

Objective: Family members rely on God's power to keep living for God and to do what He leads them to do.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events of 2 Kings took place after the kingdom was divided following the reigns of David and Solomon. This section took place around 850 BC and covers the passing of the prophetic torch from Elijah to Elisha.

Bible Basics: Review John 8:12 and Psalm 19:14 this week and work with family members to do so.

Read the Word: 2 Kings 2:1-15

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about what it means to be faithful to God and why it is best to do so all our lives. We must ask God for His power to help us be faithful.



Key Truth: Faithful Believers Determine to Serve God as Long as They Live (2 Kings 2:1-8)

As the time drew near for God to take Elijah to Heaven in miraculous fashion, both Elijah and his apprentice Elisha demonstrated faithfulness to the end. Elijah, knowing the time was near, continued to visit and encourage the young prophets he apparently mentored. Elijah instructed Elisha to stay put while he continued on to Bethel to do this. Elisha, however, determined to remain with Elijah to the end, knowing his time was short. Even the apprentice prophets knew Elijah was to be taken soon (verses 1-3). Two more times Elijah attempted to leave Elisha behind as he continued his journey. Both times Elisha refused to abandon his mentor (verses 4-6). At the third destination, Elisha and the apprentice prophets there were blessed to see Elijah's final miraculous work. He took his cloak, a symbol of his authority, rolled it up and struck the water. The water of the Jordan parted, and Elijah and Elisha crossed on dry ground together (verses 7-8).



Key Truth: Faithful Believers Seek God's Power to Accomplish God's Work (2 Kings 2:9-15)

After the miracle at the river, when asked what he desired from Elijah, Elisha asked for extra power (a double portion of Elijah's spirit) from God to enable him to accomplish the work God had in store for him. His desire was to be as effective as Elijah had been. In fulfillment of that request Elisha would perform twice as many recorded miracles and prophetic utterances as Elijah (verse 9). Elijah informed Elisha that if he witnessed Elijah's being taken away, this double portion would indeed be bestowed upon him. Suddenly, chariots and horses of fire separated them and Elijah was taken by a whirlwind up into Heaven. Elisha cried out, *My father*. Elijah had been Elisha's spiritual father. With this cry, Elisha tore his clothes, an act of mourning over the loss of the great prophet (verses 10-12). Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak, symbolic of taking up the work Elijah (and God) had left for Him to do. He struck the water as Elijah had done, and asked *Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?* This was probably a request for God to demonstrate His power just as He had for Elijah. The water parted, an evidence that the power that once rested on Elijah now rested on Elisha. God recognized and rewarded Elisha's faithfulness. The apprentice prophets bowed before Elisha, recognizing that the power and Spirit of God now rested on him (verses 13-15).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does it mean to be faithful?
- What does it look like to faithfully serve God?
- Why do we need God's power in order to faithfully serve Him?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to remain faithful to God?
- In what area do you presently need God's power to help you remain faithful?
- **What can you do this week to faithfully serve God?**
- **Describe Elijah and Elisha's relationship with each other and God.**
- **How did God show His faithfulness to Elisha? What are ways you have experienced God's faithfulness to you?**

Everyday Extras

Try a relay game to clean up the playroom (or some other room in your home). Have one child pick up the toy, hand it to the next, who will hand it to the next person to put in place. To make it more difficult, have the children use only their feet, not their hands, to pick up and pass toys. This can get really fun when trying to put toys in the toybox or on a shelf! A relay is all about passing something to someone else. When Elijah went to Heaven, his responsibilities and power with God were passed on to Elisha, who had to be sure to do all that God wanted him to do. We must be faithful to do our part in receiving and passing on the faith too.

Use sheets of paper (recycled is fine) to set out a path. Each piece should touch the one before it, moving one step ahead or to the right or to the left. Blindfold your child and take him to the starting point. Touch his left shoulder if he is to step left, his right if he is to step right, and his nose if he is to walk straight ahead. Stepping off the paper means he must start over. When we follow God, we must wait for His instructions about what to do next. We can read our Bibles and pray and ask others to help us make decisions. Even when we are unsure about what to do next, we always want to follow Him, and He will give us direction.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned King Josiah was young, but he followed God. As Josiah got older, he sent his helpers to fix God's temple. The High Priest found book of the Law, God's Word, in the temple and gave it to the king. Josiah knew **God's Word Is Special**. King Josiah also realized the people had become wicked and he chose to lead them back to serving the one, true God.