

Elisha and Our Powerful God!

A Family Study from Today in the Word

This Family Study is a companion to the *Today in the Word* devotional *For Their Own Good: A Study in 2 Kings* (November 2024) The whole family can learn from God's Word together. In each of the four lessons, you will:



Read

Read a passage
in the Bible



Understand

Understand the biblical
text in a deeper way



Imagine

Imagine the lesson
with hands-on activities

About 2 Kings

Our God is more powerful than any superhero. We worship the only true God, and He is over everyone and everything! In this study, we open the book of 2 Kings and read about the prophet Elisha. Prophets were people chosen by God to speak His truth. Through God's power, they also performed some mind-blowing miracles. In our study in 2 Kings, we'll learn that God has always wanted to talk to His people. We were made to be connected to Him. Even though sin has damaged that relationship, God has always provided a way to stay connected with us. So . . . get ready! This is going to be an exciting four weeks as we watch God reveal His power and character.



This *Today in the Word* family study was written by Moody Bible Institute students Jonah Prokes, Abbie Colebank, and Margaret Segard under the direction of Elizabeth Smith, Program Head and Associate Professor of Moody's Children and Family Ministry program. Please visit www.moody.edu/academics/programs/children-family-ministry for more information.

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10 Things to Know

About the Prophet Elisha

1

Before becoming a prophet, Elisha worked in the fields (1 Kings 19:19).

2

He left everything behind and became Elijah's servant (1 Kings 19:21).

3

Elisha watched Elijah get taken into heaven (2 Kings 2:11–12).

4

After Elijah left, Elisha became God's messenger to Israel (2 Kings 2:15).

5

Elisha was Israel's head prophet for 60 years.

6

Elisha's name means "God is salvation."

7

God helped Elisha perform miracles, including raising a boy from the dead (2 Kings 4:32–37).

8

Elisha was called "Man of God" (2 Kings 4:40).

9

God used Elisha to save Israel during a famine (2 Kings 4:1–7; 42–44).

10

Elisha helped Israel's kings have victory in battle (2 Kings 6:8–23; 13:14–19).

Speaking for God

Memory Verse

“The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.”—2 Kings 2:15



Read 2 Kings 2:1-22

In the Old Testament, God spoke through people called prophets to deliver important messages to His people. In 2 Kings 2, we meet two prophets, one named Elijah, and the other named Elisha (both “E” names . . . so don’t get confused!). Elijah had done a good job, but God decided it was time for a new prophet, Elisha. Before Elijah left, Elisha asked to inherit God’s blessing (v. 9). Then Elijah left in a dramatic way; God took him up to heaven in a “chariot of fire” and a “whirlwind” (v. 11). After Elijah left, God’s spirit rested on Elisha, and God performed a miracle through Elisha, making bad water pure. The God of Elijah was also the God of Elisha.



Understand

1. What is a prophet?
2. From whom did Elijah’s power come?
3. How did Elijah leave for heaven?
4. Why were the people nervous after Elijah left?
5. What miracle did God do through Elisha?
6. What did this miracle show the people?



Imagine

Parents, take time to let your children act out this dramatic Bible story. Choose one child to be Elijah, another person to be Elisha, and the rest can be the group of prophets (v. 3). If you want extra dress-up fun, make “prophet” costumes out of robes, or tie a large bath towel at the waist with a leather belt. You can be the narrator. There are lots of dramatic scenes to include! As you read the Bible passage, describe how Elijah and Elisha were walking from Gilgal, how they crossed the Jordan River, how Elijah left in a whirlwind, how Elisha tore the garment (maybe use an old shirt if you have one!), and the healing of the water. Bring the Bible to life with your children’s imaginations. You can even make this impromptu play into a mini movie using your smartphone!



Prayer

Dear God, you are so powerful! We are so thankful that You, who helped Elijah and Elisha, are still with us today. When we get nervous or anxious, help us remember that You never change, and that You are always with us!

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God Provides for Our Needs

Memory Verse

“Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ . . . But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you.”—Matthew 6:31, 33



Read 2 Kings 2:19–22; 4:38–44

Now that Elisha was God’s prophet, he had lots of work to do. Elisha watched God provide for His people by making bad water good (2 Kings 2:19–22). Again and again, Elisha performed miracles, through God’s power, that helped His people. Elisha went to an area called Gilgal where there was a famine (4:38). There was not enough food to eat, and the people were starving! In our reading, God used Elisha to do two amazing miracles. First, he made poisonous soup good to eat (vv. 40–41); then he made 20 loaves of bread . . . enough to feed 100 people (vv. 43–44)! Even when people were worried about what to eat or how to survive, God provided a way.



