

# Elementary 2

Year 3 Book 2

E2 Year 3 Book 2

God's Courageous Workers

*God's Courageous Workers*



USGA

Teacher's Guide and Student Worksheets

# ELEMENTARY 2 YEAR 3 BOOK 2

## GOD'S COURAGEOUS WORKERS

### INTRODUCTION

The main objectives for this quarter are:

- To study the stories of some courageous workers of God, such as Elijah, Elisha, Nehemiah, and Ezra.
- To learn more about the great works that they did and miracles that they performed through God.
- To understand that all strength and power comes from God.

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All Scripture is NKJV unless otherwise noted.

# LESSON GUIDE

The E2 lessons can be separated into 3 sections with several subsections that, as a whole, are aimed to provide a comprehensive Bible study of the selected topic.

The first section is an **introduction** to the lesson and includes the Objectives, Memory Verse, Prayer, Overview, Background Knowledge for the Teachers, and Reaching Out to Your Students sections. This section is meant for the teacher to study while preparing the lesson so that the teacher will know in which direction to guide the students while teaching.

The second section includes the **main content** of the lesson that will be taught to the students during class. Here the teacher will find the Opener, Vocabulary, Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching, Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs, Check for Understanding, Life Application, and Activity sections.

Lastly, the students will have a homework assignment to take home and complete after class as a **review** of the lesson. The students are expected to bring back the homework assignment to the next class completed and with a parent signature.

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This lesson guide will list each subsection and explain its purpose, as well as how teachers should use the information in that subsection.

## I. Introduction to the Lesson

### 1. Objectives

These are the objectives that the lesson aims to fulfill. The teacher should always remember to reinforce ideas and teachings that will fulfill these objectives.

### 2. Memory Verse

The teacher should go over the memory verse at the beginning of class and ask the students to have it memorized by the end of class.

### 3. Prayer

Go over these points with the students before beginning prayer so that they will know what they should pray for, in addition to their own prayer requests.

### 4. Overview

A simple lesson overview that emphasizes the important points of the lesson.

### 5. Background Knowledge for Teachers

Relevant biblical background knowledge that can aid the teachers in understanding the lesson.

### 6. Reaching Out to Your Students

This section provides an insight into how the students might react to the lesson and how to help the students understand the lesson.

## II. Main Lesson Content

### 1. Opener // 5 Minutes

The purpose of the Opener is to ease the students into the lesson by bringing up relevant topics that will relate to the Bible study. This will give students time to calm down before the teacher goes into the main content.

### 2. Vocabulary

The vocabulary is provided to explain some of the more difficult terms. The teacher can choose to go over the terms before beginning the Bible study or as the terms come up during the lesson.

### 3. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching // 30-35 Minutes

This is the main section of each lesson. It will provide an in-depth study of the selected topic and the students will also be provided worksheets to fill in as the teacher conducts the lesson. The teacher should look at the worksheets while preparing the lesson and print out a copy to use as an answer key during class. The aim of the worksheets is to keep the students focused and to let them actively participate instead of passively listen.

### 4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs // 2-5 Minutes

It is important to tie each lesson back to the Ten Basic Beliefs to reinforce the students' knowledge of the Beliefs; therefore, this section will briefly tie back the lesson to the Basic Belief to which it relates.

### 5. Check for Understanding // 5 Minutes

This section tests the students' comprehension of the teachings they just learned in the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching section.

### 6. Life Application // 10 Minutes

The Life Application section aims to make the lesson content more life applicable and will allow the students to relate the lesson's teachings to events that happen in their daily lives. The goal is to give the students a chance to apply what they have learned in the lesson to their daily lives.

### 7. Activity // 10-15 Minutes

Each lesson will include one or two activities that relate back to a teaching or story in the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching section.

## III. Homework Assignment

Students are to take this home and return it the next week completed. There are four elements to the homework assignment: (1) Bible reading and prayer chart, (2) what they learned from the Bible, (3) memory verse, (4) and a lesson-specific assignment. The Bible reading and prayer chart is provided to track the students' progress during the week. In addition, the students will have to write down the memory verse and two things they learned from the Bible during that week. The last part of the homework assignment is specific to that week's lesson. It is advised that the students obtain a parent signature to make sure that the parents know what the students are learning each week.

## IV. Suggested E2 Class Timeline

5 min.	Opening Prayer
5 min.	Opener
30-35 min.	Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching
2-5 min.	Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs
5 min.	Check for Understanding
10 min.	Life Application
10-15 min.	Activity
5 min.	Ending Prayer

**Total:** 1 hr. 12 min. - 1 hr. 20 min.



# UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

## Upper Elementary/Primary Stage (Ages 9-11)

Characteristics	Pedagogic Application
<b>Body</b> 1. Generally healthy 2. Active 3. Begin to step into puberty stage, get hungry easily 4. Girls become taller than boys toward later stage  5. Increase in stamina	Encourage healthy eating habits Can plan for outdoor activities/fellowships sometimes Prepare snacks if their time in church is especially long Teach them how God values their character; build healthy self-esteem Have challenging and difficult activities
<b>Mind</b> 1. Like to collect things 2. Very creative 3. Begin to think and deduce 4. Like asking questions 5. Have good memory 6. Limited understanding of profound/abstract matters 7. Increased reading ability and comprehension	Include more challenging activities Provide creative and Bible-related activities Use pedagogy that enhance critical thinking Provide satisfactory and biblical answers Encourage memorization of Bible verses Need to explain abstract terms Nurture interest in reading the Bible/Christian materials
<b>Mood</b> 1. Express emotions easily  2. Short-tempered; lose patience easily  3. Like humor 4. May have feelings of withdrawal (may be scared, anxious, etc.)	Provide routines that help students to quiet down and get ready to focus Teach students how to control emotions and appropriate ways to express emotions Include some humor while teaching Show more care and concern; teach them the importance of relying on God
<b>Social Skills</b> 1. Loyal toward friends of the same age more than parents or teachers 2. Like to make friends of the same gender 3. Loyal to groups or teams 4. Enjoy competitive games or activities 5. Like to joke around; may make fun of others  6. Admire favorite teachers and classmates	Encourage friendship, but stress the importance of respecting parents and elders Can separate into girls and boys for group discussion Teach students how to discern negative peer pressure Provide competitive games where everyone can participate Encourage healthy jokes without hurting others' feelings; teach mutual respect Suggest some Christian biographies for students to read; set good examples for the students; share your personal faith and convictions
<b>Spirituality</b> 1. Express maturity in accepting the way of salvation  2. Worship heroes  3. Can study the Bible and pray 4. Can accept a deeper level of Bible teaching 5. Show concern over the souls of others	Talk about salvation seriously; share with them how God changed your life Teach stories of Bible heroes and spiritual characters; provide good Christian living examples Encourage daily spiritual cultivation (pray/read the Bible) Help the students to discover the teachings from the Bible Encourage students to pray and/or bring family members or friends to the Lord

## MEMORY VERSES

1. "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days." (Proverbs 19:20)
2. "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God." (Deuteronomy 28:2)
3. "And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power." (1 Corinthians 6:14)
4. "The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous." (Proverbs 15:29)
5. "So we may boldly say: 'The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:6)
6. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)
7. "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18)
8. "My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:2)
9. "Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)
10. "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." (Psalm 119:18)
11. "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
12. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)

# LESSON 1

## THE DIVIDED KINGDOM: REHOBOAM AND JEROBOAM

### OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the choices Rehoboam and Jeroboam made and the consequences of their choices upon the people of Israel.
2. To learn that our decisions in life carry consequences.
3. To learn the importance of discerning between good advice and bad advice.

### MEMORY VERSE

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.”

(Proverbs 19:20)

### PRAYER

Thank You, God, for guiding us into Your presence to worship and praise You. Lord, open and enlighten our hearts to know You better and to understand Your teachings. Give us a wise heart to make choices that are pleasing and glorifying to You. Amen.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. God's Nation Is Divided
  - i. Rehoboam
  - ii. Jeroboam

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Holy Bible

#### 3. Life Application—Making Wise Choices

#### 4. Activity—Good and Bad Advice



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

In the later part of Solomon's life, his many foreign wives turned his heart away from following God's commands. God was very displeased with Solomon and told him that his kingdom would be taken away from the hand of his son Rehoboam (1 Kgs 11:11-13). As a result, the Lord raised up adversaries against Solomon: Hadad the Edomite, Rezon the son of Eliadah, and Jeroboam the son of Nebat (1 Kgs 11:14-40). All three rebels had revolted against King Solomon, but it was Jeroboam who would take the kingdom from his hands, thus fulfilling the words of God.

#### Division of the Kingdom

1 Kings 11:31-35 indicate that ten tribes would be ascribed to the northern kingdom and one tribe to the southern kingdom. However, some Bible references say that two tribes followed Rehoboam, those being Judah and Benjamin (cf. 1 Kgs 12:21; 2 Chr 11:1, 5-12).



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students are anxious to learn the reasons behind why some things are right and some things are wrong. They are eager to make the right choice, but need your understanding and thoughtful help. They value the guidance from parents and teachers when making decisions. Children of this age are just beginning to develop the ability to think abstractly and about their future as adults. Consequently, you may need to guide them with firsthand experiences that relate to their lives. Allow your students to think and express their opinions and ideas freely, even if they may be wrong. Logically discuss their ideas and show them the fallacy in their wrong reasoning and help them understand the importance of making the right decisions. Role-playing is an effective way to help them identify the possible outcomes and it gives them practice in making decisions.



## Opener

5 Minutes

People tell us what to do and give us advice all the time. Some people tell us what to do because they love us and want the best for us; others tell us what to do for their own benefit. Sometimes, the advice is good for us and sometimes it is not. Ask the students to share some advice they have been told before and then discuss if this advice is good or bad. "In today's story, we are going to learn about two people who were given advice, but then made choices that brought severe consequences."



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Use a large Bible atlas or the maps provided in Bibles to show students how the kingdom of Israel was divided. Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. As you go over the lesson, the students will fill in the boxes on the worksheet. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

### God's Nation Is Divided

#### I. Rehoboam

When King Solomon became king of Israel, he asked God for wisdom to rule the people of God well, and he did rule well for a long time. He built a beautiful temple for the Lord. He wrote wise proverbs to teach others the right way to live. Under Solomon, Israel became a prosperous, strong, and powerful nation, a nation that was greatly blessed by God. Unfortunately, as King Solomon grew older, he grew careless about obeying God. He married foreign women who brought their pagan gods into Israel. Solomon followed his wives in worshipping these false gods. He became proud of his beautiful cities and huge army. He imposed heavy taxes on his people, and he drafted them to work for him and serve in the army (cf. 1 Kgs 11).

Because of his great sins, God decided that he would take the kingdom away from Solomon and give it to someone else (1 Kgs 11:9-13; 11:33). But God would not tear the kingdom away from his hand while Solomon was king. It

would happen when his son was king.

After King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. Let's read 1 Kings 12:1-17 to find out how Rehoboam became king.

This passage mentions how the Israelite people came to Shechem to make Rehoboam king. Who was present at the coronation ceremony? The whole of Israel and a man called Jeroboam; together they made a request to Rehoboam. They told Rehoboam that King Solomon gave them a lot of heavy work. Solomon's kingdom was so vast and powerful; he needed his people to help run it, so they became men of war, captains of officers, chariots, and cavalry. But now, they wanted Rehoboam to lower their taxes and lessen the work demands. If Rehoboam agreed, they promised to be loyal subjects of the new king.

Rehoboam told the people to come back after three days, by which time he would let them know. Then, Rehoboam went to ask for advice.

Which two parties did Rehoboam consult and what were their answers?

- a. Rehoboam first went to consult the elders who used to counsel his father King Solomon. They told Rehoboam that if he agreed to treat the people with kindness, they would remain faithful to him and continue to serve him.

- b. Rehoboam then went to seek the advice of the young men he had grown up with. They told him to tell the people, "If my father was hard on you, I will be harder. If my father used whips on you, I will use scorpions."

If you were Rehoboam whose advice would you have followed, and why?

Rehoboam asked for advice, but he didn't carefully evaluate that advice. If he had, he would have realized that the advice offered by the elders was wiser than his peers. The men who had served King Solomon knew more about the needs of the people and could perhaps see what might happen if Rehoboam did not treat them nicely. The elders understood that the taxes and the work bore heavily upon the people.

The young men whom Rehoboam consulted may have been his peers who did not experience the suffering of the people as they were growing up. Rehoboam was a new king, and likewise, these men had little knowledge about governing an entire people and country. They probably did not care about the struggles of the common people. The young men advised Rehoboam to let the people know that he was the boss by making taxes higher, demanding more work, and punishing people more severely if they displeased him.

Most surprisingly, Rehoboam did not consult God about which choice was better. Instead, he chose what was good for himself and not good for the people. He chose to follow the advice of his peers.

Why was it a bad choice for Rehoboam to follow the advice of his peers?

### Rehoboam's Bad Choices

- a. Rehoboam's decision resulted in real and long-lasting consequences; his kingdom became a divided kingdom and never united again. The tribe of Judah remained loyal to Rehoboam. This became the nation of Judah, or the Southern Kingdom. The ten other tribes followed Jeroboam and called their new nation Israel, or the Northern Kingdom.

What are the characteristics of a divided kingdom?

- It is vulnerable. With less manpower, it would be prone to enemy attack.
- It is hostile. Instead of being brothers, the people treated each other like enemies. There were constant wars between the two nations.
- It is weak. Two kingdoms are not as strong as a single, united kingdom.

- b. Later when Rehoboam's kingdom became prosperous, Rehoboam's heart turned from God. The people of Judah built shrines, sacred pillars, which were places for pagan worship, and wooden images everywhere. There were also perverted persons in the land. They followed all the abominations of the nations, which had been cast out (1 Kgs 14:21-24).
- c. Rehoboam followed the example of his father by taking many wives and concubines (2 Chr 11:18-21).
- d. The Bible summarizes Rehoboam as doing evil because he did not prepare his heart to seek God (2 Chr 12:14). At the beginning of his reign, Rehoboam obeyed God for three years. As a result, he was blessed with a prosperous and strong nation. But when things were going well, he forgot about God and turned to idols. So ultimately, his heart was not set to please God or continue in His ways.

### God's Judgment Upon Rehoboam

Read 2 Chronicles 12:1-5, 9-12. Who did God use to punish King Rehoboam and Judah? God allowed King Shishak of Egypt to come up against Jerusalem. King Shishak brought a huge army of 1,200 chariots, 60,000 horsemen, as well as an unnumbered host of infantrymen—Egyptians, Lubim, Sukkiim, and Ethiopians.

What did King Shishak take from Judah? King Shishak took away the treasures of the house of God and the king's house and all the gold shields that Solomon had made. During Solomon's reign, gold was in great abundance. Solomon made 200 large shields of hammered gold and 300 smaller shields of hammered gold. The king placed all the shields in the House of the Forest of Lebanon (2 Chr 9:13-16). Sadly, because King Rehoboam sinned against God, the king of Egypt stripped Israel of its treasures.

When Shishak the king of Egypt came and attacked Judah, King Rehoboam repented and humbled himself before the Lord. God then sent the prophet Shemaiah to tell him that He would not completely destroy them and that He would not use Shishak to pour out his anger on Judah. But God wanted still Rehoboam to be responsible for his actions for disobeying God, so he would still need to pay annual tribute to Egypt. God used this to make him learn that when we rebel against God, we have to pay the consequences.

