UNIT 13

SESSION 4

SESSION TITLE:

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 6

STORY POINT: God protected Elisha with an invisible army.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone

deserves worship.

SCHEDULE

| Introduce the Story | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| (1) Activity Page & Intro Question | 5 minutes |
| (2) Session Starter Activity | 5 minutes |
| Teach the Story | |
| (3) Big Picture & Timeline | 2 minutes |
| (4) Watch Bible Story Video | 4 minutes |
| (5) Bible Story Discussion | 4 minutes |
| (6) Sing & Key Passage | 4 minutes |
| (7) Prayer | 1 minute |
| Apply the Story | |
| (8) Coloring Page & Reflection | 10 minutes |

Set aside some time to prepare for your session. This is a special and unique opportunity and is likely different from what kids are used to, which may cause some challenges. Pray over your time and prepare the best you can.

- 1. Print this packet, activity pages and coloring sheets. *
- 2. Gather necessary materials*
 - a. Crayons, markers or colored pencils
 - b. Internet-capable device (with Bible video cued)
 - c. Bible
 - d. Snack
- 3. Verbally prep children for the Sunday School lesson. Let them know your expectations for participating.

^{*} If you do not have a printer or the materials needed, Anthem Kids Lead Nicole Raden has packets of supplies you can pick up at her home. Let Nicole know if you'd like to come pick up a packet via email at nicole.raden@anthemchurch.org or text at (360) 383-6411.

(1) INTRO & ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

To introduce the lesson, print out the appropriate activity page for kids to complete. As they fill them out, ask the intro question to get them thinking about the lesson you will be covering.

MATERIALS

- Preschool Activity Page "Which One Has More?"
- Younger Activity Page "What's Missing?"
- Older Activity Page "Divine Protection"
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils

QUESTION - Prompt kids to talk about a time they received a warning about something. Did they listen to the warning? How did things turn out?

SAY - When we ignore warnings, it usually causes difficulty or pain for us. Hopefully, we learn to listen to those who warn us. Doing so helps us stay safe. Today we will learn about a time Elisha warned the king of Israel about an enemy who was waiting to hurt God's people. We will learn how God protected His people.

(2) SESSION STARTER ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

War!

MATERIALS

Playing cards

Deal out all the cards evenly. Players will play cards, one at a time. Whoever plays the higher value card keeps both. If their cards have the same value, they will each place three cards facedown and a fourth card faceup. Whoever plays the higher value fourth card wins all the cards in the pile. Whoever collects the most cards at the end of play wins.

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SAY - In that game, the player with the larger number on his card won the round. In war, the army with the larger number of soldiers often wins. Today we will learn about a time God's people seemed outnumbered by a very large army that wanted to attack them. But God provided reinforcements in an amazing way!

/// TRANSITION TO TEACH THE STORY ///

TEACH the Story

MATERIALS

- Internet-capable device (Computer, laptop, tablet)
- Bible
- Key Passage Printable

Note

If your children are young, you may want to summarize some of the intro and story explanation. It does not need to be read in its entirety.

(3) Big Picture Question & Timeline (2 minutes)

SAY - I want to know who remembers our big picture question. [*Allow responses*.] Great job! *How many gods are there?* And who can tell me the answer? [*Allow responses*.] Right again! *There is one God who alone deserves worship*. That means though we often worship created things, we should be worshiping God alone. Only He is holy, loving, all-powerful, and good. He deserves worship because of who He is and what He has done for us. UNIT 13 SESSION 4

A few weeks back we learned about Elijah and the widow. We learned that God provided in miraculous ways. We also learned how God showed that He is the one true **God** on Mount Carmel when the prophets of Baal failed the test Elijah set up. Last week we learned that, when Elijah went to heaven, God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet. This week, we will learn some more about Elisha. Our story is "Elisha and the Army."

(4) Bible Story Video (3 minutes)

VIDEO TITLE - "Elisha and the Army"

(5) Bible Story Discussion & Review (4 minutes)

SAY - God's people would have been in big trouble if not for Elisha. God told Elisha where the enemy army was planning to attack. When the enemy king decided to get rid of Elisha, **God protected Elisha with an invisible army**—a massive army of invisible angels.

You know, had I been Elisha's servant, I would have been pretty afraid too. If I couldn't see God's army, I probably wouldn't believe it was there. But the truth is, God's love and protection did not rely on the servant's ability to see the army. God was with them whether the servant knew it or not.

In a way, that reminds me of life with Jesus. If you repent and believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, the Holy Spirit is with you, filling you with God's power. The Holy Spirit helps us love and obey God. He protects us from temptation and leads us to make wise choices. We cannot see the Holy Spirit, and even if you don't feel His presence, He is with all believers, protecting us. That's a promise of God!

And we know that God always keeps His promises. He is faithful even when we are not faithful. He loves us even when we do not love Him. That's why He sent Jesus! We were enemies of God, but Jesus made the way for us to be forgiven, set free from sin, given new life, and adopted into God's family.

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God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant so he could see God's protection. God is always with us. Jesus came to earth as the visible image of our invisible God. God's protection from sin and death is given to everyone who trusts in Jesus.

(6) Key Passage and Songs (4 minutes)

Note – the music videos have hand motions to move along with! Kids are more likely to participate if you do, so get ready to move. \odot

Show the key passage printable or find it in the Bible. Lead the kids to repeat it. Then sing the Key Passage songs to help commit these to memory.

MUSIC VIDEO TITLES (OPTIONS) -

- 1. I am the Lord (Elementary)
- 2. Isaiah 42:8 (Preschool)
- 3. God is in Control (Preschool)

(7) Prayer (1 minute)

SAY - God, You are good, and You are holy. We know that we do not always love You the way we should. Help us see the sin in our lives and repent of it. Help us love You more and obey You each day. Amen.

APPLY the Story

(8) Coloring Page & Reflection (10 minutes)

MATERIALS

- Printed coloring page (1 per child)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

As they color, guide kids to think about and answer questions reviewing and reflecting on the story. Rewatch the Bible Story video if needed.

PRESCHOOL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What prophet told the king of Israel where the Aramean army would be? (Elisha)
- What did the king of Aram send to surround the city where Elisha was? (an army)
- Why did Elisha tell his servant not to be afraid of the Aramean army? (God's army was bigger.)
- What happened to Elisha's servant after he prayed that God would let him see the army? (Elisha's servant saw God's army.)
- How many gods are there? There is one true God.

ELEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why did the king of Aram surround Dothan? (He was trying to capture Elisha, who had told Israel where the Aramean army was; 2 Kings 6:13-14)
- Why was Elisha not afraid of Aram's army? (He knew that God was protecting him with an even larger army, 2 Kings 6:16-17)
- What did Elisha tell the king of Israel to do with the Aramean army? (Show mercy to them, feed them, and send them away; 2 Kings 6:22)
- How has God protected us? Guide kids to see that, whether or not God protects everyone from physical harm, He sent Jesus who died on the cross for us to protect us from the greatest harm—dying in sin apart from God.
- How does Jesus show us what God is like? Guide kids to see that, although God the Father does not have a physical body the way Jesus does, Jesus shows us the Father's power, love, mercy, grace, and holiness. Jesus perfectly obeyed God and perfectly communicated God's plans for the world. Jesus is God the Son. (Col. 1:15)
- What are some ways we may be "blind" to what God is doing around us? Guide kids to think about the ways we allow ourselves to be distracted by the world. We often focus on ourselves and the circumstances we face instead of on God and His power to help us.