

Elisha Crosses The River

2 Kings 2:13-15

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 2:15

“Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, ‘The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.’”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A rope (as long as you like), a blindfold and a garment to represent a cloak.

A sheet of white construction paper for each child, several scraps of multicolored construction paper, scissors, glue and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Walking a Tightrope of Faith

Today we will be learning about how Elisha had to trust in the Lord and walk by faith when Elijah was taken to heaven. Elijah put his cloak, or mantle on Elisha, which showed Elisha that he, was God’s choice to follow Elijah as a prophet. We also need to learn how to walk by faith. This activity will help us to understand walking by faith. You will need a rope, a blindfold and a garment to represent a “cloak.”

Clear the room in the center and spread the rope across the room, laying it on the floor. The rope can be as long as you like and should curve in different directions instead of remaining straight. To choose a player, place the cloak on child and then blindfold them. Either you or another child can then lead them to the rope. Have them walk and feel with their feet the path to the end. After each player is blindfolded, change the route. When each child is done have them place the cloak on another child. Keep playing until everyone has had a turn. Introduce today’s lesson and theme using this activity.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever felt God's call on your life? Maybe you have had a desire to do something for the Lord. Did you know that He has a plan for your life? Maybe He wants you to become a Sunday school teacher, a missionary, or a pastor. Maybe He wants you to do something special in your own neighborhood or tell a friend or family member about Jesus. Whatever it may be, know that He does have a plan for you to be an example of Him. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

In today's lesson the leadership of God's people is passing from Elijah to Elisha. Elijah has spent his life as a prophet of God. He has worn the prophet's cloak, or mantle, and has been obedient to God's call on his life. He has led the people in the ways of God. God has now caught Elijah up into heaven to be with Him and the responsibility of leadership will be upon Elisha. Remember last week's lesson, which told about the chariot of fire?

Now Elisha is left alone. He had worked with Elijah for many years, but now he would be on his own to lead God's people. God has chosen Elisha to become His prophet and to take over the work that had been given to Elijah. Elisha had prepared for God's call by following Elijah and learning from Elijah the ways of God. Now it is time for Elisha to become the leader of God's people.

As we grow up and learn about the Lord, it is good to have an Elijah to help us to learn about the ways of the Lord. You can look to adults in the church or maybe older family members that have walked with the Lord for a long time and learn a lot from them. It is good to have a mentor, or someone who can help us learn how to walk with the Lord. That way you will be prepared for the day when the Lord calls you for His service. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

2 KINGS 2:13

He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

Elijah had dropped his prophet's mantle in front of Elisha to signify that Elisha was God's choice to replace him. Elisha picked it up to show his willingness to follow God and to lead the people. He then went back to the river not sure of what to do or where God was leading him next.

The first thing that he did was to accept the responsibility that was before him. Do you suppose that maybe Elisha was afraid now that Elijah was gone and he would be all by himself? Being a prophet or spokesman for God is a big job. He would be responsible for sharing God's word with a lot of people.

But the Lord was going to help him. Whatever God asks us to do He is always there to help us to do it. Remember the day when Elijah asked Elisha to make a request? Elisha said that he wanted a double portion of the Spirit. It is the Spirit of God who helps us to do what God asks us to do. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

Special Memories

As an illustration to today's story, refer to the cloak (mantle) that Elijah placed on Elisha. Have the children sit in a circle and ask a few to share if they have had any loved ones who have gone on to heaven to be with the Lord. We can remember those we love by keeping special things that were once theirs. Ask the children to share if they have any special things that their family has kept as a special way to remember them by.

Elisha had Elijah's cloak. This was no doubt very special to Elisha. It helped him to remember his teacher and his friend. But to Elisha it also represented God's purpose for him. God had wonderful plans for Elisha's life and **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

2 KINGS 2:14

Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

As he stood there, he asked, "Where is the God of Elijah?" He was really asking, "What do you want me to do?" He struck the water with Elijah's cloak and God parted the waters so that he could walk across. By the parting of the waters, God was showing Elisha that He was with him.

God didn't have to part the waters, but He did it because He loved Elisha and wanted him to know that He would be with him. God will always be with us no matter what. Jesus once told His disciples, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." God will let us know that He is close by no matter what happens in our lives. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

Racetrack Of Faith

For this craft you will need a sheet of white construction paper for each child, several scraps of multicolored construction paper, scissors, glue and markers. Tear the scraps of construction paper into small 1" squares or 1/2" x 1" rectangles.

Starting at one end of the white construction paper have the children write "Start." Then place one square or rectangle at a time, gluing them onto the paper. Make a trail that swerves in

several directions. Have it eventually end and write "Heaven" at the other end. Have the children draw a runner at the start. They can also write 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 on the paper (or the teacher can assist younger children).

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Review the story and talk about how that Elisha had to run his race of faith and we are doing the same in our lives.

2 KINGS 2:15

Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

A group of prophets from Jericho standing there recognized God's call on Elisha's life and turned to follow his leadership. God also worked in the hearts of His people. Elisha didn't have to prove that he was God's choice to replace Elijah. God had already prepared the hearts of the people.

When God wants to use us for His plans He will work in the hearts of others to show them that He wants to use us. We just need to be obedient and do what the Lord wants us to do. Then we just trust Him to take care of all of the other things. We don't need to worry about whether or not people will listen to us, or believe that God really wants to use us.

Sometimes while we are growing up we may think that we are too young to serve the Lord. Or we may ask, “Why would He want to use me?” Remember Samuel. He was just a young boy and was used greatly by the Lord. God called him at a young age and used him later as a great leader.

Timothy also was very young. God was preparing him from a child through His Word so that he could one day be a good pastor. Paul told Timothy one time that he shouldn’t let anyone make him feel bad because of his youth. God had a plan for his life and it began at a young age. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

How can we know God’s plan for our lives? In Old Testament times, God spoke to His people through His chosen prophets. Today, God also speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. He wants us to read, memorize and to understand His ways. His Word will help us to understand what He wants us to do with our lives.

God tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

The most important place to begin to prepare for the future is to accept Jesus into our hearts. We need to begin our relationship with Him and then He will show us what His plans are for our lives. **God has wonderful plans for our lives.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to find out what God’s plans are for their lives and then to obey and do God’s will for their lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.