### II. Jeroboam

We mentioned earlier that because of Solomon's sin, God had decided to give his kingdom away to someone else. God was giving the kingdom to a man called Jeroboam. Let's read 1 Kings 11:26-40.

*Who was Jeroboam?*

When King Solomon was reigning in Israel, there was a man called Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, from the tribe of Ephraim. He was a mighty man of valor, and Solomon, seeing that he was a very diligent and hard-working man, put him in charge of the labor force.

*What did the prophet Ahijah tell Jeroboam?*

When Jeroboam met the prophet Ahijah, who was wearing a new robe at the time, Ahijah took the new garment he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Ahijah told Jeroboam to take ten pieces for himself. This represents how the Lord will tear the kingdom from Solomon and give the ten tribes to Jeroboam. But God was to keep one tribe for Solomon and his son because of the promise that God had made to David. God reminded Jeroboam that if he listened to God and walked in his ways and did whatever is right, then he and his descendants would be blessed and rule Israel forever. When King Solomon learned of this, he wanted to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam took refuge in Egypt. He stayed there until Solomon died and returned to Israel when Rehoboam was to be made king.

**Jeroboam's Bad Choices**

When the people heard that Rehoboam would be harder on them than his father had been, the people all deserted him, except for the tribe of Judah, just as how God told Jeroboam through the prophet. The people then turned to Jeroboam and made him their new king instead. The ten tribes that followed Jeroboam called themselves "Israel" or "the Northern Kingdom."

When Jeroboam became king, what fear did he have and what choices did he make? Read 1 Kings 12:26-27. Jeroboam feared that the people might change their minds and return to their original king, Rehoboam. To ensure that this did not happen, he had to keep the people away from Jerusalem.

- a. Jeroboam made his capital in the city of Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim.
- b. According to the law, all the Jewish men were required to travel to the temple in Jerusalem three times a year to worship God and make sacrifices (cf. Deut 16:16). Jeroboam was afraid that when the people went to Jerusalem, they might change their minds and decide to return to Rehoboam. If they did that, Jeroboam would be killed. As a result, Jeroboam made some very bad choices. What did Jeroboam do?

- He established worship centers and worshipped idols. Read 1 Kings 12:28-33. Jeroboam sought the advice of his counselors. Following their counsel, Jeroboam made two golden calves; one he set up in

Bethel and the other in Dan. He told the people that these were the gods that brought them out of Egypt and, since it was too much trouble to go to Jerusalem to worship, they would worship these gods from now on.

- He appointed priests from tribes outside the tribe of Levi. Read 1 Kings 12:31, 33 and 2 Chronicles 11:14-16. Jeroboam also set up altars and made priests from people outside the tribe of Levi. Numbers 3:6-8 states very clearly that God had specifically chosen the tribe of Levi to serve Him in the tabernacle. No other tribes, and not even the king, were allowed and if they did, they were to be put to death (cf. Num 3:10). Jeroboam knew God's laws, but he deliberately violated them by getting rid of all the priests and Levites who served God and instead appointing priests from different tribes. And to make matters worse, Jeroboam himself offered sacrifices to the calves at Bethel.
- He set up his own feast date (1 Kgs 12:32-33). Jeroboam did not follow the feasts that the Lord had set up. Rather than following the annual festivals in Jerusalem, he came up with a feast at a time he had decided himself.

**God's Judgment upon Jeroboam**

Read 1 Kings 14:7-16. Jeroboam had done more evil than all the other kings before him. He had made false idols and caused Israel to sin greatly against God. God was furious and pronounced the following judgment:

- Jeroboam's son Abijah would die.
- God will bring disaster upon his home and destroy all his sons; dogs will eat those who die in the city and birds will eat those who die in the field.
- God will raise up a king who will wipe out the family of Jeroboam (cf. 1 Kgs 15:27-30).
- God will also punish the nation of Israel and cause them to be taken from their home country.

**Consequences of Jeroboam's Bad Choices**

Jeroboam was a man whom God favored. God especially chose him from the rest of the common people to become the first king of the divided kingdom. God made the same promise to him that he made to King David—he would be blessed and he and his descendants would rule Israel forever, if they listened to God and walked in His ways. Jeroboam was given ten of the tribes to rule and govern. Although Jeroboam received very clear directions from God, he did not obey. To secure his kingship, Jeroboam chose to do things his own way, even if it meant breaking God's commands and even if it caused the people of Israel to commit great sin. At the end, instead of securing his kingship, Jeroboam lost his life, his kingship, his family, and his people.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### The Holy Bible

The Holy Bible is inspired by God and given to us so that we can have the knowledge and wisdom to live lives pleasing to God, to know how to conduct ourselves in this wicked world, to avoid temptations, and to make godly choices.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

### True or False

1. **After the split, Rehoboam's kingdom was called "Israel" or "the Northern Kingdom."** False. Rehoboam was king of Judah, or the Southern Kingdom.
2. **God used the king of Babylon to punish Rehoboam.** False. He used the king of Egypt, King Shishak, to punish Rehoboam.
3. **Jeroboam made two golden calves for the people to worship, appointed his own priests, and set up his own festival times to keep the people from going to Jerusalem and returning to Rehoboam.** True.
4. **God gave ten tribes to Rehoboam and one tribe to Jeroboam.** False. God gave ten tribes to Jeroboam.
5. **Because of Jeroboam's abominable sins, God would wipe out Jeroboam and all his descendants. He would also allow Israel to be taken from their country.** True.

### Questions to Think About

6. **Why did God cause the kingdom of Israel to be divided?** King Solomon had sinned by worshipping other gods and marrying heathen wives.
7. **God already told Jeroboam that he and his descendants could rule forever if they only did what?** If Jeroboam obeyed God's commandments and walked in His ways, he would be blessed forever.
8. **What happened after Rehoboam's kingdom became strong?** He and his kingdom abandoned God's laws.
9. **What things did King Shishak take from Rehoboam?** King Shishak took away the treasures of the house of God and the king's house and all the gold shields that Solomon had made.
10. **What advice did the young men give Rehoboam, and why was it favored over the advice of the elders?** The young men advised Rehoboam to let the people know that he would be harsher than his father and give the people greater burdens. He favored this advice in order to let the people know that he was in charge and not weak.
11. **What can we learn from Rehoboam's and Jeroboam's bad choices and consequences?** It is important to set our hearts to seek after God. If we place God, rather than our own selfish desires, as our first priority, we can avoid making bad choices.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### Making Wise Choices

From our Bible story today, we realize how important it is to think through the advice and counsel that others give us, as the choices we make can have real and long-lasting consequences. The Bible gives us many examples of people who received advice from others; some followed the suggestions, while others did not. Read the Bible passages and then fill in the table to see what happened to those who followed/did not follow the advice offered to them.

[Hand out the Life Application Worksheet and guide students to complete the chart in Section A using the information in the Bible passages.]

Bible Passage	Who received the advice?	Who gave the advice?	What was the advice?	What was the consequence?
Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7, 22-24	<b>Adam and Eve</b>	<b>Satan</b>	Eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.	<b>By eating the fruit, Adam and eve sinned against God's command and were cast out of the garden of Eden.</b>
1 Sam 24:2-5, 10-12	<b>David</b>	His men	<b>His men told him to take revenge on Saul, who had tried to kill him.</b>	David had the word of God in his heart; he knew that he could not kill the king, who was the Lord's anointed, even though he had the chance.
2 Kgs 5:1-4	Naaman's wife	<b>Maid servant</b>	The maidservant told her mistress that Naaman should go to the prophet in Israel for help in curing Naaman's leprosy.	<b>Naaman went to see the prophet Elisha and was cured.</b>
2 Kgs 5:10-14	<b>Naaman</b>	His servants	<b>Naaman's servants told him to do what the prophet said and go bathe in the river Jordan.</b>	<b>Naaman was completely cured of his leprosy.</b>
Ex 18:13-22, 24-26	<b>Moses</b>	<b>Jethro, Moses' father-in-law</b>	Jethro advised Moses to appoint judges to help deal with the problems of the people instead of simply judging all by himself.	<b>The other judges were able to help Moses so that he was not worn out.</b>

[When the students have completed Section A, review what happened when the people followed the good advice or bad advice. Then, continue with Section B. Ask the students to fill in the blanks as you go over this section.]

It is important to evaluate carefully the advice we get from others, as these choices will lead to good or bad consequences. While some choices may not affect us too much, other choices may greatly affect our lives and faith. Rehoboam and Jeroboam both asked others for counsel, but at the end, they both made bad choices because they followed the wrong advice.

How do we know whether the advice we have received is good or bad?

- We need to examine the advice to see if it is according to the **teachings** of the **Bible**. If it is not, then we will know that this is not advice that we should follow. However, there may be some choices that are not so clear-cut. For this, we can pray and ask God to give us wisdom to discern whether the advice is good or bad and to help us make the correct choice that is according to **God's** will.
- We need to ask God to give us a **heart** to **do** His **will**. Rehoboam never really decided to do what pleased God; therefore, when everything was going smoothly, he departed from God. As for Jeroboam, all he wanted was his kingship; it didn't matter if God's commands were violated as long as he got what he wanted. If our will and desire are very strong and don't align with God's will, it is hard to make choices that are according to God's will.
- When we face a problem, we should ask for help or advice from **people** who make choices that are **wise** and godly (Prov 24:6; Ps 1:1).

[Reinforce the three main points regarding advice in Section B, then move onto Section C. You can complete this section as a class, or divide the students into pairs or groups and assign a scenario to each group. If you choose to divide the students, ask the students each to share with their group members, and then come together as a class at the end. Ask a volunteer from each group to share their answer.]



### Scenarios

1. There is a school baseball team that you want to join. Your best friend is also trying out for it, and he really hopes that you can both play on the same team. The problem is that the practices are held on Saturdays. Your best friend says that the practices will be every Saturday, and since God is love, He will forgive you for missing church services during practice sessions. **What do you do?**
2. Your friend is spending a few hours in your house, and you really want to show him the new game you got. Suddenly, you see your video game lying on the floor, broken. You find out that your sister had taken your game without asking and had somehow broken it. She has not apologized and has conveniently disappeared. You are so mad at her. Your friend gives you an idea, "Hey, how about taking something of hers and breaking it. It will serve her right." You know your sister loves to read and has some books she really treasures. **What do you do?**
3. You realize too late that you have a school assignment due tomorrow. You know you'll get into trouble, as your teacher has reminded the class repeatedly that this important assignment is due tomorrow. You tell your brother your problem. "Why don't you tell Mom that you're sick and that you need to stay at home? That way, you'll have all day tomorrow to finish the assignment," your brother advises. The advice sounds good to you. **What do you do?**



## Activity

### Good Advice and Bad Advice

10-15 Minutes

### Materials

- 3x5 index cards

### Instructions

1. Prepare 3x5 index cards.
2. Write a piece of advice on each card; it can be good or bad advice. Some examples have been listed below. Another option is to have the students write down their own piece of advice on a card. Make sure to have enough written advice to allow for more than a round of sharing.
3. Gather the students to sit in a circle.
4. Pass out one card per student, and then leave the remaining cards in the middle of the circle. Have the students look at the advice on the cards. Go around the circle and ask the students to share why they consider the advice to be good/bad advice. When each student has shared, pass out another round of cards and continue sharing.

### Examples

- If someone is mean to you, be mean back.
- Don't talk with your mouth full.
- You need to be the best.
- Eat your greens.
- "Please" and "Thank You" are still magic words.
- An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
- Early to bed, early to rise keeps a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
- Think before you act.
- Respect your elders.
- Do not run with scissors.
- Don't judge a person by how they look.
- Choose your friends wisely.
- It doesn't matter what we do, God will still love us.
- Waste not, want not.
- The purpose of life is to be happy.
- Practice makes perfect.
- Put your homework in your school bag the night before.
- Treat others the way you would like to be treated.
- If you don't have anything nice to say, then don't say anything at all.

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

1. kingdom, one, ten, Jeroboam
2. elders, young men
3. heart, seek, false gods, wives
4. golden calves, Bethel, Dan
5. Judah, Southern Kingdom, Israel, Northern Kingdom
6. If we follow bad advice and make the wrong choices that are not according to God's will, He will not be pleased with us and negative consequences will follow.
7. Answers may vary.

## THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Rehoboam



Jeroboam



### 1. Who did they seek advice from?

- a. The elders who used to counsel his father King Solomon.
- b. The young men with whom he had grown up.

His counselors

### 2. What bad choices did they make?

- a. Rehoboam followed the bad advice of the young men.
- b. His heart turned from God. He built shrines and wooden images throughout Judah.
- c. He had many wives and concubines.
- d. He did not set his heart to seek God.

- a. Jeroboam established his own worship centers and worshipped idols.
- b. He appointed priests from tribes outside the tribe of Levi.
- c. He set his own feast dates.

### 3. What were the consequences of their actions?

- a. Rehoboam's kingdom was divided into two kingdoms.
- b. God allowed King Shishak of Egypt to come up against Jerusalem and take away the treasures of the house of God and the king's house and all the gold shields that King Solomon had made.

- a. Jeroboam's son Abijah would die.
- b. God would bring disaster upon his home and destroy all his sons.
- c. God would raise up a king who will wipe out the family of Jeroboam.
- d. God would also punish the nation of Israel and cause them to be taken from their home country.

# THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

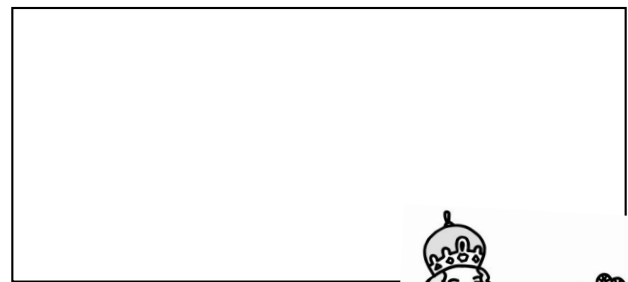
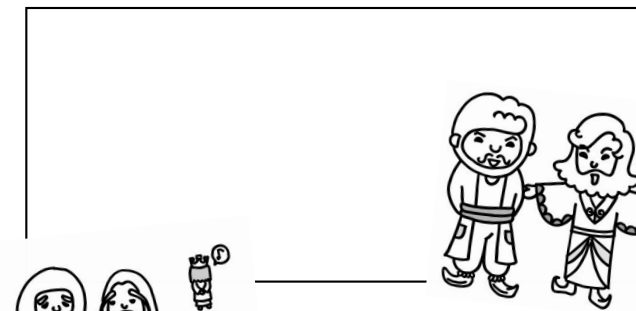
Rehoboam



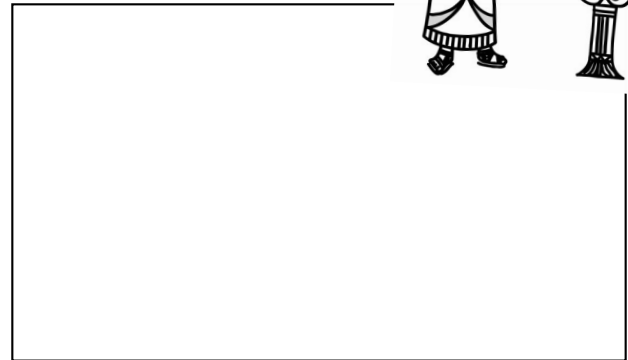
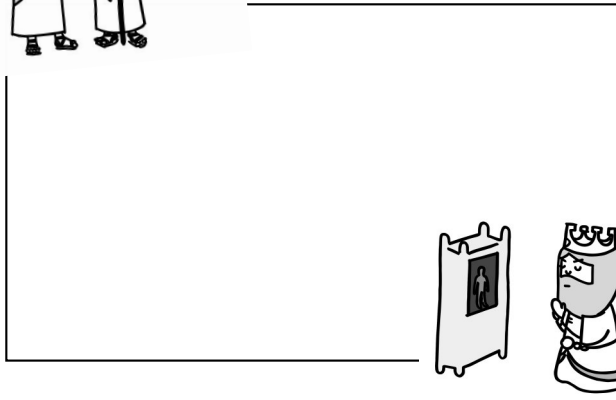
Jeroboam



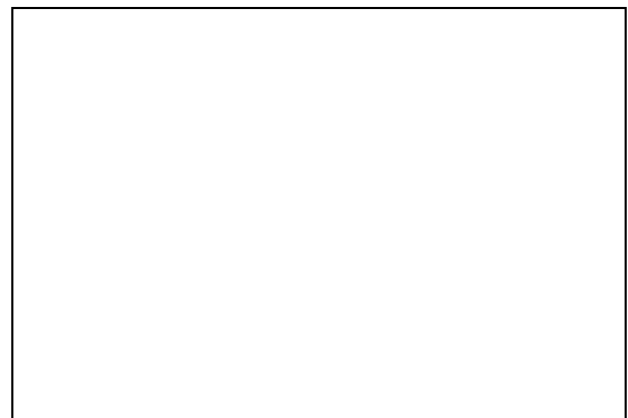
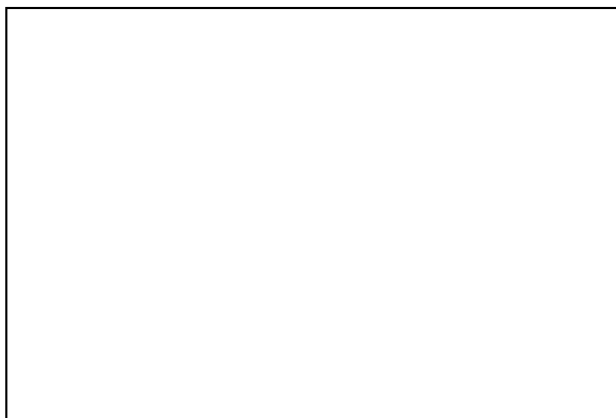
1. Who did they seek advice from?



2. What bad choices did they make?



3. What were the consequences of their actions?



## Making Wise Choices

A. Read the Bible passage to find out whose advice each of the Bible characters followed and what happened as a result of following that advice.

Bible Passage	Who received the advice?	Who gave the advice?	What was the advice?	What was the consequence?
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, 22-24			Eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.	
1 Samuel 24:2-5, 10-12		His men		David had the word of God in his heart; he knew that he could not kill the king, who was the Lord's anointed, even though he had the chance.
2 Kings 5:1-4	Naaman's wife		The maidservant told her mistress that Naaman should go to the prophet in Israel for help in curing Naaman's leprosy.	
2 Kings 5:10-14		His servants		
Exodus 18:13-22, 24-26			Jethro advised Moses to appoint judges to help deal with the problems of the people instead of simply judging all by himself.	

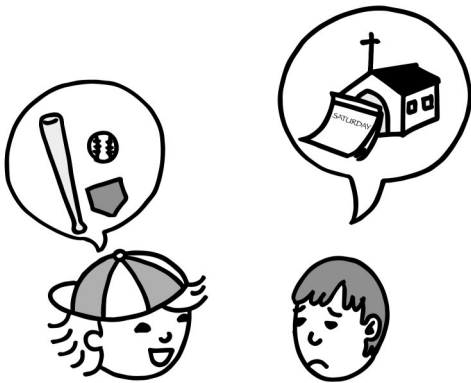


**B. How do we know whether the advice we have received is good or bad? Fill in the blanks.**

- See if the advice is in accordance with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will.
- Ask God to give us a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.
- Seek advice from \_\_\_\_\_ who are \_\_\_\_\_ and godly.

**C. What Do I Do?**

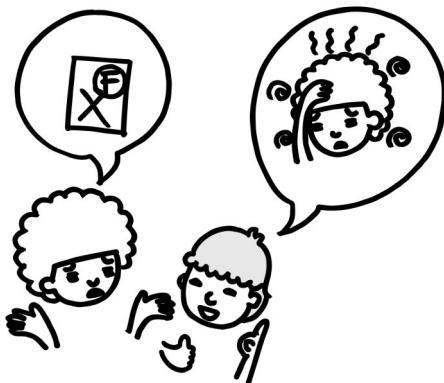
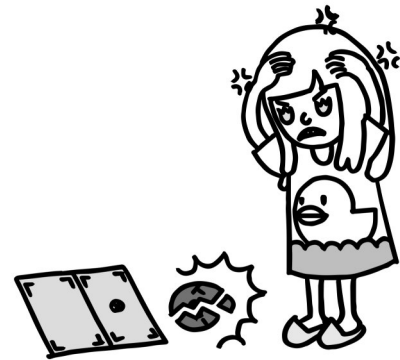
Read the following scenarios and discuss what your choice of action would be. Consider the possible consequences for your actions.



1. There is a school baseball team that you want to join. Your best friend is also trying out for it, and he really hopes that you can both play on the same team. The problem is that the practices are held on Saturdays. Your best friend says that the practices will be every Saturday, and since God is love, He will forgive you for missing church services during practice sessions.

**What do you do?**

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E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 1—The Divided Kingdom: Rehoboam and Jeroboam

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Proverbs 19:20**)

\_\_\_\_\_

## Fill In the Blank

Dan Southern Kingdom heart Bethel kingdom Jeroboam false gods elders Judah  
 wives Northern Kingdom one Israel golden calves Rehoboam young men ten seek

1. Because of the sins of King Solomon, God took the \_\_\_\_\_ away from him. \_\_\_\_\_ tribe was given to his son \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ tribes were given to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Rehoboam first consulted the \_\_\_\_\_ and then the \_\_\_\_\_ for advice.
3. Rehoboam did not set his \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ after God. As a result, he sinned against God by worshipping \_\_\_\_\_ and marrying many \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jeroboam tried to keep the people from going to Jerusalem by making two \_\_\_\_\_ for the people to worship, one in \_\_\_\_\_ and the other in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. After the nation was divided, Rehoboam's kingdom was called \_\_\_\_\_, or the \_\_\_\_\_. Jeroboam's kingdom was called \_\_\_\_\_, or the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Short Answer

1. What can we learn from Rehoboam's and Jeroboam's bad choices and consequences?
2. Share one piece of good advice that you have received before. Who gave it to you, and how did you know it was good advice?

# LESSON 2

## ELIJAH CONFRONTS KING AHAB, AND GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISIONS

### OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize that when we obey God, He will supply all our needs.
2. To learn that God desires for us to obey the people that He has placed in authority.
3. To remember that God wants us to obey with a willing and glad heart.

### MEMORY VERSE

"And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God."

(Deuteronomy 28:2)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Dear Lord, there are many times that we have not obeyed You because we like to do as we please. Those are the times when we have allowed sin and rebellion to live in our hearts. While You were on earth, You gave us the perfect example to follow. You were so obedient that You humbled Yourself to the point of death on the cross. You were so passionate about obedience that You said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." When it was most difficult for You to obey, You said, "Not My will, but Yours, be done." Lord, give us an obedient and joyful spirit that desires to wholeheartedly obey Your commands and the commands of our parents, teachers, and pastors—those whom You have sent to love, teach, and guide us.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel
- b. Elijah Is Sent to the King's Palace
- c. Elijah Is Sent to the Brook Cherith
- d. Elijah Is Sent to the widow of Zarephath

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God

#### 3. Life Application—Blessed Are Those Who Obey

#### 4. Activity—Word Search



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

#### Elijah

As great a prophet Elijah was, the Bible does not say much about his background. Elijah emerges suddenly, introduced as Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead. The exact location of Tishbi is uncertain, but it is supposedly a place in the land of Gilead, which is east of the Jordan River.

From his outer appearance, Elijah was easily recognizable. He is described as a hairy man wearing a wide leather belt and a mantle (1 Kgs 19:13, 19; 2 Kgs 1:8; 2:8).

Elijah means "My God is Jehovah". His name reflects the kind of attitude a servant of God should have; in everything that Elijah did, he exalted and glorified God. Elijah served predominately during the reign of King Ahab, where he fought courageously and zealously against the false prophets of Baal and turned the hearts of the people back to God.

#### King Ahab

Described in the Bible as the most evil king of Israel, Ahab was the 7th king of Israel. Not only did he walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat by worshipping the golden calves, he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians. Jezebel brought with her many pagan gods, and Ahab set up an altar and temple for Baal. He promoted idolatry and led the entire nation to sink into deep sin and wickedness. Ahab provoked the Lord to anger more than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

#### Queen Jezebel

Ahab's evil wife, Jezebel came from the Phoenician city of Tyre where her father had first served as high priest and eventually king. Jezebel worshipped the god Baal, the most popular Canaanite god. Baal idols



were usually molded into the shape of a bull representing strength and fertility. Those who worshipped Baal believed that he was the god who brought the rains and bountiful harvests. So, when Elijah walked into the presence of Ahab and told him there would be no rain for several years, this overthrew their beliefs that Baal was in control.

### Raven

Ravens are large black birds very similar to crows, the main difference being that ravens are bigger, with a wingspan that reaches 50 inches. During flight, ravens can perform complicated aerial acrobatics and are considered to be extremely intelligent birds. But that is not their most notable characteristic—ravens are scavengers. They eat berries, fruit, insects, bread, and carrion (the flesh of dead animals). They sometimes kill small birds and mammals, such as rabbits and rats. A person who is so hungry that he will eat anything is said to be ravenous. When God gave the Law to Moses, he declared that ravens were unclean and detestable birds (Lev 11:13-19) and were not to be eaten.

Yet, despite their negative image, God used them to bring food to Elijah during his stay at Brook Cherith. And to bring home the fact that God will take care of His children, Jesus told His disciples to consider the ravens. If God still cared for such lowly birds, how much more will the heavenly Father provide for His children (Ps 147:9; Lk 12:24)?

### Sidon

Sidon was the chief city of Phoenicia. Phoenicia had two capitals at different time periods: Tyre and Sidon. Sidon was one of the most important ancient Phoenician cities and was situated in the narrow fertile plain between the mountains of Lebanon and the Mediterranean, 25 miles north of Tyre.

Sidon was a wealthy community and a commercial city, famous for its gold and silver, embroidery, dyes, and metals, but especially for its glass. They founded many commercial colonies along the shores of the Mediterranean.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Although it is important to call our students to obey Christ out of obedience, even when they don't feel like it, what is more lasting is to work diligently on addressing the condition of their heart while we call them to obedience.

We need to let our students know that when they give half-hearted apologies, when they speak the right words in the wrong spirit, when they mumble, roll their eyes, have poor posture (which can represent an unwilling and lazy spirit), or when they fake the right responses, there is a heart issue—sin and rebellion is in their hearts.

To come to true joyful obedience and true repentance, our students need to recognize if sin is in their hearts. We need to let them see that sin works in our heart to make us disobey and rebel. It is important to help our students overcome it by using Scripture and the wisdom and power of the Spirit.



## Opener

*5 Minutes*

### The Marks of Disobedience

There was a father who had great difficulty in making his boy obey. No matter what his father said or did, the boy refused to listen and would not obey. One day the father said to the boy, "Here is the shed door. Every time you do wrong, I am going to pound a nail into the door."

One by one, the nails were pounded into the door, until it was literally filled with nails. The boy did not like the look of the door; the thought of it began to trouble his conscience. So he spoke to his father about it. "Well," said his father, "I'll tell you what we will do. Every time you are obedient, every time you listen rather than disobey, we will pull a nail out." The bargain was struck, and as, one by one, the nails were driven in, so, one by one, they were pulled out.

Finally the day arrived when there was but one nail left. You can imagine the joy of the boy when he and his father went together to pull that nail out. With great glee, the claws of the hammer were fastened about the head of the nail and

with one jerk, it came out.

"Oh, but the marks are left," exclaimed the boy. Yes, it was true, for every nail driven in and pulled out, a mark was left, resulting in an ugly door. "That is the sad thing about it all," said the father, "every time you disobey and do wrong, a mark is left upon our lives. It is never the same as if the evil deed had not been committed. It is fine that we have all the nails out, but it would have been much better had they never been driven in."

In today's story, we will learn about characters that chose either to obey or rebel against God. We will also learn about the consequences of their choices.



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1. The students will fill in the blanks as you go over this section. The answers have been underlined.

### 1. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel

When King Solomon died, the nation of Israel divided into two parts—the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. Most of the kings who ruled during that time did not follow God. In the Northern Kingdom of Israel, wicked kings ruled. Jeroboam was the first king, and he made two golden calves for the people to worship. Next came Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, and Omri.

Each king led the people of God down the wrong direction. But in the case of Ahab, the Bible gives an even more dismal account. Let's read 1 Kings 16:30-33. Here it says that Ahab did more evil than all the kings before him.

What did Ahab do that angered the Lord so greatly?

- Ahab walked in the sins of Jeroboam by worshipping idols and the golden calves that King Jeroboam had made.
- And as though that was not enough, Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon. Jezebel worshipped the god Baal and brought her pagan gods with her to Israel.
- In order to please his wife, Ahab built a temple and altars for her gods and even went into the temple to worship her gods. This brought much distress and wickedness into the land of Israel because the people of God also started to follow the king by worshipping Baal.

### 2. Elijah Is Sent to the King's Palace

It was during these evil and wicked times that God sent the prophet Elijah to see the king in his palace.

What judgment did Elijah pronounce upon the king? Read 1 Kings 17:1.

Elijah proclaimed that there was to be no rain on the land until he said so. And so, for three and a half years, no rain fell on the land. Without rain, the crops and vegetation could not grow and there would be famine.

Why did God punish Ahab and the land with drought? Ahab, Jezebel, and the people of Israel worshipped Baal. They believed that Baal was the god who brought the rain that watered the crops and that it was he who gave the bountiful harvest. The drought proved that Baal in fact had no power. He could not bring the rain. The God of Israel is the one true God who brings the rain and the drought.

### 3. Elijah Is Sent to the Brook Cherith

After Elijah spoke to King Ahab, he was sent by God to hide by the Brook Cherith. Let's read 1 Kings 17:2-6.

Why did Elijah have to hide by the Brook Cherith? At first, Ahab probably did not believe in Elijah's words. There was still water in the cisterns and food in the storage rooms—how could there be a drought? But as the months and years passed without rainfall, causing the famine to become severe, Ahab remembered Elijah's words and blamed Elijah for all the trouble and sorrow that was upon the land.

