

Elijah Is Taken To Heaven

2 Kings 2:1-11

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 2:11

“Suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two small beanbags and two small foam balls.

A sheet of white construction paper for each child and markers.

The visor template, scissors, a hole punch, crayons or markers, string or yarn, and clear contact paper.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Crazy Relay

You will need two small beanbags and two small foam balls. Divide your class into two equal groups. Have them each line up next to each other in two lines. Give the person at the front of each line a small beanbag. Give the person at the end of the line the small foam ball.

Explain to the children that the beanbag will be passed through their legs to the person behind them, while the small foam balls will be passed over their heads to the person in front of them. We'll see which group can pass both the bean bag and the ball at the same time and get to the other ends of the line without getting mixed up.

When you say, “go!” have the first player in each line pass the beanbag through their legs to the next player in line. Have the last player in line pass the ball overhead to the player in front of them.

Have the children continue passing the beanbags and balls until they reach their designated positions.
Use this game as a fun icebreaker.

LESSON TIME!

The stories of Elijah have been exciting, haven't they? God's power has been demonstrated in Elijah's life in many great ways. We have seen how that God provided for Elijah, did many miracles through him and guided him in every step of his life.

Remember when the ravens brought food to him? Remember the widow's oil jar that didn't run dry for 3 years? Who remembers what happened when Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal? Today we have one more story about the prophet Elijah. We are going to see another demonstration of God's power. **God has power over life and death.**

2 KINGS 2:1-5

And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel.

Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho." But he said,

"As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.

Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

Elijah is going to heaven in a whirlwind! That is something very unusual, but at the same time it would be something very exciting to see. It seems that Elijah knew something unusual was going to happen to him that day. He had seen God work in so many ways throughout his life. Now that his ministry is coming to an end, God was still going to demonstrate His power. **God has power over life and death.**

Elisha too, knew that Elijah was about to leave. He did not want to leave his best friend and mentor for any reason. He was used to seeing God's power at work through Elijah and he had a feeling of expectation when he said, "I will not leave you."

So they traveled from Gilgal to Bethel together. The Lord had sent them on some errand there. They met up with some other prophets while there. Maybe Elijah wanted to say a few last words to them to strengthen their faith. We aren't told why God sent Elijah to these cities. The Spirit of the Lord had told the men of God that Elijah would be taken from Elisha that day. Elisha said he knew, but he didn't want to talk about it.

Was he wondering about God's plan for his own life? Was he thinking back on all the miracles he had seen God do through Elijah? Was he wondering what was going to happen next? For sure, he was waiting to see the power of God at work in Elijah's life. **God has power over life and death.**

Then the Lord called Elijah to Jericho. That was about 15 miles back in the direction they had come from that morning! God had a reason for Elijah to go there that isn't written in Scripture. But the two of them went off again in obedience. Elisha was NOT going to be left behind. He wanted to see the power of God at work in Elijah's life.

Elisha knew that he and Elijah were there for some reason that God was working in each of their lives. And Elisha knew the power of God was going to continue to work in his and Elijah's lives later that day too, so in the meantime he was patient.

Sometimes God is working in our lives, or in our families' lives. We may not be quite sure what He is doing or is going to do in our lives. Sometimes we just have to wait for Him to reveal to us what His will and plans are. He is always faithful to show us, just as He did in Elisha's life.

Follow in my Footsteps

For this activity you will need a sheet of white construction paper for each child and markers. Before class trace the outline of one of your feet on each sheet of paper. During class, hand out one of these sheets to each of the children. Have the children set their same foot into the footprint and trace their foot. Ask the children if their footprint is larger or smaller? Next have the children write to the side "Follow in the footsteps of Jesus". Then allow them to color the picture.

Remind the children that Elisha followed Elijah everywhere he went. Even if it seemed kind of strange, like turning around and going back to a place they had already been. This is a good example of how we need to follow Jesus. Every step that Jesus makes we need to follow close behind. Let's make sure that we are following our master and teacher, Jesus.

2 KINGS 2:6-11

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on.

And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan.

Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Next we see that the Lord called Elijah to the Jordan River, a short walk from Jericho. Fifty men of the company of prophets from Jericho followed them. They were allowed to witness from a distance the whirlwind that was coming. And there's Elisha for the third time saying, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." What faith! What patience! What expectation!

He was not to be disappointed, either. There at the Jordan, Elijah strikes the water with his mantle, the water divides, and they walk to the other side on dry ground. Here we see the power of God working in their lives again!

On the other side of the Jordan, Elijah, knowing the end was near, asked Elisha what he wanted before Elijah was taken. A double portion of Elijah's spirit was his answer. He was ready for the power of God to be at work in his life! He had watched how Elijah had lived his life for those few years he was with him. He had seen Elijah rely on God to do mighty works through him to show the people of Israel how great their God was. He had seen Elijah's faithfulness to the Lord, and had heard his prayer life. And he wanted even more than Elijah had!

Elijah confirmed that the Lord would grant his desire if Elisha stayed faithful and patient just a little while longer. Basically Elijah said that if Elisha was there when Elijah was taken away then his request would be granted.

And he was! How excited he was when he saw a chariot of fire and horses of fire! The brightness of the fire separated Elisha from Elijah and as Elijah went up to heaven Elisha saw him no more. He tore apart his robes because that is a Jewish way of saying how sorry you are that a person you love is gone from you. **God has power over life and death.**

What a great demonstration of God's power once again at work in the life of Elijah! Do you know God has special plans for His power to work in your life too? Maybe you won't see a chariot of fire like Elisha did, but God's power is at work in our hearts, and in our homes, and in our community in these days just like it was in those days.

