** BIBLE 101**

Unit 6: Trusting in God

*Elisha Follows Elijah*

**A Note to the Teacher:** After the prophet Elijah, God chose a man named Elisha to continue to do God’s work in the world. Elijah found Elisha working as a farmer and called him to follow him. Trusting in God, Elisha went with Elijah. Later, Elijah was taken up in a fiery chariot leaving Elisha to work alone. Without anyone to guide him, Elisha would have to trust God to lead him in his ministry.

This lesson reminds students that, so long as they trust in God, they have all the tools and skills that they need to be God’s hands and feet in the world. Elisha did not need Elijah, and we do not need someone else to tell us what to do. Our guidance and our strength comes from our faith in God.

**Gathering**

As students enter the space, gather them in a seated circle. In the center of the circle, place two dolls representing Elisha and Elijah. **Say, “Last month in Sunday School you talked about prophets. Does anyone remember the story of a particular prophet who was fed by birds?”** Give time for children to answer. **Say, “Elijah! God sent Elijah to warn King Ahab that if people continued to worship the false God Baal, God would stop the rain and people would starve. But King Ahab didn’t listen. So God stopped the rain, and a terrible drought came over the land. But God knew that Elijah was faithful, so he protected him. God sent birds every morning and every evening to feed Elijah and showed him where there was still water to drink.**

**That was where our story stopped last time, but there is MORE to learn about Elijah.”** Hold up one of the dolls. **Say, “Let’s pretend that this is Elijah. Now that the drought is over, Elijah is traveling around the middle east sharing messages from God, and people are listening. But Elijah is getting older. He knows that he cannot be a prophet forever. He must choose someone to take his place. So God sends him to a farm. There he will find the man that will take over for him.”** Hold up the second doll.

**Say, “So Elijah comes to a farm where a man named Elisha is working in the field.”**

*Read, or invite a volunteer to read, 1 Kings 19:19-21*

**Ask, “Elijah calls Elisha, and what does Elisha do?”** Give time for answers.

**Say, “Elisha must trust God a whole lot, because he goes home and says goodbye to his parents, kills and cooks some of his cows, and heads off to follow Elijah. Just like that, he leaves his life behind to be a messenger of God.**

**What do you think happens next?”** Give time for answers.

**Say, “For several months, maybe even years, Elisha follows Elijah around sharing God’s message. But one day, everything changes. Remember, Elijah called Elisha to *replace* him.”**

*Read, or invite a volunteer to read, 2 Kings 2:5-12*

**Say, “Elijah was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot. A horse-drawn carriage covered with flames swooped down and snatched him up, leaving Elisha all alone. But Elisha is not scared. He trusts God, and knows that he is doing what God needs him to do.**

**There are lots of other Scripture stories about Elisha, and we know that he goes on to be a very successful prophet. But he could not have done so if he didn’t trust God. Elisha trusted God when Elijah called him, and trusted God again when God took Elijah away and left him to work on his own. The story of Elisha teaches us that so long as we trust God, we have everything we need.”**

**Chariots of Fire**

Give each child a plastic tray.

**Say, “Can you imagine how Elisha felt when a fiery chariot came from the sky and swooped up Elijah? How he felt when he was left standing there all alone?”** Give time for answers. **Say, “But Scripture doesn’t tell us that Elisha was afraid. It doesn’t say that Elisha ran and hid or that he fell down crying. Because of his trust in God, Elisha watched what happened, and then continued on with the work God called him to do.”**

**Say, “This morning, we are going to do something *rather* messy to help us remember Elisha’s trust. In a minute, I am going to give you each a bunch of shaving cream and a few blobs of paint. See if you can swirl the paint in to the shaving cream to make it look like a huge fire. Then, we will gently press a piece of paper on top of your creation to make a piece of art.”**

Place a large amount of shaving cream and a few blobs of red, orange, and yellow paint on each tray. Roll up children’s sleeves and let them go to work!

As students are working, ask them questions about trusting God. **Ask, “Have you ever had to do something on your own? Was it scary? How did you do it? What helped you?”**

Once some of the colors are mixed, help students press a sheet of wipe paper gently on top of their shaving cream and then peel back. \*\*You will want to do this before all of the colors mix and turn brown. Children can continue to play with the shaving cream after you have made their art piece.\*\*

Once you have made each piece of art, set out small plastic figures and horses and invite the students to act out the story of Elijah being taken away in the fiery chariot.

When everyone is finished playing with the shaving cream, wash hands. Move the students to a different part of the room and pass out coloring sheets of Elijah in the chariot. **Say, “Our fiery pictures are beautiful, but they don’t tell the whole story. After you color this picture of Elijah, we will cut it out and paste it on top of your fire. Then you can use your art to tell the story of Elisha’s trust in God!”**

**Closing**

When everyone has finished, work together to wash the trays and clean up the classroom.

Corrie arrives to teach music at 11:20am. At that time, students gather in a seated circle near the classroom couch. If time allows, have students help cleanup before heading to choir practice.