Let's read 1 Kings 18:10. Here it tells us how desperate Ahab was to find Elijah. Ahab sent out a search party to different nations and kingdoms to hunt for Elijah. When he couldn't be found, Ahab made the kings swear that they could not find Elijah in their country.

### Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

Let's read 1 Kings 17:4-6. Imagine that you were Elijah and that you have come to the Brook Cherith. One thing you may be wondering is "How am I going to survive

here?" Perhaps Elijah thought the same thing but before he even asked, God told him where his food was to come from. The ravens brought bread and meat in the morning to last the day and again in the evening to keep him nourished during the night. Just enough and nothing more.

Let's look at the ravens that fed Elijah.

- Ravens are large black birds similar to crows, the main difference being that ravens are bigger, with a wingspan that reaches 50 inches. During flight, they perform complicated aerial acrobatics and are considered to be extremely intelligent birds.
- Ravens are scavengers. They eat berries, fruit, insects, worms, and carrion (the flesh of dead animals). They sometimes kill small birds and mammals, such as rabbits and rats. They are even used to describe a person who is so hungry that he will eat anything. Such a person is said to be ravenous.
- When God gave the Law to Moses, he declared that ravens were unclean, detestable birds and were not to be eaten (Lev 11:13-19).

If you were Elijah, how would you feel about being fed by an unclean bird? Perhaps you may have thought, "Lord, I've got a better idea. How about sending a dove or a pigeon? Ravens are scavengers. Who knows which animal leftover he's bringing me?" From this, we can see that Elijah had to have complete faith and trust in God to eat the food brought by the ravens.

Another miraculous thing is that ravens, who normally care only for their own and eat whatever they can find, brought food to Elijah, and twice a day at that. The Bible does not mention how long Elijah was at Brook Cherith, but he stayed until the brook ran dry. For that entire duration, the ravens served Elijah's meals every day, without fail. While the rest of the land had severe famine, God did not allow His prophet to go hungry. At Brook Cherith, Elijah learned that God could use anything to achieve His purpose and that God would provide for his every need.

#### 4. Elijah Is Sent to the Widow of Zarephath

After some time, the brook dried up, as no rain fell upon the land. Where did God send Elijah to next? Read 1 Kings 17:6-10a.

What aspects about the woman might have made it difficult for Elijah to obey God?

1. Elijah had to go and stay with a woman who happened to be a widow. It was probably not easy for Elijah to have to live with a woman who did not have a husband around.
2. The widow was a Gentile. The place where God sent Elijah was Zarephath, a small village in Sidon. A region north of Israel, Sidon was a Gentile country. It is where Ahab's pagan wife Jezebel came from and it was the center of Baal worship. For a God-fearing Jewish man, this must have been doubly difficult.
3. The widow was extremely poor.

Why did God want Elijah to leave Israel and venture into a Gentile, idol-worshipping land? Why did God want him to stay in a poor widow's house? If it had to be a Gentile widow, surely there must have been a rich widow in all of Sidon with whom Elijah could have stayed. God's ways are oftentimes very mysterious, but they are always the best. Difficult though it may be, Elijah learned to deny his thoughts and his own will completely and submit to God's plan wholeheartedly.

#### The Widow's Faith and Love

Read 1 Kings 17:10-12. Immediately after meeting the woman, what did Elijah ask her to do?

It appears that Elijah was rather rude and selfish. He had only just met the woman before asking her for water and a piece of bread. The woman did not have bread, but only just a little flour and oil, which she planned to use to bake bread as a last meal for her son and her.

Elijah understood the widow's concerns. What did Elijah promise the widow? Read 1 Kings 17:13-14. He told her not to be afraid but to first do as he said. If she did, the flour and oil would not be used up until the day the Lord sent rain and when the crops grew again.

If you were the old woman and the flour and oil was to be the last meal for you and your son before you die of starvation, what would you do? [Allow students to respond.] Remember: Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb 11:1).

When the widow heard Elijah's words, she completely believed in the promise and went and did as Elijah asked. The widow responded in faith to what she hoped for, yet could not see. "She went away and did according to the word of Elijah" (v. 15).

Because of her immense faith, love, and sacrifice, the poor widow experienced God's providence and care in a time of famine. God's apply of flour and oil was a miracle. Just as

it says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Students, let's put God's kingdom first and your needs will be graciously provided!

Hundreds of years later, the Lord Jesus spoke about why Elijah was sent to the widow of Zarephath and not to the many widows in Israel (cf. Lk 4:25-26). While the people of God and King Ahab stubbornly refused to obey God

and worshipped idols, a poor Gentile widow completely believed in God's words, obeyed, and received blessings from God.

**FOR TEACHERS**

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2. Pair up the students and have them complete the table using what they've learned. When they have finished it, come together as a class to discuss the answers.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One True God

Jesus Christ is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the only Savior of mankind and the one and only true God. There is no other God besides Him whom we should worship, honor, and obey.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- The Bible describes Ahab as the most evil king in Israel because he worshipped idols and married a Gentile woman named Jezebel.** True.
- Elijah was told to hide by the Sea of Galilee.** False; he was told to hide by the Brook Cherith.
- Elijah refused to eat of the food brought by the ravens because they were unclean birds and scavengers.** False; Elijah had complete faith in God and ate the food that the ravens brought.
- By first baking bread for Elijah, the widow demonstrated her faith and obedience in Elijah's words.** True.
- God promised the widow of Zarephath that from now on she would always have flour and oil in her house.** False; the flour and oil would last until the end of the drought.
- If we want to be blessed in our life, we must obey God's commands.** True.
- Why did God punish Ahab and the people with a drought?** Ahab, Jezebel, and the rest of Israel worshipped Baal. They believed that Baal was the god who brought the rains that watered the crops and that it was he who gave the bountiful harvest. God sent a drought to prove that Baal had no power; he could not send the rain. It is the God of Israel who controls the rain.
- How was the widow of Zarephath better than King Ahab and the people of Israel?** Although the widow of Zarephath was a Gentile who did not know God, she believed in God's words and did what Elijah told her. King Ahab and the Israelites, on the other hand, knew God, but they refused to obey God and worshipped idols instead.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO OBEY

In our lesson today, we have learned about characters that responded differently to God's commands. One group obeyed God's commands and the other group rebelled against God's commands.

#### I. What is rebellion?

Rebellion is disobedience. It is having a stubborn heart that refuses to obey and instead says, "I don't need to listen to you. I want to do things my own way! Adam and Eve rebelled, and King Ahab and the people of Israel rebelled, as well. Rebellion is likened to witchcraft and is a great sin in God's sight (1 Sam 15:23).



## II. Whom should we obey?

### A. God has laid down laws and order for His creation.

When God created the universe, He laid down laws and principles to protect and bless mankind and to establish order. As the sovereign and almighty Creator, God is the highest authority, and He expects the entire creation to obey Him.

Nature and the living creatures in this world know and obey the laws that God has established.

Read Jeremiah 5:22-23. God sets the shorelines of the world by a perpetual law. No matter how the oceans toss and roar, the waves never trespass the boundary God has set for them.

Read Jeremiah 8:7. The birds know the time and season God has set. The stork knows the time of her migration, as does the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow. They all return at God's appointed time each year.

### B. God has established an order for mankind.

God has given us principles and laws that we, as man, need to follow. God uses two ways to teach us:

- Direct authority. This means God tells us by His word or by His Spirit what He wants us to do.
- Delegated authority. This means God delegates His authority by putting certain people to represent His authority here.

When God puts someone over us, that person is God's delegated authority. Since this person represents God's authority, he or she must be obeyed, in accordance with God's commandments. Some examples of God's delegated authorities are:

- Parents
- Pastors
- R.E. teachers
- Principal and teachers at school
- The government

God has given all these people the authority to raise us, teach us, and guide us. Wise parents, pastors, and teachers set limits on us and tell us not to do certain things because they love us and want what is best for us.

The way we treat God's delegated authority shows the way we treat God. If we obey them, we obey God, but if we are disrespectful and disobedient to them, we are disobedient to God. There is one situation in which we are not to obey the person who is over us. That situation is one in which someone tells us to do something wrong—something that is against God's commandments.

### C. Obeying God's laws is the way to blessings and happiness.

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-13.

Here God promises us that if we obey Him and all those He has assigned to guide us, He will shower down His blessings and His protection upon us. If, on the other hand, like King Ahab, we refuse to listen to God, He will take away His blessings. God took away peace and joy from King Ahab and the Israelites. He took away the rain and the food. He stripped away all the things that Israel had grown to respect and worship more than God. Without these things, the people knew that they couldn't do anything, and their lives were miserable and bound by sin. Disobedience only leads to sin and death.

[Hand out the Life Application Worksheet. Read the scenarios together with the students and discuss the questions as a class. Then, ask the students to complete the second part on their own. If time allows, ask some volunteers to share their answers.]

**Scenario 1**

Amanda's teacher Mrs. Olson has asked her to tidy up her workspace. Amanda pretends not to hear and continues to talk with her friend. Amanda doesn't like her teacher, and she doesn't see why she has to listen to her. Mrs. Olson moves towards Amanda, and in a stern voice says, "Amanda, this is your final reminder to clean up." Amanda rolls her eyes and walks slowly to her workspace.

Discuss

- What was Amanda's reason for not obeying her teacher?
- If we do not like a person, is it okay not to listen to him/her? Explain your answer.
- How can Amanda change her attitude?

**Scenario 2**

"Curtis, we are leaving for church in ten minutes."

Nothing but the sounds of a video game comes from his room. Curtis' mother enters his room.

"Curtis, we've already talked about how we're not going to be playing games on the Sabbath."

"I didn't agree to it."

"It doesn't matter whether you agreed or not. On the Sabbath, our focus is on God and not on doing our own things."

"I don't see why I'm not allowed to play when all my friends at church can," argues Curtis.

"I'm not going to discuss what your friends can or cannot do; that's up to their parents. You, on the other hand, are my responsibility. So, put away that game. We have to go or we'll be late!"

Curtis does not move.

Discuss

- Why does Curtis refuse to listen to his mother?
- Why do you think Curtis needs to listen to his parents?
- What can Curtis do to overcome this problem?

**III. What kind of heart do I have?****1. Examine our heart**

To know what's in our hearts, let's think about these questions:

- Do I obey or do I reject God's words?
- Do I have stubborn habits and attitudes that I have not gotten rid of?
- Do I obey or do I complain and argue when my parents (RE teacher/pastor) tell me to do something?
- Do I insist on doing things my own way?

*In the heart, write down the times when you did not obey. Write down the people that you did not obey.*

**2. Ask God to create in us a clean and submissive heart**

Perhaps you are thinking, "I know my attitude has not been right, but how do I change my attitude?" We change our attitude by changing the reason we do things. Instead of pleasing ourselves, we choose to please the Lord. When we choose to please God, we willingly give up our own will and do whatever God wants us to do.

*Write a short prayer asking God to create in us a pure, soft, and obedient heart.*

**3. Walk in obedience**

We do not obey just when we feel like it, when we can get something out of it, or when we like the person whom we are obeying. Obeying is something that we choose to do, whether we feel like it or not, whether we want to or not.

It may seem difficult at first to change our stubborn ways, but the more we do it, the easier it becomes, and God will bless us for our efforts. *Think of something that you will do to walk in obedience.*



## Activity

## Elijah Confronts Ahab

10-15 Minutes

**Instructions:** Find the following words. The words can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, and forward or backward.

Ahab  
brook  
Cherith  
drought

Elijah  
famine  
flour  
Jezebel

obey  
oil  
prophet  
ravens

rebel  
Sidon  
widow  
Zarephath

H F O L T B R D O I L S  
T U Y E P U N U A L N I  
I K H B T E H P O R P D  
R R A E E Y E B O L Y O  
E K J Z D X N Z F I F N  
H X I E B Z W O D I W E  
C X L J S W C Y P U E N  
H X E D R O U G H T B I  
W H T A H P E R A Z X M  
R L R E B E L A B A H A  
U S N E V A R H U T A F  
X S K O O R B S O Z J T

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; Elijah had faith in God and ate the food that the ravens brought.
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. B
6. C
7. C
8. A
9. Although the widow of Zarephath was a Gentile who did not know God, she believed in God's words and did what Elijah told her. Conversely, the people of God and King Ahab stubbornly refused to obey God and worshipped idols instead.
10. Answers may vary.

### WHO WAS REBELLIOUS? WHO WAS OBEDIENT?

Instructions: Using what you learned today, determine whether King Ahab, Elijah, the Widow of Zarephath, and the Ravens were rebellious or obedient. Then, fill out the rest of the columns.

Rebellious	Obedient	What did he/she or they do?	What were the consequences?
King Ahab	[Empty]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He worshipped idols and the golden calves.</li> <li>• He married a pagan woman named Jezebel.</li> <li>• He built a temple and altars for her gods and even went into the temple to worship her gods.</li> </ul>	Ahab was killed in a battle and the dogs came and licked the king's blood, just as the Lord had said would happen (cf. 1 Kgs 22:37-38).
[Empty]	Elijah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He went to the Brook Cherith.</li> <li>• He stayed with a poor Gentile widow.</li> <li>• He ate the food brought by the ravens.</li> </ul>	God abided with him and provided his every need in a time of famine.
[Empty]	Widow of Zarephath	She used the last of her flour and oil to make bread for Elijah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was flour and oil to last the whole famine so that she and her son did not die.</li> <li>• She came to know God.</li> </ul>
[Empty]	Ravens	Obedied God by delivering food to Elijah.	[Empty]





## ELIJAH CONFRONTS KING AHAB

Instructions: Fill in the missing words.

### 1. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel

Ahab did more evil than any other king before him. What did Ahab do that angered the Lord greatly?

- a. Ahab walked in the sins of \_\_\_\_\_ by worshipping idols and the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jeroboam had made.
- b. Ahab married Jezebel of \_\_\_\_\_. Jezebel worshipped \_\_\_\_\_ and brought her pagan gods with her to \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. To please his wife, Ahab built a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for her gods and even went into the temple to \_\_\_\_\_ her gods.

### 2. Elijah Is Sent to the King's Palace

Elijah pronounced to King Ahab that there would be no \_\_\_\_\_ upon the land of Israel. Rain did not fall for \_\_\_\_\_.

God punished Ahab and the land with drought because they believed that it was \_\_\_\_\_ who brought the \_\_\_\_\_ and the harvest.



## GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISIONS



### 3. Elijah Is Sent to the Brook Cherith

Ravens are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ birds.

What did God want Elijah to learn by using ravens to feed him?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Elijah Is Sent to the Widow of Zarephath

Write down three things about the widow of Zarephath.

1. She was a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She was a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. She was extremely \_\_\_\_\_.

Why did God send Elijah to this widow's house?

1. Elijah learned to \_\_\_\_\_ himself and \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
2. To bring \_\_\_\_\_ upon the widow.



### WHO WAS REBELLIOUS? WHO WAS OBEDIENT?

Instructions: Using what you learned today, determine whether King Ahab, Elijah, the Widow of Zarephath, and the Ravens were rebellious or obedient. Then, fill out the rest of the columns.

Rebellious	Obedient	What did he/she or they do?	What were the consequences?



## BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO OBEY

A. Read the following scenarios and discuss the questions below.

### Scenario 1

Amanda's teacher Mrs. Olson has asked her to tidy up her workspace. Amanda pretends not to hear and continues to talk with her friend. Amanda doesn't like her teacher, and she doesn't see why she has to listen to her. Mrs. Olson moves towards Amanda and, in a stern voice, says, "Amanda, this is your final reminder to clean up." Amanda rolls her eyes and walks slowly to her workspace.



Discuss

- What was Amanda's reason for not obeying her teacher?
- If we do not like a person, is it okay not to listen to him/her? Explain your answer.
- How can Amanda change her attitude?



### Scenario 2

"Curtis, we are leaving for church in ten minutes."

Nothing but the sounds of a video game comes from his room. Curtis' mother enters his room.

"Curtis, we've already talked about how we're not going to be playing games on the Sabbath."

"I didn't agree to it."

"It doesn't matter whether you agreed or not. On the Sabbath, our focus is on God and not on doing our own things."

"I don't see why I'm not allowed to play when all my friends at church can," argues Curtis.

"I'm not going to discuss what your friends can or cannot do; that's up to their parents. You, on the other hand, are my

responsibility. So, put away that game. We have to go or we'll be late!"

Curtis does not move.

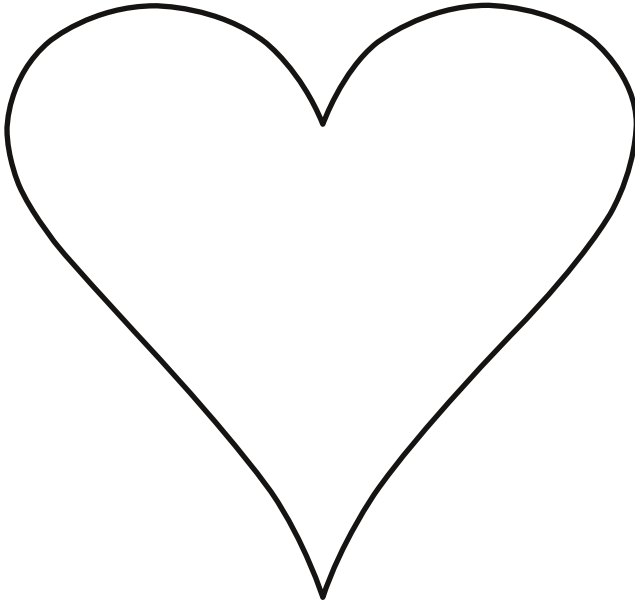
Discuss

- Why does Curtis refuse to listen to his mother?
- Why do you think Curtis needs to listen to his parents?
- What can Curtis do to overcome this problem?

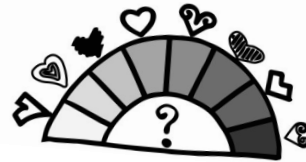
B. What kind of heart do I have?

**1. Examine our heart**

In the heart, write down the times when you did not obey. Write down the people you did not obey.



What Kind of Heart Do I Have?



**2. Ask God to create in us a clean and submissive heart**

Write a short prayer asking God to create in us a pure and soft heart.

Dear Lord, ...

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**3. Walk in obedience**

Think of something that you will do to walk in obedience.

This week I will...

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Who Should We Obey?



# E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 2—Elijah Confronts King Ahab, and God's Miraculous Provisions

## Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

### What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Deuteronomy 28:2)**

\_\_\_\_\_

### True or False

1. Elijah refused to eat of the food brought by the ravens because they were unclean birds and scavengers. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Bible describes Ahab as the most evil king of Israel because he worshipped idols and married Jezebel, who brought her false gods to Israel. \_\_\_\_\_
3. By first baking bread for Elijah, the widow showed her faith in Elijah's words and her love and sacrifice. \_\_\_\_\_
4. If we want to be blessed in our life, we must obey God's commands. \_\_\_\_\_

### Multiple Choice

5. \_\_\_\_\_ : God promised the widow of Zarephath that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. From now on, she would always have flour and oil in her house.
  - b. The flour and oil would not be used up until the day the Lord sent rain and when the crops grew again.
  - c. She would never face another famine.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ : Elijah was told to hide by the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. River Jordan
  - b. Sea of Galilee
  - c. Brook Cherith
7. \_\_\_\_\_ : Elijah survived the famine by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Eating wild berries and drinking water from the brook
  - b. Fasting and praying
  - c. Drinking water from the brook and eating the food brought by ravens
8. \_\_\_\_\_ : In the Bible, rebellion is described to be as bad as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Witchcraft
  - b. Adultery
  - c. Pride

**Short Answer**

9. How was the widow of Zarephath better than King Ahab and the people of Israel?

10. This week, I can learn to obey [a person] \_\_\_\_\_ better by [an action] \_\_\_\_\_.

# LESSON 3

## ELIJAH RESTORES A BOY TO LIFE THROUGH GOD'S POWER

### OBJECTIVES

1. To know that we need to turn to God's presence and His power in times of crisis.
2. To remember that we need to trust in God and His will to be done.
3. To understand that God has the power to raise us from the dead.

### MEMORY VERSE

"And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power."

(1 Corinthians 6:14)

### PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for bringing us once again into Your presence to worship and praise You. Thank You, Lord, for allowing us to experience peaceful times as well as tough times. Although we often do not understand why sad and painful things happen—things that cause us to be sad, angry, worried and without hope—in the midst of these bad times, You are always by our side, guiding and comforting us. Help us to hold fast to our faith during trials and give us the wisdom to learn the lessons that You want us to learn so that we may grow and become more perfect.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. A Crisis in the Widow's House
- b. God Gives Trials to Stretch Our Faith
- c. Elijah Prays
- d. The Widow's Deeper Understanding of God

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God

#### 3. Life Application

- a. God Has the Power to Resurrect
- b. Strengthening Our Faith Muscles

#### 4. Activity—Resurrection Bingo



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

#### Resurrection and Transformation

The examples of resurrection in the Bible are reminders to the believers of the great and extraordinary event that will occur at the Lord's coming. By the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, God will raise believers who have died. Just as the Lord Jesus was raised to a spiritual body, believers will also be clothed with a spiritual body—glorious, powerful, and immortal. Those who are alive will be caught up in the clouds and shall meet the Lord in the air and be with Him forever (1 Thess 4:16-17; 1 Cor 15:51-52; Phil 3:20-21).



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Everyone goes through tough times in life. It's important to let our students know that trials and difficulties are ways that God uses to refine us. Have students talk about some of the tough times that they might have faced, such as the death of a loved one, difficulties in school, problems with friends, or the sickness of a family member. However, be sensitive of those who do not wish to share. Help our students realize that in the same way that teachers give homework or exams to promote academic growth and responsibility, God, too, uses trials in life to train and strengthen our faith.

Instead of challenging, resisting, or complaining during hard times, encourage students to think of lessons that they can learn from them. Remind them that God will not abandon them but will carry them through it. Students can be encouraged to read the examples of Bible characters to see how they dealt with difficult times. They can also be encouraged to express their feelings through journaling or drawing. Inspire the other students to show love and concern through praying for those under trial.



## Opener

*5 Minutes*

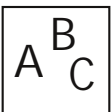
Before class, prepare samples of polished stones and unpolished stones. Polished stones can be obtained in craft stores. Have your students pass them around and compare the colors, texture, and possible uses of the polished and unpolished stones. Write up their observations on the board. Then, continue with the teaching.

Rocks are made up of combinations of one or more minerals, which give them their color. You can notice that the polished stones exhibit beautiful colors, and they are smooth to the touch. They could be collected for people to admire or made into beautiful jewelry to be worn.

As for the unpolished stones, their colors are not as enhanced; they are rough to the touch and may have sharp angles and edges that can cut you. Unpolished stones are commonly used to cover the ground, where they are trampled on, or used for making buildings or roads.

To transform them from common rough stones into beautiful stones, stones go through refinement processes, such as tumbling, cutting, and polishing. Similarly, God sometimes allow us to undergo trials where we are polished and transformed so that over time, we become more like our Lord Jesus.

In today's lesson, we will learn how Elijah and the widow of Zarephath underwent a great trial and the lessons that God wanted them to learn.



## Vocabulary

**resurrect:** (v.) to bring back to life; to come back to life

**mortal:** (adj.) certain to cause death





## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. As you go over the story, pause to allow the students to complete the worksheet. The answers are underlined.

### A Crisis in the Widow's House

Last week, we learned how Elijah was sent to the house of a widow from Zarephath. The widow was desperately poor as she only had a handful of flour and a little oil left—only enough for a last meal for her son and her. Even though Elijah knew that she only had so much flour and oil, he still asked her to make bread for him, reassuring her that the flour and oil would not run out until the drought ended. Because of her love and her faith in Elijah's words, the widow had the courage to make bread for Elijah first, instead of herself. Consequently, the widow was able to experience God's grace and blessings. For the duration of the famine, the widow was able to eat daily of the flour and oil that did not run dry. Today, we will continue to learn about Elijah and the widow.

After a period of peace and blessings, a crisis occurred in the widow's household. What was this sad and terrible thing that happened? Let's read 1 Kings 17:17. The son of the widow became ill. The illness was so severe that the boy died.

Have you ever experienced losing something or someone that you love very much? How did you feel when it happened? How did you react? How do you think the widow must have felt when she saw her son getting worse with each day? And how do you think she felt the moment he died? What emotions do you think the widow was feeling at the time? (She might have felt angry, extreme sadness, lost, empty, helpless, hopeless, and desperate. As a mother, she would have had wonderful dreams for her son; she would have wanted to see him grow up and be a great person. Now that he had gone, she would have felt very disappointed and lonely. She even might have wanted to die, too.)

Let's read 1 Kings 17:18. Based on what the widow said to Elijah, what can we learn about her feelings?

1. She felt angry. "What have I to do with you, O man of God?"

The widow was angry and she asked Elijah, "What did I do to you that has caused you to treat me in this way?"

2. She had some guilt. "Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance?"

The widow thought that Elijah must have known of her past sins and that she was being punished because of them. The Bible does not mention what her past sins were, but she felt guilty and believed that this was a punishment for her sins.

3. She placed the blame on Elijah. "And to kill my son?"

The widow felt that Elijah had caused her son to die. If he had not come, then all this would not have happened. Because of Elijah, her whole world had come collapsed, and she had lost the person dearest to her.

### God Gives Trials to Stretch Our Faith

God had been providing for the widow and her son throughout the famine. She had been experiencing God's miracle and power but suddenly, all of it was taken from her. Her peaceful and joyful world had suddenly become dark, hopeless, and full of despair. Sometimes in our lives, we find that even though we trust and obey God, we too will meet with trials and afflictions that rob us of our peace and joy.

- a. God was not trying to hurt the widow by taking her son. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." When bad things happen, it is hard to believe that God is still there and that He loves us. We may wonder, "If God loves us, then why does He allow such things to happen? Why does He bring such pain?"

God used the trial to allow the widow to know Him better. Sometimes when we live in peace and grace, it is easy to take God's blessings for granted. We may become ungrateful and complacent in drawing closer to God. But when tribulations and difficulties arise, we start to think about our faith, our past actions, and our relationship with God.

- b. God is in control of life and death. He is in control even in the most painful moments of our lives. When we are most hopeless and have no control of the situation, we need to remember that God will not abandon us. He will carry us through the difficult times.

### Elijah Prays

As Elijah looked at the grieving mother and heard all the pain in her heart, Elijah simply said to the widow, "Give me your son." He then tenderly took the child out of the mother's arms and carried the boy up to his own room where he stayed. Elijah laid the boy down on his bed and then began to pray.

Let's read 1 Kings 17:20-22. Elijah knew that God was the only one who could solve the crisis. Let's see how Elijah prayed to God.

To begin, Elijah asked God a question. "O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" Elijah didn't understand why God would bring tragedy on the widow by taking away her son. The first tragedy that occurred was the crisis of famine that fell upon Israel, and even the widow and the son were not spared from the suffering.

Elijah wondered why God would bring even more tragedy upon her house. When we meet with troubles, it is natural to ask why. Elijah was a man just like us (Jas 5:17), and he too wanted to understand. It is fine to ask God about things that we do not understand, just as a child would ask a father. However, when we ask, we should not have doubt in our hearts, and we need to wait for God's answers.

Although Elijah asked of God, he did not doubt. He continued to pray. How did Elijah pray?

Elijah stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." Let us examine Elijah's prayer and what happened as a result of it.

- a. Elijah fully believed that God was an almighty and powerful God. He knew that life and death are in the hands of God; He can kill and He can make alive. Even though at that time, Elijah could not have

read about a recorded instance of someone who had been raised from the dead, Elijah grasped the greatness and power of God by asking for the impossible. He asked God to resurrect the boy. God heard Elijah for his tremendous faith in Him and for his love and compassion for the widow.

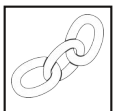
- b. Elijah stretched himself on top of the child. This may seem a rather strange way of praying, but Elijah put himself fully in the shoes of the dead son and his mother. He prayed with all his might and being. Later on, Elisha, Elijah's successor, also resurrected the son of another widow, and he prayed in the same manner (2 Kgs 4:32-35).
- c. God answered Elijah's earnest prayer; the soul of the boy returned to his body and he was made alive.

Elijah was human like us, but he was able to pray so that miracles happened. We, too, can have the same experience as Elijah. Through prayer, we can change a situation that appears dark and utterly hopeless to one of hope, joy, and thanksgiving. James 5:17-18 says that Elijah prayed and the whole land did not rain for three and a half years because of the sins of the Israelites (cf. Ps 107:33-35). He prayed again and the rain came down and the earth produced fruit once again.

### The Widow's Deeper Understanding of God

When Elijah took the boy downstairs and gave him to his mother. We can only imagine how joyful she must have been when she saw her son, alive again! What impact did her son's resurrection have on the widow? Read 1 Kings 17:24. The woman said, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth."

God used this crisis to convince the widow that Elijah was a true man of God. He spoke the truth of God, and God listened to him. She came to really know the God of Israel.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One True God

The true God came down from heaven and took the form of a Man, the Lord Jesus. Jesus came to preach the good news of the kingdom of God, but later He was crucified and died on the cross. But the Lord rose on the third day, victorious over sin and death. Because Jesus is God, He has the power to save mankind from sin and death so that our souls can resurrect and be reborn.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

### True or False

- 1. Those who are under grace and blessings will not face trials and afflictions.** False; God allows trials to happen so that we can be transformed.
- 2. The only reason why we face trials is because God is punishing us for our sins.** False; God wants to help strengthen our faith and our relationship with Him.
- 3. After her son was resurrected, the widow realized that God was the true God and that Elijah was a true man of God.** True.
- 4. God allows us to face difficulties so that our faith and trust in God will grow and we can become more perfect.** True.
- 5. The widow blamed herself for her son's death because she was not able to provide enough for him to eat.** False; she blamed Elijah for the boy's death.

