week, ladies and gentlemen, we give you one of the most death-defying aerialists of all time. You've seen the daring young man on the flying trapeze. Now meet the elderly man of faith who flies through the air without a trapeze! The one, the only, Elijah!

Elijah enters.

ADAM: Elijah, is it true you flew to Heaven not on a trapeze, but in a chariot of fire?

ELIJAH: That is correct.

ADAM: That must have been terrifying!

ELIJAH: Not at all. The seat was comfortable, and the driver used his left and right turn indicators.

ADAM: What possessed you to take such a daring flight?

ELIJAH: Oh, it wasn't my idea. It was the Lord's.

SKIT

ADAM: And why did you say yes to such an amazing feat?

ELIJAH: I'd been saying yes to the Lord all my life.

ADAM: Such as?

ELIJAH: Well, one time, I challenged the priests of the false god Baal to a contest to prove my God is the only God.

ADAM: And how did that turn out?

ELIJAH: God sent fire from Heaven. It was quite a sight.

ADAM: That's absolutely amazing! How did you know God would answer you?

ELIJAH: God always answers His people when they call on His name.

ADAM: He doesn't always send fire, or even flaming chariots.

ELIJAH: True, but when you serve God with all your heart, He will do amazing things in your life.

ADAM: What's next for you, Elijah? How will you top riding to Heaven in a chariot of fire?

ELIJAH: I won't! I'm with the Lord now. It's up to my servant Elisha to carry on the good work God began in my life. If he is faithful to God, I know Elisha will see the Lord do amazing things. The same goes for all of you. Serve the Lord, and you'll be amazed at what God can do in your life!

ADAM: Inspired words from a man who flew without a trapeze. Don't miss our next exciting attraction, ladies and gentlemen!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A balloon

Blow up the balloon, but do not tie it.

I'm about to release this balloon into the room. How many of you think it's going to go up? How many of you think it will go to my right? My left? How many of you think it will eventually crash to the ground?

Release the balloon, and watch it fly – and crash.

Well, we were all right about one thing. What goes up – in this case, the balloon – did come down!

The same can't be said for Elijah. We read in today's story that a chariot came from Heaven and swept him away. Elijah did not return from that ride. He's not buried in any grave. He is in Heaven with the Lord.

Elijah's departure was one of many miracles that happened in his life. They didn't happen because Elijah was some miracle man. He was a faithful servant of God, and God did many miraculous signs in His life. God uses faithful people like Elijah to show others that he is the one true God.

God can do great things in all of our lives, if we are faithful to serve Him. Ask God to make you a faithful follower, and expect great things to follow!



LARGE GROUP GAME

HOT AIR BALLOON RACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Tape (to mark starting and finishing line)
Balloons, inflated and tied

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose three players for this game. Have them stand at a starting line with a finish line 10 feet away marked on the floor. The players will race to see who can blow their balloon across the finish line, keeping it up in the air, and guiding it to the finish. They may not use their hands, unless it hits the floor. If that happens they can pick it up, toss it back in the air, and resume the race. First kid to reach the finish line wins.

VARIATION:

Let younger kids use their hands a little more freely.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Like Elijah flying off in a chariot of fire, we will see and do amazing things when we serve the Lord.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We will see God at work when we serve Him.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God has great and wonderful things in store for those who serve Him with their lives.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Kings 2:1-13, Elijah Taken Up To Heaven

INTRO:

There's a reason circus tents were referred to as the "Big Top." They were huge, towering structures that stretched high into the sky. The big, tall tents certainly caught the attention of the townsfolk who spotted them over the trees and buildings outside of town, but that was only a side benefit to the reason for their great height. Circus tents played host to some spectacular aerial acts.

When you think of circus performers, you can't help but think of men and women walking the high wire. With no net below to catch them if they fall, these daredevils place one foot ahead of the other, risking certain death, to thrill the fans below.