God wants us to live every day like Elijah did; talking to God, asking God to show His power in our lives and in the lives of our families.

He wants us to be faithful to obey Him every day and He wants to show the people of our nation His greatness. He will do great things through us with His power if we will let Him.

Did you notice that we didn't read that Elijah died? There is one other person we read about in the Bible who didn't die; his name was Enoch (see Genesis 5:24). **God has power over life and death.**

There is a teaching in the New Testament for believers in Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4 teaches us that Jesus is going to come again some day, and He is going to take away the believers that are alive on this earth. We get to go to heaven with Jesus. This story about Elijah, and the one about Enoch in Genesis may be a picture in the Old Testament of what God will be doing in the future for those who believe in Jesus who are present at His second coming.

The Bible teaches that some day Jesus is coming again, and those of us who are believers will not die, but will be "caught up" to go to heaven with Jesus. This is what is called the Rapture. It could be a very exciting way to see God's power in our lives. **God has power over life and death.**

Super Sun Visor

This craft you can do just for fun. You will need the visor template included with the curriculum, copied onto cardstock paper, scissors, a hole punch, crayons or markers, string or yarn, and clear contact paper.

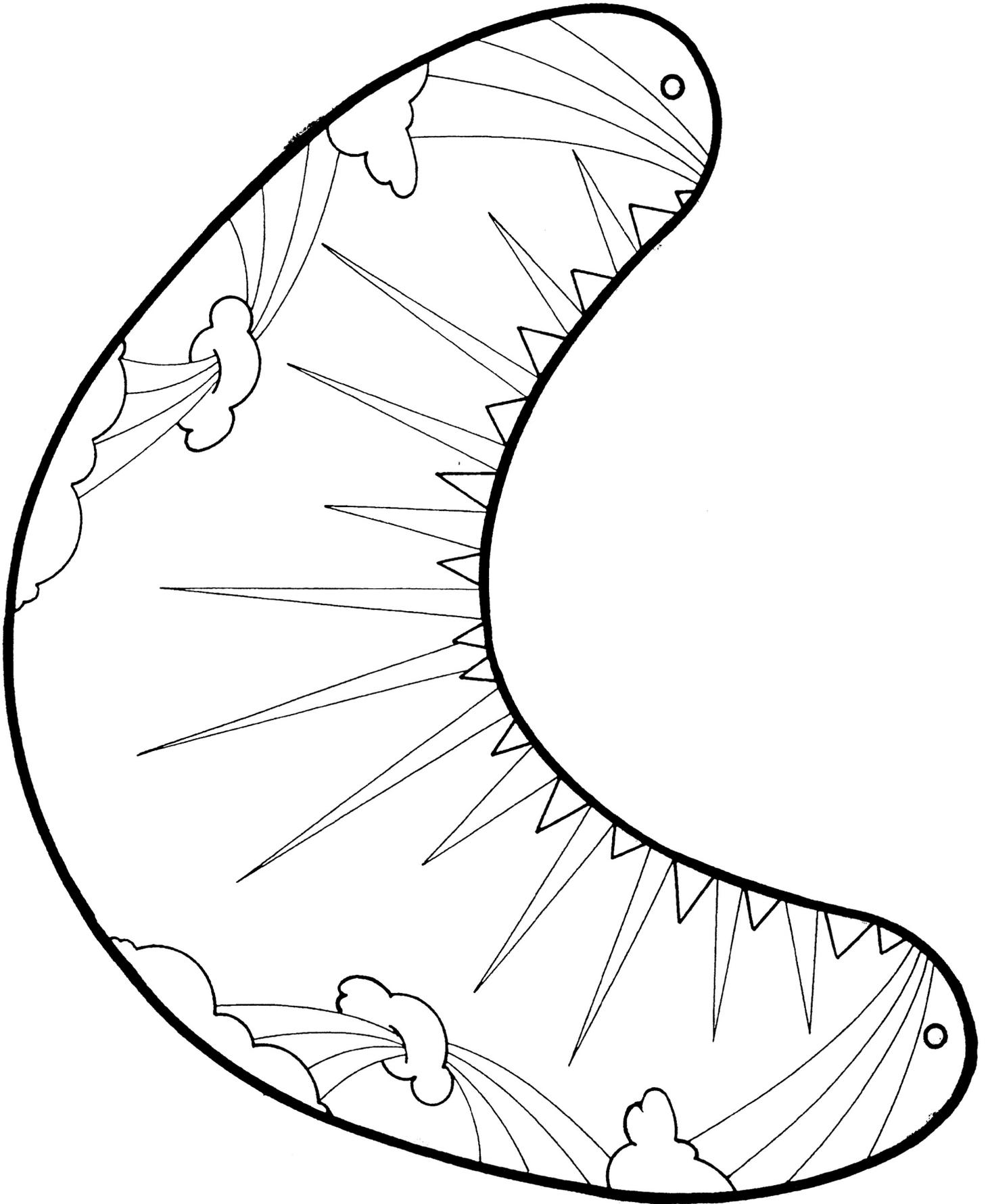
Copy a visor template onto cardstock for each child in your class. Allow the children to color the visor using crayons or markers. Cut out the visor. Cover with clear contact paper. Use hole punch to put holes in the areas indicated. Precut two pieces of yarn or string approximately 12 inches long. Place into the holes and tie in a knot.

Have the children put the visor on and tie both strings together in the back. Next, stay cool in the sun.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for His awesomeness and power. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template - Super Sun Visor



Helpful Hints:

You may wish to cover visor with clear adhesive plastic to protect it and make it sturdier.