### Short Answer

- 6. What can we learn from the way Elijah prayed for the dead boy?** Elijah did not doubt God's power to resurrect the boy. Elijah also prayed unceasingly until the boy came back to life.
- 7. How did this experience of praying for the dead boy help prepare Elijah for his future trials?** Possible answer: His faith in God was strengthened.
- 8. Miracles are only a prayer away. Share a time when a difficult problem was resolved through prayer.** Allow students to share.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. GOD HAS THE POWER TO RESURRECT

From our story today, we learned that the widow's son fell sick and died. When a person's soul leaves his body, the person dies. Later when Elijah prayed for the boy, the soul of the boy returned to his body, and he was able to live again. This is physical resurrection. Read the Bible passages to find out who else resurrected from the dead.

1 Kings 17:17-23

2 Kings 4:18-37

2 Kings 13:20-21

Luke 7:11-15

Luke 8:49-55

John 11:39-44

Acts 9:36-41

Acts 20:9-10

Matthew 28:5-6

The widow of Zarephath's son

The Shunammite woman's son

The man who resurrected upon touching Elisha's bones

The son of the widow from Nain

Jairus' daughter

Lazarus

Dorcas

Eutychus

Jesus

What does the resurrection mean to me?

### The Future Resurrection

Even though most of these characters resurrected in their lifetime, they all eventually died like everyone else because they had mortal bodies, and, as humans, they did not have the power to overcome death.

With the Lord Jesus it was different. After Jesus was crucified on the cross, He rose again on the third day and never died again. Jesus has power over death. When He resurrected Jesus did not resurrect in the same form as His previous physical body, but rather in a spiritual body that is glorious and imperishable.

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Today our Lord Jesus is alive! Because of His resurrection, Jesus has given us a new and living hope (1 Pet 1:3). If Jesus had not overcome death, our faith would be meaningless, and we would have no hope of salvation. Jesus' resurrection is a reminder and a hope to all the believers that, on the last day, God—who raised Jesus from the dead—will also raise us from the dead (2 Cor 4:14). Through the power and might of the Holy Spirit, our physical body will resurrect and be transformed into a spiritual body that is powerful, glorious, and immortal (1 Cor 6:14).

### **Resurrection into a New Creation**

When we are baptized, our old self, our body of sin, is destroyed and dies. When we rise out of the water, we resurrect into a new creation in the likeness of Christ. We no longer belong to sin but have the life, holiness, and righteousness of Christ.

However, though we are a new man after our baptism, we still live in our physical bodies. We continue to have weaknesses, bad habits, and sin against God. However, God understands our nature, so He has given us His Spirit. The very Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is living inside of us, and it is He who gives us life, strength, and power to overcome our weaknesses so that we can strive for perfection (Rom 8:11). What a marvelous blessing and grace this is!

## **2. STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH MUSCLES**

Have you ever played sports or been part of a team, such as a baseball team or basketball team? When you are an athlete, you will realize that to be good at the game or to stay competitive, it is important to spend a number of hours training. The practice trains and strengthens our body so that we can have greater flexibility, move faster and more freely, and play more skillfully.

Imagine what happens if we don't train and use our muscles? What would happen if we just sat around all day? Yes, our muscles will atrophy; they will get smaller, we will get weaker, and our performance would suffer.

It is the same with our faith. Faith is a lot like a muscle—it needs proper food and exercise. In addition to feeding our faith through God's words and praying, God gives us many opportunities to build up our faith muscles so that we become stronger and stronger.

Without these trials, our faith can become sluggish and we will lose focus in life. Each trial makes us stronger and more skillful in fighting against sin and our enemy Satan.

From our lesson, we have learned that God used the trial to strengthen Elijah's prayer muscles. No one attains the perfection of a Christian overnight. No one receives God's power in one or two prayers. Elijah was a man just like us, and he, too, had to be trained in how to pray so that he could be equipped for greater trials that followed.

Immediately after praying for the widow's son, Elijah had to battle alone with the false prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. No one stood on Elijah's side; the Israelites had turned to Baal. For the challenge, Elijah and the prophets of Baal each had to pray to their god to send fire from heaven to burn up the sacrifices. The God who answered would be the true God. The 450 prophets of Baal went first and no matter how hard they prayed, not a single spark came down from heaven to light the sacrifices. It was then Elijah's turn. Because Elijah had the previous experience of resurrecting a dead boy, Elijah believed without a doubt that God would be able to "give life" to the Israelites and cause their hearts to turn back to God. God answered Elijah's prayer and the people of Israel returned to worshipping God.

Immediately after this, another prayer trial awaited Elijah. Elijah had to pray for rain. After three and half years of drought where no crops grew and the land was dry and barren, it was hard to imagine that rain would fall. This time, Elijah prayed not three times, but seven times, for rain. Because of Elijah's complete dedication and faith in prayer, God caused a terrific rainstorm to occur.

### **1. In which areas do you need to train your faith muscles?**

- a. Difficult situation – family problem, health concern, difficulty at school or with schoolwork, etc.
- b. Getting out of a comfort zone – setting a time to pray and read the Bible each day, sharing the gospel with someone, getting rid of a bad habit, obeying parents, changing a weakness in our character, etc.



## 2. What good things can come from the training?

- Have a deeper knowledge of God
- Trust God more
- Our faith is refined
- We can help others through trials
- For God's glory
- Helps us overcome greater trials

## 3. What steps can you take to help you become stronger?

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### Testimony

#### A Drowned Child Was Brought to Life

One day, two-year-old Fei-Wa, together with her five-year-old sister and another friend, went to play in the pool behind the house. They scooped up water to feed the cricket they had with them. Suddenly, Fei-Wa fell into the pool. Fei-Wa's sister did not dare to return home to report what had happened, but the little friend who was with them quickly ran to their house to inform the parents. On hearing the bad news, Fei-Wa's oldest sister ran as fast as she could to investigate.

It so happened that a farmer who was tilling the ground near the pool heard a cry from a washerwoman who had discovered the body. Without any hesitation, he rushed to find out the cause of the cry and together they lifted up the drowned child. The farmer was carrying the dead girl home when he saw Fei-Wa's oldest daughter running towards them, and they brought Fei-Wa home.

In the eyes of a doctor, Fei-Wa's condition was hopeless because Fei-Wa had been under the water for a long time. Her pulse had stopped, her body was cold, her face was pale, and the pupils of her eyes were dilated. In fact, there was no hope of reviving her at all.

Fei-Wa's father however, did not want to give up hope of saving his daughter and being a doctor, he was duty-bound to save her. He used different ways, such as artificial respiration and injections, to try to bring her back to life, but it was no use. She was dead.

When it seemed that there was no hope, Fei-Wa's parents turned to God for help. Together with other church members, who had arrived upon hearing the sad news, they knelt down and pleaded to God for mercy. Outside their house, many unbelievers stopped to look at what was happening. When they saw them praying fervently to God, they murmured among themselves, "How ridiculous and superstitious of them to pray for the revival of a dead child. If they can, through prayers, bring back the life of this child, we would definitely believe that Jesus is indeed the living God."

Although it seemed impossible in the eyes of men, nothing is impossible to God. Thanks to the Lord Jesus for His mercy and grace, their prayers were answered. God manifested His power and brought Fei-Wa back to life. In John 11:25 the Lord Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

#### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; when a person is resurrected, he will still experience a second death.
2. True
3. False; the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is the same Spirit that abides in us.
4. False; those who are under God's grace can still face trials and afflictions.
5. True
6. Jesus, Lazarus, the son of the widow from Zarephath, the Shunammite woman's son, Dorcas, Jairus' daughter, Eutychus, the son of the widow of Nain, the man who touched Elijah's bones
7. It means that we can have faith that He can bring us salvation because He has power over death.
8. Elijah's experience with prayer and faith in God was strengthened; he prayed fervently and without doubt in God's power.
9. Answers may vary.



## Activity

### Resurrection Bingo

10-15 Minutes

#### Materials

- Blank bingo sheet [Make 4 x 4 template with title "Resurrection Bingo"]
- Markers
- Word list
- Clue list

#### Instructions

1. Write the word list on the board. Hand out the blank bingo sheet to the students and have them fill in the blank squares using the words in the word list. They can fill the sheet in any way they wish.
2. Randomly read out the clues and have the students cross out the correct answers on their sheet.
3. The goal is to try to get four in a row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. The first student that gets four in a row calls out "Resurrection" and double-checks with the teacher for confirmation that they have crossed out the correct answers.
4. If time permits, play another game. Students can use different markers for a new game to recycle the bingo sheet.

#### Word List

- Resurrection
- Crisis
- Man of God
- Imperishable
- Seven times
- Faith muscles
- Lazarus
- Dorcas
- Power over death
- Three times
- Baptism
- Jesus
- Trials
- Shunammite woman
- New creation
- Spiritual body

#### Clue List

Clue	Answer
The first person to resurrect and not die again.	Jesus
The widow of Zarephath recognized Elijah to be this.	Man of God
Trials and difficulties strengthen these.	Faith muscles
Elijah prayed this many times for rain.	Seven times
This is what happens when the soul of a dead person returns to his body.	Resurrection
He was dead for four days before he was resurrected.	Lazarus
God uses these to perfect our faith.	Trials
Jesus did not go through a physical death after His resurrection because He had this.	Power over death
Our old self dies and is buried during this.	Baptism
She had the same experience as the widow in today's story.	Shunammite woman
Elijah prayed this many times for the dead boy.	Three times
In the future, we will resurrect into a body that is this.	Immortal
After a period of peace and grace, the widow of Zarephath met with this	Crisis
She was known for her good deeds and for the clothes she made for others. She also died and resurrected.	Dorcas
While everyone else resurrected back into a physical body, Jesus resurrected into this kind of body.	Spiritual body
During baptism, after we rise out of the water, we become this.	New creation

## ELIJAH RESTORES A BOY TO LIFE THROUGH GOD'S POWER

### A. A Crisis in the Widow's House

a. After a period of peace and blessings, what crisis occurred in the widow's home?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. How did the widow feel? Read 1 Kings 17:18.

1. "What have I to do with you, O man of God?" \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance?" \_\_\_\_\_
3. "And to kill my son?" \_\_\_\_\_



### B. God Gives Us Trials to Stretch Our Faith

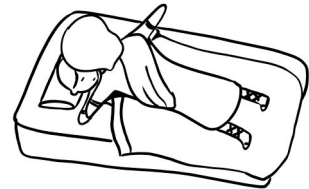
a. God gives us trials to help us think about our \_\_\_\_\_, our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

b. God is in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### C. Elijah Prays

How did Elijah pray for the dead boy? Read 1 Kings 17:20-22.

1. Elijah \_\_\_\_\_ God why this happened, but he did not \_\_\_\_\_ God.
2. Elijah \_\_\_\_\_ himself out on the child \_\_\_\_\_ times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's \_\_\_\_\_ come back to him."
3. Elijah prayed until God \_\_\_\_\_ his prayers.



### D. The Widow's Deeper Understanding of God

God used this crisis to convince the widow that Elijah was a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ . He spoke the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and God \_\_\_\_\_ to him.



## 1. GOD HAS THE POWER TO RESURRECT

A. Look up the Bible passages to find out who resurrected from the dead.

- 1 Kings 17:17-23 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Kings 4:18-37 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Kings 13:20-21 \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 7:11-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 8:49-55 \_\_\_\_\_
- John 11:39-44 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 9:36-41 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 20:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 28:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_



B. What does the resurrection mean to me?

### The Future Resurrection

With Jesus Second Coming, God who raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us from the dead (2 Cor 4:14). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our physical body will resurrect and be transformed into a spiritual body that is powerful, glorious and immortal (1 Cor 6:14).



### Resurrection into a New Creation

When we are baptized, our body of sin dies and is buried. When we rise out of the water, we resurrect into a new creation in the likeness of Christ.

## 2. STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH MUSCLES

1. In which areas do you need to train your faith muscles?

2. What good things can come from the training?

3. What steps can you take to help you become stronger?





# Resurrection Bingo




## E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 3—Elijah Restores a Boy to Life through God's Power

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

### What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Corinthians 6:14)

\_\_\_\_\_

### True or False

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Resurrection is when the soul of a dead person returns to his physical body and he lives forever afterwards.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ When we are baptized, our old self dies and our soul then resurrects to be a new creation in Christ.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Spirit that raised Jesus up from the dead is different from the one that lives in us today.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Those who are under God's grace and blessings will not face trials and afflictions.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ We face trials so that our faith and trust in God will grow and so that we can become more perfect.

### Short Answer

6. Name three people who resurrected in the Bible.
  
7. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you today?
  
8. How did the experience of praying for the dead boy help prepare Elijah for his future trials?
  
9. Miracles are only a prayer away. Share a time when you had a difficult problem that was solved through prayer.

# LESSON 4

## ELIJAH CHALLENGES THE PROPHETS OF BAAL ON MT. CARMEL

### OBJECTIVES

1. To know that the Lord is the one and only true God.
2. To understand that God wants us to make the right choices in our faith.
3. To stand up for God by doing what is right, even if we stand alone.

### MEMORY VERSE

“The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.”

(Proverbs 15:29)

### PRAYER

Dear Lord, some days we have challenges. Sometimes, the challenge seems so big, and we don't know how to overcome it. But You said that You will provide for us and care for us in times of need. Please give us the courage to be brave. We know that You are the only true God. Apart from You, there is no other god that can save us. Give us, Lord, a courageous spirit to stand up for what is right. There are many false gods around us, and we need to focus our eyes on You. Please give us the Holy Spirit as we eagerly pray for Your presence to come into our lives.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Elijah, the Prophet
- b. Understanding the Geography
- c. Israel's Worship of Baal
- d. Another Faithful Servant of God
- e. The Challenge for the True God

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God

#### 3. Life Application

- a. Truly Knowing God!
- b. Taking a Stand for God

#### 4. Activity—Mt. Carmel Diorama



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

#### Israel and Baal

Baal is a Semitic god mentioned earliest in the Bible as Baal of Peor (Num 25:3, Deut 4:3). The Hebrew word ba'al literally means “lord” or “owner.” This generic name may be the reason for the multiple iterations of Baal throughout the Israelites' journey to and residence in Canaan, as they faced the spiritual influences of the people around them. The Baal of the Canaanites was a supreme deity associated with the weather, agriculture, and animal fertility. In Judges 8:33, after Gideon passed, the phrase “Baal-Berith” connotes that Baal, like the Lord, was a god of a covenant.

The Sidonian princess Queen Jezebel introduced the Baal during Elijah's period to the Israelites as the national religious deity. This Phoenician-Sidonian Baal is the equivalent of the Babylonian-Assyrian god Hadad, the god of the thunderstorms. The worship of Baal was prevalent until the reign of Jehu, who, by the command of God, struck down the house of Ahab and Jezebel and tore down the idols of Baal (2 Kgs 10:26-28). Prophet Jeremiah called these idols dull-hearted and foolish, being only wood, and emphasized that there is none like the Lord, King of the nations (Jer 10:5-10).

#### The Standoff

The false prophets at the time of Elijah were different from those “disguised as sheep,” as warned by Jesus in Matthew 7:15. The prophets that faced off against Elijah on Mount Carmel were prophets of a different religion altogether and did not suppose themselves to be of the Lord.