Just as spectacular as the high wire acts are the trapeze artists, the men and women who fly through the air with the greatest of ease, doing death-defying spins and leaps and catches in mid-air. Fans hold their breath every time a trapeze artist lets go of the bar, spins through the air, and reaches out just in time to catch the waiting hands of their partner on the other bar, continuing their flight through the air high above the center ring.

Today's Bible story is about a man who vanished from this Earth in an aerial maneuver that would make even the bravest of trapeze artists breathless. The man's name was Elijah, and for many years, he served the Lord faithfully during a time when most of God's children had turned away from Him. The time had come for Elijah to be with the Lord and hand his position over to his successor Elisha. God ended Elijah's ministry the same way it had gone on for years, with a miracle only the Lord could make happen!

READ 2 KINGS 2:1-13

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

Imagine what this scene must have looked like to Elisha. One minute, you're walking with the man who has been your mentor, your teacher, and the next, you're waving goodbye as he vanishes into the sky on a heavenly chariot! Elijah had performed many miracles with the help of the Lord, and when his time came, the Lord performed one more miraculous sign to thank His servant – and to challenge Elisha.

This story isn't really about Elijah. It's about Elisha, who picked up Elijah's cloak and went back to carry on Elijah's work. True, God blessed Elijah by taking him to Heaven without having to taste death, but this was also the first sign Elisha himself witnessed, the first of many he would see with his own eyes as he began his career as a prophet of God.

God needs faithful servants like Elisha and Elijah. When we are faithful to God, we will see great things happen.

DRIVE IT HOME:

It may not come as a surprise to you to know that one of the greatest aerial circus acts of all time, the Flying Wallendas, are devout Christians. The men and women of the Wallenda family have been circus favorites for over a century, and they are innovators of some of the most dazzling circus stunts ever seen. They haven't simply passed down their knowledge of the high wire from generation to generation, they have passed down a legacy of faith. They use their platform not simply to gain applause, but to point to the One who holds them in His hands every time they step out on the high wire.

The Wallendas passed down the stories of faith from generation to generation, just as Elijah passed what he had seen and learned to Elisha. Elisha was faithful to follow God just as his mentor had done. Look at what happened after Elijah was gone.

READ 2 KINGS 2:14

Elijah used his cloak to part the waters of the Jordan River. Elisha used the same cloak to perform the same miracle. Just as his master had witnessed amazing signs and wonders, so did Elisha.

Would you like to see miracles happen? Are you ready to see God do amazing things in your life, in your school, in your families, and among your friends? God gave us the Bible with these amazing stories so that we would believe. He wants us to serve Him so He can use us to spread the good news about Jesus. God will do great things in your life so you can point others to Jesus.

Elijah rode to heaven on a chariot of fire. Elisha followed his footsteps and did many signs and wonders. What will God do in your life?

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Tell God you're ready to be His servant, and see for yourself what the Lord can do!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us where to serve so we can see You work in us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is the most daring act you've ever seen in person?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Daniel 4:3

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Bring in a bed sheet and beach ball. As a group, use the sheet to toss the beach ball in the air, and see how long you can keep it flying airborne.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Kings 2:1-13

Who was Elijah?

Where was Elijah going?

How did Elijah go to Heaven?

Why did Elijah get to see so many amazing signs?

What will happen if we serve God like Elijah and Elisha did?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Let us see your power as we serve you with our lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is the most daring act you've ever seen in person?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Daniel 4:3

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Bring in a bed sheet and beach ball. As a group, use the sheet to toss the beach ball in the air, and see how long you can keep it flying airborne.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Kings 2:1-13

Why were Elijah and Elisha on a journey together?

What happened to Elijah?

Why did Elijah get to see so many amazing signs?

Why is it important to serve God?

How do we know we will see miracles if we serve God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Let us see your power as we serve you with our lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

ELIJAH OR ELISHA OR BOTH?

Who knew it was his time to go and be with the Lord?

ELIJAH

Who parted the waters with his cloak at the Jordan River?

BOTH (see verse 14!)

Who refused to leave his teacher's side until he was gone?

