

# ELIJAH AND ELISHA

**Bible Basis:** 1 Kings 19:3–16

**Bible Verse:** “[Elijah said,] ‘I serve the Lord. He is the God of Israel.’” —1 Kings 17:1, NIV

**Bible Point:** God helped Elijah and Elisha. God helps me.

**Resource:** *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 15: “Elijah and Elisha”

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

**Stuff you need:** paper plates, wooden craft sticks, tape, red and blue markers

Say, “Today we are going to make puppets so we can use them to tell our story.”

Give each child 2 paper plates.

Say, “**Draw a face on each plate. Draw one face with a blue marker; this will be an old man.** (Show children the blue marker.) **Draw the other face with the red marker.** (Show children the red marker.) **This will be a young man.**”

While the children draw the faces, tape a craft stick to the back of each plate so the plates become simple puppets. If there is time, write “Elijah” on the old face and “Elisha” on the young face.

Then ask:

- Do you know any people who are older than you?
- Do you know any people who are younger than you?
- Are you young or old?
- How do older people help younger people?
- Older people love to help and teach younger people. What have older people taught you?

Say, “Today’s Bible story is about two men. One is older and one is younger. The older man helped the younger man learn more about God. We are going to use our puppets to tell our story today.”

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

First, read aloud Chapter 15, “Elijah and Elisha,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story, using the plate puppets from “Come Together.”

Have children hold up their older puppet face when you say, “Elijah,” and their younger puppet face when you say, “Elisha.” Practice this together several times. When children know what to do, start the story and pause after you say each name to give children time to hold up their puppets.

Once there was a man named Elijah. He was a prophet. That meant that his job was to give people messages from God. At that time, God’s people had a bad king named King Ahab. God was unhappy with King Ahab because he loved pretend gods made out of wood or stone. These are called idols. They didn’t have any power—only God has power. But King Ahab loved those idols anyway. He wouldn’t stop worshiping them. God sent Elijah to give bad King Ahab a message. Elijah told bad King Ahab that God said he would not allow it to rain for a long time. That meant there would be no water for crops or animals. There would be no water for the people to drink. This was not a happy message, but Elijah wanted King Ahab to know that God was in charge of the weather.

Elijah’s words did not make King Ahab happy. King Ahab wanted to hurt Elijah. So God told Elijah to go far away. Elijah drank water from a brook. Elijah was given food by birds. There was no rain for three years. After three years, God told Elijah he would send rain. So, Elijah went back to bad King Ahab. He told Ahab that God would send rain. When it rained, King Ahab knew that only God controls the rain and weather.

When Elijah got older, he knew he needed a helper. He found a young farmer named Elisha. Elisha was his new helper. Elisha left farming to be Elijah’s helper.

The two men went on a trip together. They had to cross a river. Elijah rolled up his coat, then he struck the water with it. The water parted. Elijah and Elisha crossed the river on dry ground.

Then God sent a fiery horse and chariot. Young Elisha watched as old Elijah got onto the chariot and rode that chariot all the way up into heaven! What would Elisha do now?

Earlier, Elijah had dropped his coat and Elisha caught it. So when Elisha crossed the river again, he copied Elijah, rolled it up, and struck the water. The water parted! This was God’s signal to Elisha that he was a new prophet. He would give people messages from God just as Elijah had before him.

After the Bible story, ask:

- Who was older—Elijah or Elisha? (*Elijah*)
- What was Elijah’s job? What is a prophet? (*a prophet; giver of messages from God*)
- Was King Ahab a good king or a bad king? Why? (*bad; worshiped idols*)
- What message did Elijah give King Ahab? (*wouldn’t rain for a long time*)
- Did this make King Ahab happy or angry? (*angry*)
- Was the message true? (*yes*)
- Who controls the weather? (*God*)
- When Elijah got older, he needed a helper. Who did God send? (*Elisha*)
- What was Elisha’s job? (*farmer, then prophet*)
- What signal did God give to Elisha that he was now going to be a prophet? (*parted the water*)

Say, “God helped Elijah and Elisha. God helps me, too.”

Pray with the children that you all will remember to ask God for help when you need it.

### STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further. Because you made puppets at the beginning of the hour, you will not have as much time as usual.

#### OPTION 1: RAINDROPS PLACEMAT

**Stuff you need:** iron and ironing board, waxed paper, blue crayon shavings, silver or blue glitter or sequins, permanent marker, paper cutter

**\*Safety alert!** Never let the children near the hot iron. If you have enough space and volunteers, iron in another room.

**Preparation:** Preheat the iron with a volunteer standing next to it at all times. (Do not leave unattended!) Tear off 2 sheets of waxed paper per child, about the size of a placemat. Shave blue crayons using a cheese grater. Put glitter into shaker containers to prevent spills.

Give a sheet of waxed paper to each child, waxed side up. Have them decorate the sheet with the blue shavings, sequins, and glitter. When they are done, put another sheet of waxed paper on top, waxed-side down. Iron the 2 pieces together. (Put a light cloth between the waxed paper and the iron.) Use permanent marker to write the child’s name on the bottom corner of the placemat. Use a paper cutter to slice off any extra paper ends.

Say, “The blue colors and sparkles on your placemat look like rain. When you use this placemat, let it remind you that rain is a gift from God. God controls the weather.”

#### OPTION 2: PICK A PUPPET

**Stuff you need:** plate puppets from the Come Together exercise

Have children answer your question about the story by holding up their puppets.

- Who told bad King Ahab that it would not rain? (Elijah)
- Who told bad King Ahab that God was in charge of the weather? (Elijah)
- Who did King Ahab want to hurt? (Elijah)
- Who drank from a brook? (Elijah)
- Who was given food by the birds? (Elijah)
- Who told bad King Ahab that God would send rain? (Elijah)
- Who was a farmer? (Elisha)
- Who found Elisha? (Elijah)
- Who stopped farming to follow Elijah? (Elisha)

- **Who went on a trip?** (*Elisha and Elijah*)
- **Who crossed the Jordan River without getting wet?** (*Elijah and Elisha*)
- **Who rode to heaven in a fiery horse and chariot?** (*Elijah*)
- **Who dropped his coat?** (*Elijah*)
- **Who picked up Elijah's coat?** (*Elisha*)

Say, "God helped Elijah and Elisha do many things. God can help you, too."

### OPTION 3: ELIJAH AND ELISHA HAVE FAITH

**Stuff you need:** Elijah and Elisha Have Faith Activity Sheet, crayons

Give each child an activity sheet and crayons. Have the children color in these two biblical heroes to help them remember that if we ask for help, God will help us.

### OPTION 4: THANK-YOU CARD

**Stuff you need:** construction paper folded in half, markers, stickers, crayons, stick-on foam shapes

Say, "One way God helps us is by sending older people to help us. People like our parents, grandparents, older brothers and sisters, and babysitters help us. Choose one person who helps you a lot, and make a thank-you card for that person."

As the children decorate their cards, ask them for whom they are making their card. Write that person's name on the card.

### OPTION 5: IT'S RAINING

**Stuff you need:** music player and preschool music

Say, "After three years without rain, the people of Israel were very happy when it rained again! I wonder if they went out and danced around in the rain. We are going to play a freeze dance game. When the music plays, keep dancing. When the music stops, freeze!"

Play several rounds of this game.

## STEP 4: GOING HOME

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card 15*. Say, "The front of this card will remind you that God helped Elijah and Elisha. Show your parents the back and tell them that God helps you, too." Have them practice saying this before they leave.

As you are waiting for parents to pick up their children, use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.