They did not hide their nature or their worship of Baal. This was the spiritual adultery committed by the people of Israel: while they were cleaved to the Lord, they did not practice fidelity in their faith, but worshipped Baal and Asherah—the national religion. For this reason, all the more was courage required by Elijah to stand up against them. As Elijah proclaimed a physical drought, the Israelite people were in the midst of a spiritual drought.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

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### **Courage**

What does courage mean to our students today? Does it mean to be daring or to take risks others wouldn't take? These are outcomes of having courage, but do not define courage itself. In school, students will face a myriad of scenarios where they have to decide whether or not they will do what is morally, ethically, and spiritually correct, or side with the popular trend. It is not easy for our young students to be different from their peers, to "say no," or more importantly, to be a witness for the gospel. This lesson focuses around Elijah's actions that were courageous, but students should be reminded that Elijah's courage only stemmed from his intimate relationship with God. Review Elijah's faithfulness with the students, guiding them to see that it was a direct factor in building up Elijah's confidence to complete this work.

### **Prayer to God**

Your students have been taught to turn to God when they have a need, but this act of reliance can become an empty, habitual action if our conduct is not like that of a faithful Christian and if we don't worship God alone, wholeheartedly. Elijah possessed two important traits outlined in James 5:15-18. Elijah was a righteous man who prayed fervently, thus allowing his prayer to be effective. The work of prayer is important, but remind your students that not only do they have to pray fervently, but once they say "Amen," they must also act, speak, and walk in a way that pleases God. If their conduct after prayer is unbecoming of a Christian, then the words they speak in prayer are likened to empty promises being made to God. If possible, conclude this lesson with a longer prayer than normal to remind the students of the importance of an effective prayer.



## Opener

*5 Minutes*

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Raise your hand if you have a favorite toy. Favorite video game? Favorite TV show? Favorite actor? Favorite singer? Favorite comic book? Favorite super hero?

All of us have favorites. We like these things because they mean something to us, because we want to be like them, because they excite us, or for many other reasons.

However, do we sometimes make these things more important than God in our lives? Do we choose to have fun instead of worshipping the one true God? Do we play a game, read a book, or watch a show, even when we know that it is against the Bible and even when we know that God and our parents wouldn't want us to watch it? Instead of reading the Bible and praying, do we choose to have fun? When we do this, we are putting these things as more important than God. When we do this, these things become idols in our lives. They take our focus away from God, and we must recognize how important it is to put away these idols.

Today, we will learn how Elijah challenged the entire Israelite nation to follow God and only God.



## Vocabulary

**Asherah:** a foreign idol from the region of Sidon, tied with fertility

**Baal:** a foreign idol from the region of Sidon, associated with thunder

**drought:** a period of time during which rain does not fall

**altar:** a place where people offer sacrifices to God, usually made of stone, wood, or bronze

**religious adultery:** the act of worshipping more than one god at the same time; the act of abandoning the true God to worship a false god



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### Elijah, the Prophet

Today, we will continue to learn about the faithful prophet for whom God cared and provided, Elijah the Tishbite.

Discuss with the student next to you two ways God provided for Elijah and two ways Elijah was faithful to God. (God provided water and bread brought by ravens at the Brook Cherith; God provided oil and flour for Elijah, the widow of Zarephath, and her son. Elijah spoke as God had commanded regarding the drought; Elijah went where God commanded him: to the Brook Cherith and to Zarephath.)

#### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery map to the students now. It indicates the important locations in Elijah's travels and will be referenced in the lesson.

### Understanding the Geography

Before we dive into the story, we will check our maps and find the place we are studying about today. Can anyone find Mount Carmel? [Locate points 6 and 7 on the map.] Let's draw a muscular arm here! Today, we will be learning about a standoff between Elijah and the prophets of two false gods the Israelites were worshipping at the time: Baal, the god whom they believed brought them rain to nourish their crops, and Asherah, the goddess of fertility whom they believed could give them and their animals more babies. Who do you think introduced these gods to the Israelites for them to worship? (King Ahab's wife, Queen Jezebel.)

### Israel's Worship of Baal

Queen Jezebel wanted Israel to worship Baal and Asherah, the gods she had brought from her home country of Sidon. Along with the idols, she also brought many prophets to help her worship these false gods. But these prophets were false prophets. Can you guess how many there were? Let us read 1 Kings 18:19; there were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 hundred prophets of Asherah! And to make sure her religion was the national religion,

Jezebel also killed many of the prophets of the Lord. This was a grave sin and made God very angry.

When God wants to deliver a message to His people, how does He do so? Through His prophets. Usually, the message the prophets delivered was not a kind message, but a message of warning, to turn back and only worship the true God. That is why Elijah proclaimed a natural disaster across the nation of Israel. Does anyone remember what it was? (A drought.) Yes! During a drought, no rain would fall, so the crops would dry out and there would be no water to drink or food to eat. By God's command through Elijah, it did not rain for three and a half years. What happens to your mouth if you don't drink any water for a day? It goes dry. Can you imagine if all the water in the area dries up so that you have no more water to drink? This was how angry the Israelites made God with their worship of Baal and Asherah.

### Another Faithful Servant of God

Now, even though Jezebel had managed to kill many prophets of the Lord, one of her servants, named Obadiah, was still faithful to God and hid 100 prophets of the Lord in two caves, feeding them with bread and water. This was a man who feared God! In the third year of the drought, God told Elijah to show himself to Ahab; God was going to send rain soon. God wanted Elijah to show King Ahab who was the one and only, almighty God. As Elijah was on his way to see King Ahab, he suddenly met Obadiah, who had been sent to search for water. Elijah told Obadiah, "Go tell your master, 'Elijah is here.'" At first, Obadiah was afraid that the Spirit of God would take Elijah away and that King Ahab would think he was lying. But Elijah promised Obadiah that he would not go anywhere because this was God's plan. Elijah wasn't going to hide anymore; it was time for Elijah to make a stand, to show King Ahab who was the one true God.

### The Challenge for the True God

When King Ahab saw Elijah, what did he call Elijah? ("O troubler of Israel.") But Elijah responded that it was not his



that there had not been any rain; he was only the messenger. It was King Ahab and his father's house who had brought the trouble to Israel because they would not listen to the commands of the Lord and chose to follow the Baals. This was religious adultery. The Ten Commandments says that we cannot commit adultery, which means we must remain faithful to one husband or to one wife. Religious adultery is very similar; the people of Israel were only supposed to remain faithful to and worship one God, but they were worshipping many. What's worse, they were unsure of who the true God was and unsure of whom they should worship.

Elijah was going to put an end to this, so he told King Ahab to send for all the prophets of Baal and Asherah and for the Israelites. They all gathered at Mount Carmel. Elijah said to the people, "How long will you keep wavering between Baal and God? If the Lord is your God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not say a single word. So, he put forth a challenge to all the false prophets of Baal and Asherah. Does anyone remember how many there were? (There were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.) Each of the prophets would offer a bull as a sacrifice. The God who answered by fire, He was God. The people agreed that this challenge was a good one.

Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. So all 450 prophets began to shout, "O Baal, hear us!" Nothing happened. Elijah began to laugh at them. "Maybe Baal's taking a nap," Elijah teased. "Maybe he's away on a trip." The prophets cried out and cut themselves. Maybe by shouting and making themselves bleed, they could get Baal's attention. The prophets of Baal tried harder and harder, but no fire came from heaven. Nothing happened at all.

Late that afternoon, it was Elijah's turn, but before Elijah prayed, he knew how important it was for the people to understand that God was the true God of the Israelites. So, he took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, and built an altar from them. He prepared the wood for the altar, and then placed the sacrifice on top. Then, he took four large jars and asked men to fill the four jars with water. Remember that there was a drought, so water was rare! But Elijah wanted to make sure God's power was shown clearly. He instructed the four jars to be poured over the sacrifice and on the wood three times. In total, how many jars of water did they pour on the altar? (Twelve.) The water soaked the wood and even filled up the trench that he had dug around the altar. After all this, Elijah waited for the time that God had set for evening sacrifices, and then prayed. Let us read his prayer: 1 Kings 18:36-37. Elijah was praying that God would show to all the people that He was the true God, and that He had turned their hearts away from Baal to return to Him again. Right away, God sent fire from heaven. The fire was

so hot that it consumed everything! It burned up the sacrifice. It burned up the wet wood. It burned up the stones. It even burned up the water in the trench! It was certainly a miraculous sign from the true God.

When the people saw this, they fell on their faces and said... [Instruct students to read 1 Kings 18:39 together with a loud voice] "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" The people "fell on their faces" at the sight of God's power and acknowledged that God alone was the God of Israel. Elijah commanded all the prophets of Baal to be seized, not one was to escape, and he executed these false prophets who had tried to cause the people to worship a false god. Elijah then turned to King Ahab and told him to eat and drink, for there would no longer be the trouble of the drought. God had shown that He was the true almighty God. Rain was coming.

This was such an amazing event! God's power was displayed for all to see. Fire came down, the false prophets were killed, and God's people turned from their idols to return to worshipping the one true God. "Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain" (1 Kgs 18:45). God's mighty work had been done and the people had returned to the Lord. The drought was over.

#### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. Guide the students to fill in the blanks. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One true God

In Elijah's time, idols and false gods surrounded the Israelites, who had been led to worship the wrong gods. But in the challenge on Mount Carmel, the Israelites saw firsthand who the true God was. There is only one true God, and that is our God.

Nowadays, idols or false gods may not surround us, but we still might find it hard to focus on worshipping the one true God. We must remember that there is only one God whom we must worship. This God is living and all-powerful. He is our Creator and the only one through whom we can receive salvation. We should not turn to worship idols of this world, and falter between God and them. We must be confident that there is only one true God and stay faithful to Him.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What did God want Elijah to do to end the drought?** He wanted Elijah to show himself to King Ahab.
2. **How many prophets of the Lord did Obadiah hide?** He hid 100 prophets in two caves.
3. **How many prophets of Baal and Asherah were there?** There were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.
4. **Who was at Mount Carmel to see the challenge of the true God?** Elijah, King Ahab, the 850 false prophets, and the people of Israel were at Mount Carmel.
5. **How many stones did Elijah use to build the altar?** Twelve stones.
6. **How many jars of water did Elijah have poured on the sacrifice?** Twelve jars of water.
7. **What happened after Elijah prayed to God?** The fire of the Lord fell and consumed the sacrifice, the altar, and all the water around it. Then the people fell on their faces and proclaimed, "The Lord, He is God!"



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. TRULY KNOWING GOD!

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 and go over it with the students. Allow the students to read the scenarios on their own, and then ask them how they would have reacted in the same situations. Allow the students to come to their own conclusion about the importance of knowing God and standing up for God.]

#### 1. God wants us to know Him and be aware of the gods of our culture so that we can make decisions in times of confrontation.

How important is it to know God? Our lives depend on it. Jesus said in John 17:3, "And this is **eternal life**, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Exodus 20:3 also states, "You shall have no other gods before Me."

#### A. Why would it be foolish to live as if there were no God?

Read Psalm 53:1.

*"The fool has said in his heart,  
'There is no God.'  
They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity;  
There is none who does good."*

## B. In today's age, what gods do people worship? Do we worship idols in this country?

An idol can really be anything that you allow to take first place in your life, instead of the true and living God. Maybe we don't worship idols of wood or stone, but we may worship material idols (toys, possessions), human idols (athletes, celebrities, etc.), or idols of the eyes, of the flesh, and of pride (power, pleasure, etc.). There are also other idols, such as drugs and alcohol, and false religions, such as witchcraft and the occult. These idols are what keep us from knowing God fully and truly desiring Him.

If we desire to know God and love God, we must recognize the idols of this culture and turn away from them. Then, we can begin or renew a relationship with Jesus Christ, and put our trust and faith in Him. He promised us, "He who believes in me shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35).

### Scenario

Sitting at the lunch table surrounded by his friends, Jacob looked around. They excitedly shared their tips and tricks for playing the latest video games and talked about how they couldn't believe what had happened in last week's episode of the show they were all watching. Jacob looked down at his sandwich and thought, "They always talk about these things every single day! I don't play the latest games, and I don't watch that show. I feel so left out!" Grudgingly eating his sandwich, Jacob remembered how he had learned about the idols of the world in RE class recently. A light bulb suddenly lit up in his head. "What if... those games and that TV show... are their idols?" Even though Jacob felt left out at times, he knew that it was good that he didn't follow his friends in worshipping those idols. He wanted to be like Elijah and follow the true God. As he walked home that day, instead of being upset, Jacob eagerly thought about learning the word of God so that he could draw closer to Him. Entering the door, Jacob exclaimed, "I'm home, Mom! Are you free to read the Bible with me?" With a smile on her face and a Bible in hand, his mother soon appeared, and together, they read the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. After reading, they prayed together. Feeling refreshed, Jacob thought, "Wow, why didn't I ever think of reading the Bible after school before?" After that day, Jacob was determined to read the Bible as often as he could and to draw close to God.

2. **We need to confront what is right and wrong.** Just because the majority rules, it doesn't mean that what the majority thinks is the truth. Even though many people worship sincerely, if they worship the wrong thing, it can be self-destructive.

### Scenario

"Come on, Maria, hurry up!" Waiting just off school grounds, Maria's friends motioned to her. All of Maria's friends had decided that it would be fun to go to the nearby convenience store to get a snack for lunch, but it was against school rules to leave during school hours. "No one's going to get hurt, so why does it matter?" Maria's friends reasoned. But Maria still knew that it was wrong. She knew that the rules had been put there to keep them safe. Maria had always been known as the "good girl," and she didn't want her friends to make fun of her again. Still... Maria closed her eyes and said a silent prayer in her heart. Asking God for strength, she determined not to let her friends pressure her into doing the wrong thing. With a firm voice, Maria politely declined. "No, I don't want to go with you guys." Her friends shook their heads and snickered. "We knew you were going to say no... you're never any fun. This is the last time we'll ever ask you to join us for anything!" Watching them leave, frozen by the stinging of her friends' words, Maria felt more alone than ever. But in her heart, Maria knew that she was never alone. She'd rather stand alone on the right side, God's side, than with others on the wrong side. Knowing that she had made the right choice, Maria smiled and quietly recited some verses as she went to get lunch.



## 2A. TAKING A STAND FOR GOD

It is never easy to take a stand against popular opinion, but this is what is asked of us when we are called to be Christians. Ask your students what they think makes a good Christian. What kind of conduct, speech, and thoughts let people know that they are good Christians? Next, ask your students how many of their friends exhibit these qualities. There may be a few, but, by and large, most people we meet outside of church, even those with good qualities, don't follow God's commandments. In elementary school, students will start to face the pressure to be normal and accepted. But for all the people of faith in the Bible, they didn't expect to blend into the crowd of normalcy. Rather, they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Heb 11:13).

Let's reflect on what kind of peer pressures you may face at school and how you may hide your Christian qualities to avoid being mocked or ridiculed. For example, you may be laughed at for saying grace or for not using rude language, or pressured into making fun of others, cheating on tests, skipping classes, stealing money from your parents to buy lunch at school, playing games on your phones or computer, or gossiping about others. We can encounter any or all of these in school, so we must remember to stand firm and take a stand for God.

Ask the students to brainstorm together different peer pressures they may face and how they can take a stand for God. Refer to 1 Peter 5:9 and 2 Timothy 2:22 to encourage students to work together to resist these peer pressures so that they can all be like Elijah.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 to the students. Put the students in groups of 2-3 and ask them to read the scenarios and answer the discussion questions. When they have all finished discussing, come together as a class to discuss their answers.]