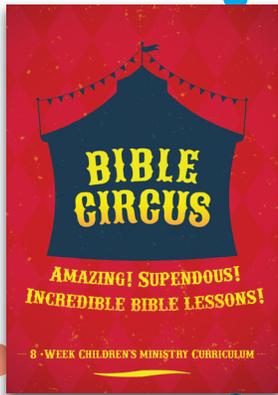
ELISHA

Who was taken up in a chariot of fire?

ELIJAH

Who saw great miracles because he served God?

BOTH



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Circus Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: ELIJAH ON THE FLYING TRAPEZE



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The trapeze artist sails through the air with grace and strength. When Elijah had come to the end of his life, instead of experiencing death, God graced him with an amazing chariot ride up to heaven. 2 Kings 2:1-13, Elijah Taken Up To Heaven



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

What are some amazing things you have seen in your world? Have you ever flown on a plane? Or witnessed some amazing daredevil acts? Ask your kids if they've ever seen a miracle, and share with them if you've seen one yourself.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What happened to Elijah when it was his time to go to be with God?
- How did Elijah and Elisha get to see so many signs and wonders?
- Do you think God still does miracles through people who serve Him today?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end." Daniel 4:3 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

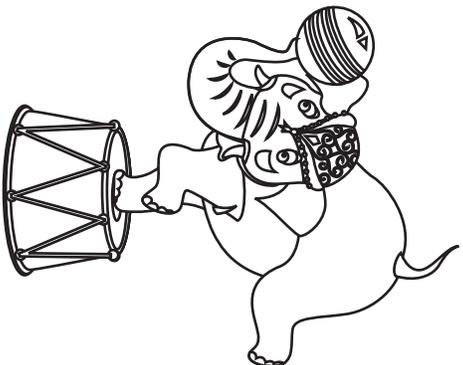
What you need to know:

When we serve the Lord, God is able to do great things in our lives so that He can draw other people to Jesus. Ask God to make you and your family faithful servants. Ask Him to reveal His amazing power to you all!

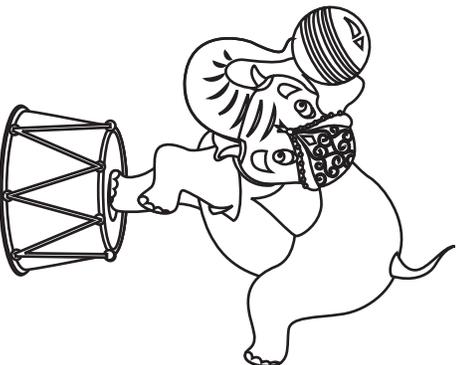


CRAFT ACTIVITY

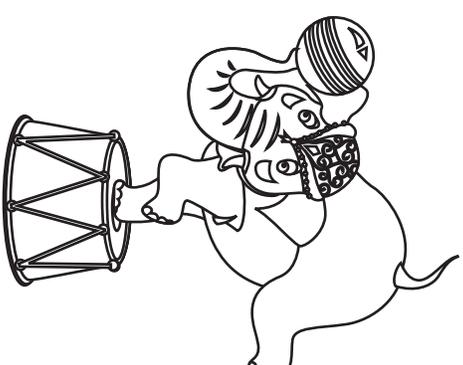
Have the kids draw and color a “circus style poster” showing Elijah riding off to Heaven in a chariot of fire.



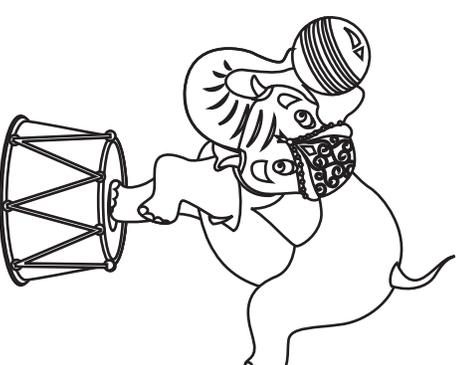
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His kingdom will last forever. His rule will
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