Understand

1. What is a famine?
2. What happened while the prophets were eating?
3. How did God protect and provide for the prophets in the story?
4. How many loaves of bread did the man bring? How many men did Elisha need to feed?
5. Can you think of another time in the Bible when people were hungry, and God fed them?
6. How has God provided for you or your family?



Imagine

Sometimes we don’t pay attention to all the ways God provides for our daily needs. A great way to help your children remember is by creating a collage to show all the ways God has provided for us. First, spend a few minutes brainstorming a list of all the things God has given your family. Then, give your kids a stack of magazines or newspapers. Ask them to find and cut out images of God’s gifts. Give each child a piece of blank paper and some glue. Once they have cut out these objects, have them glue them to a piece of paper to make a collage. At the bottom of the paper, they can write this week’s memory verse to remember how God always provides!



Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for always providing for us! Help us to remember that You give us what we need when we pray, even if You provide in ways we don’t expect. Amen.

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God's Instructions Are for Our Own Good

Memory Verse

"If you love me, keep my commands."—John 14:15



Read 2 Kings 5:1-14

After God provided for His people, Elisha met and helped a brave and mighty man. Naaman was the commander of the army in a country called Aram. God used Naaman to help Aram win the battles they fought (2 Kings 5:1). But Naaman became very sick with a skin disease (v. 1). Imagine how miserable he must have felt! Then, a girl from Israel told Naaman there was a prophet who served God, and he could heal Naaman (v. 3). Naaman packed his bags and left to find this prophet who gave him some very unusual instructions. Let's read the story to see why we should always pay attention to God's instructions.



Understand

1. What do we know about Naaman?
2. What disease did Naaman have?
3. Who told Naaman about Elisha?
4. How many times did Naaman have to dip into the water?
5. What happened when Naaman followed the instructions?



Imagine

Before the Lord healed Naaman, He asked him to do a unique thing seven times. Naaman had to trust God's message to do exactly what Elisha said. Let's do a fun activity to help your kids understand why obeying instructions is important. Create a relay race with 7 parts to it. Write each instruction, from 1 to 7, on individual pieces of paper. Place those instructions in a row from start to finish. Here are a few easy ideas for those 7 instructions: balance a ball on a spoon, walk backwards across a room, pop a balloon, or complete a simple chore like sweeping the floor or washing a dirty dish! Once they finish all 7 tasks, give them a small reward. God sometimes asks us to do things we do not expect, but we can trust Him to always do what is best for us.



Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us! Thank You for giving us Your Word that tells us how to live and the right ways to follow You. Help us always to obey. Amen.

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When We Are Afraid, We Can Trust God

Memory Verse

*“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
In God, whose word I praise.”—Psalm 56:3–4*



Read 2 Kings 6:8–23

Today we read about Elisha and the king of Aram. The two countries were fighting against each other (2 Kings 6:8). God helped Israel by letting Elisha know where Aram was going to go next; that way the king of Israel was able to stay one step ahead of Aram (v. 10). When the king of Aram found out that someone knew his plans, he was suspicious! Who was spying on him? (v. 11). His officers told him that Elisha was the person ruining his plans! So, the enemy king went on a mission to catch Elisha (vv. 12–13). Even though Elisha might have been afraid, he trusted God. As you read this story look for clues that show us that God is more powerful than our enemies.



Understand

1. Who was at war with Israel?
2. How did the king of Israel know where his enemies would be?
3. Who was spying on him?
4. How did the Israelites feel when the enemy was coming toward them?
5. What happened after Elisha prayed?
6. Can you think of a time when you were afraid?



Imagine

This activity will help your children understand that we can trust God even when we are afraid. You will need a dark room and a flashlight. Lead your child into the dark room and wait to turn the flashlight on (if they are too afraid of the dark, then you can start with the light on). Ask your child how they feel and think about the dark. Why are we sometimes afraid of things such as a dark room? After a few moments, turn on the flashlight to light up the dark. Ask them, “Are you still afraid? Why or why not? What changed?” Explain that even though we are sometimes afraid, and we do not understand everything, the light is like God. We can trust God to light our way and show us what to do.



Prayer

Dear God, thank You for being with us when we are afraid! Help us remember that we are never alone even when we feel like we are. Help us to trust You when we feel afraid. Amen.