### Scenarios

A. It was Christmas time and Nicole's friends had planned a Christmas party where they would play "Secret Santa," which required each person to buy a present for another secretly. Nicole knew that Christmas had pagan origins and that the Bible did not tell us to celebrate Christmas, but she didn't want to risk losing her friends or becoming a social outcast!

- **What were the peer pressures Nicole faced?** She felt pressured to join the party and participate in Secret Santa because she didn't want to be considered an outsider.
- **How could Nicole make a stand for God?** She could make a stand by not participating in the party and explaining to her friends why she didn't observe Christmas. She could go even further by sharing what she believed being a Christian means.

B. Matt's friends at school were always making dirty jokes at school to make fun of their teachers or other classmates. He knew that the jokes they were making were not nice and could hurt others, but Matt was afraid that if he didn't laugh along with them and join in, then they would think he was a boring, uptight person.

- **How could Matt make a stand for God?** Matt could make a stand for God by letting his friends know that he is a Christian, and that he does not like it when they use bad language or make fun of others in a hurtful way. He could also make sure that he doesn't do the same!
- **Have you ever experienced the same situation as Matt? If so, how did you respond?** Allow students to share.

## 2B. ELIJAH'S POWERFUL PRAYER

The way to overcome peer pressure together is first and foremost prayer. Prayer is also a simple way for students to experience that the Lord is their God and is real. Read James 5:15-18 together with the class, emphasizing on "righteous." Quiz the students on what it means to be "righteous." Does God hear the wicked? Proverbs 15:29 says that God is "far from the wicked, but He hears the prayers of the righteous." So, while we work hard to take a stand for God, we must build up our courage and bravery. Read Joshua 1:9 and 2 Timothy 1:7 together with the class. Have the students memorize Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel together; it is a prayer that asks God to hear his cry to show the people that the Lord is the true God. Elijah's prayer was, "Hear me, O Lord, hear me." The repetition expresses the burden on his soul. Elijah's prayer were answered by great works from God because Elijah was:

1. **righteous** – He did what was right in God's eyes and conducted himself as a servant of God (a Christian) would.
2. **effective and fervent** – This was truly a prayer of faith. He trusted God for the outcome so completely that the actual request was not mentioned. He didn't ask for fire, but he did ask for God to be honored. What an effective and fervent prayer!

**Note:** This would be a good opportunity to share with students how you prayed for and received the Holy Spirit. Explain that even after Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, he still prayed seven times for rain to come. Only then did he see the cloud of rain. Students need to pray as often as they can to ensure that they can stand strong with courage for God.

[Continue with Life Application Worksheet #2.]

A. Oscar was fearful every time he went to school. He knew that the moment he stepped into school, Roger would grab him and take his lunch money. Oscar had tried praying about this, but felt as if his prayers had no power... One day, Oscar told his RE teacher about his problem, and his RE teacher told him that it was very serious and that he should tell his parents and schoolteacher. But his RE teacher also told him that they could also pray together for this challenge. And guess what? God came through for Oscar. When they all prayed for this matter, God heard their cry! The following week, the teacher caught Roger in the act of bullying and the school officials disciplined him. Our God is truly a mighty God who knows our fears, and He is there for us.

- **What did Oscar pray about in his prayer?** He prayed for the courage to tell his schoolteacher about Roger, for God's protection so that Roger wouldn't steal his lunch money, and for peace so that even if something bad happened, Oscar would not be discouraged.
- **Do you have a teacher or friends that you can pray together with about important matters? Please list them out and thank God!**

B. Over a year ago, Vicky's dad lost his job. For an entire year, every night, Vicky's parents would bring her and her little brother together to pray at night. They would always pray for God to provide for their family and to help their dad find a job, among other prayer requests. After a year, Vicky's dad finally found a new job! Thank God!! It was one of the happiest days of Vicky's life. God had provided!

- **How do you think Vicky felt when she was praying for the same thing over and over again for a year without any answer?** She probably felt tired, sad that there was no result, discouraged, unsure, or doubtful, but thankful that she could pray together with her family.
- **Have you ever prayed a long time for something? What was it?**

[Discuss the questions as a class, and then ask the students to take out a piece of paper. Instruct them, "In your own words, use Elijah's prayer as an example to ask God for help with one of the peer pressures you brainstormed about earlier." Provide guidance where needed.]



## Activity

### Mt. Carmel Diorama

10-15 Minutes

**Objective:** To allow students to visualize the magnitude of Elijah's challenge on Mount Carmel.

A visual representation of the sheer number of prophets Elijah challenged alone will be stunning and can help students understand that while it may be difficult to stand up for God, God will always be on our side.

#### Materials

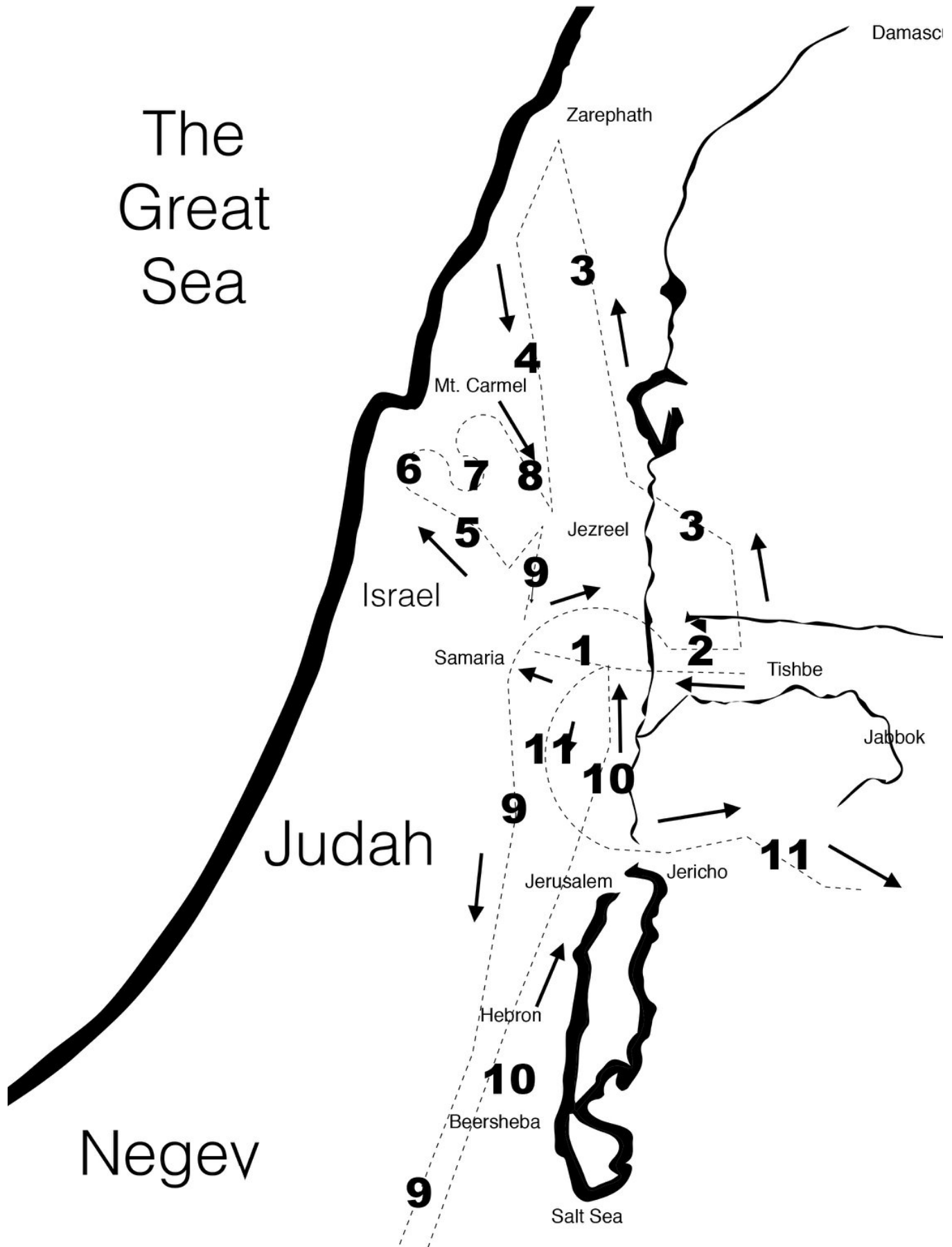
- Large piece of cardboard
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Popsicle sticks
- Jelly beans (or like-sized confectionary, e.g., jelly babies, M&Ms, etc.)
- 1 Tic-Tac
- Markers

#### Instructions

1. Cover the cardboard with construction paper to create the "battleground."
2. Glue 850 jelly beans on one half of the battleground.
3. Glue the Tic-Tac on the opposite end of the cardboard. In between, make an altar out of popsicle sticks.
4. Somewhere near the Tic-Tac, write, "The Lord is God, Follow Him – He Will Always Give Us the Victory."
5. Reiterate that we must always take a stand for God and worship Him, even if we're standing alone.
6. Sing the hymn, "God Will Always Give Us the Victory," to conclude.

#### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; Obadiah hid 100 of the Lord's prophets in two caves.
2. False; the prophets of Baal received no answer at all.
3. True
4. He took twelve stones to make the altar, put the wood and sacrifice on top, and then poured twelve jars of water over the top to soak the wood and sacrifice. There was even water left in the trench around the altar.
5. God ended the drought after the people turned back to Him on Mount Carmel.
6. The prophets of Baal and Elijah would both each offer a bull on an altar and call upon their gods/God. The God who answered by fire would be recognized as the real God.
7. Answers may vary. Possible answers: say grace, tell friends not to swear, invite a friend to come to church, etc.
8. Answers may vary. Possible answers: Through receiving the Holy Spirit, through looking at God's Creation, through experiencing miracles in life, through reading the Bible, through hearing testimonies from friends and family, etc.



## A Day of Victory at Mount Carmel with Elijah

*Let's imagine that we are all up on Mt. Carmel right now.*

“So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word” (1 Kgs 18:20-21).

Elijah opened with a powerful question: “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” The Bible tells us, “The people answered him not a word.”

**When Elijah asked the Israelites how long they would keep going back and forth between idols and God, they didn't know how to respond. It is dangerous to be indecisive when choosing whom to worship.**

Let's go through all the steps to see how God showed Himself to be the strongest at the end.

Step  
1

We need to clarify whom we need to worship: God or Baal?



Elijah proposed to prepare a sacrifice. He allowed the prophets of Baal to choose one of two available bulls. Elijah would use the other. The prophets would prepare the animal and place it on the altar. But they were not to put fire under it. This was the key. Fire was needed to make a burnt offering and this was the real test to see who was the true God.

Step  
2



Step  
3

A prayer contest! Elijah told the prophets to call on Baal; he would call on the Lord. So, the challenge began!

Step  
4

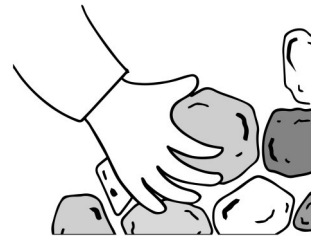
The false prophets' god did not answer. There was no voice.



“So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, ‘O Baal, hear us!’ But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar that they had made. And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, ‘Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.’ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention” (vv. 26-29).

Step  
5

Elijah repaired the broken-down altar of God (vv. 30-31).



Step  
6

Elijah dug a trench around the altar (v. 32).

Step  
7

He had the people drench the altar with water (vv. 33-35).



Step  
8

Elijah's powerful and effective prayer



“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again” (vv. 36-37).



God's fire fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice.  
It fell down from heaven; the fire didn't come from the altar (v. 38).

Step  
9

Step  
10

The people's hearts turned back and worshipped the one true God (v. 39). In reverence for God and in astonishment at the fire, they “fell on their faces” at the sight of God's power and worshipped Him.



Elijah seized the false prophets and killed them all at the Brook Kishon.

Step  
11

**Conclusion**

God revealed Himself strong and the people returned to the Lord!



## A Day of Victory at Mount Carmel with Elijah

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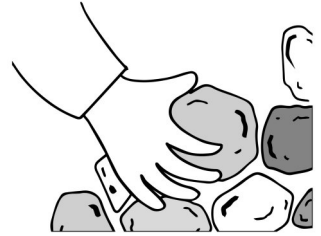


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Step  
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He had the people drench the altar with w\_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 33-35).



Step  
8

Elijah's p\_\_\_\_\_ and effective prayer



“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are G\_\_\_\_\_ in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. H\_\_\_\_\_ me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the L\_\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_\_, and that You have turned their h\_\_\_\_\_ back to You again” (vv. 36-37).



God's f\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ and consumed the burnt sacrifice. It fell down from heaven; the fire didn't come from the altar (v. 38).

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The people's hearts t\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ and worshipped the one t\_\_\_\_\_ God (v. 39). In reverence for God and in astonishment at the fire, they “fell on their faces” at the sight of God's power and worshipped Him.



Elijah s\_\_\_\_\_ the false prophets and k\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ all at the Brook Kishon.

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**Conclusion**

God revealed Himself strong and the people returned to the Lord!



## TRULY KNOWING GOD!

### 1. God wants us to know Him and be aware of the gods of our culture so that we can make decisions in times of confrontation.

How important is it to know God? Our lives depend on it. Jesus said in John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Exodus 20:3 also states, "You shall have no other \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_."

A. Why would it be foolish to live as if there were no God?

Read Psalm 53:1.

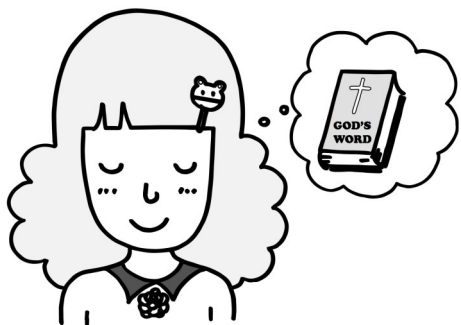
B. In today's age, what gods do people worship? Do we worship idols in this country?

#### Scenario

Sitting at the lunch table surrounded by his friends, Jacob looked around. They excitedly shared their tips and tricks for playing the latest video games and talked about how they couldn't believe what had happened in last week's episode of the show they were all watching. Jacob looked down at his sandwich and thought, "They always talk about these things every single day! I don't play the latest games, and I don't watch that show. I feel so left out!" Grudgingly eating his sandwich, Jacob remembered how he had learned about the idols of the world in RE class recently. A light bulb suddenly lit up in his head. "What if... those games and that TV show... are their idols?" Even though Jacob felt left out at times, he knew that it was good that he didn't follow his friends in worshipping those idols. He wanted to be like Elijah and follow the true God. As he walked home that day, instead of being upset, Jacob eagerly thought about learning the word of God so that he could draw closer to Him. Entering the door, Jacob exclaimed, "I'm home, Mom! Are you free to read the Bible with me?" With a smile on her face and a Bible in hand, his mother soon appeared, and together, they read the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. After reading, they prayed together. Feeling refreshed, Jacob thought, "Wow, why didn't I ever think of reading the Bible after school before?" After that day, Jacob was determined to read the Bible as often as he could and to draw close to God.



### 2. We need to confront what is right and wrong.



#### Scenario

"Come on, Maria, hurry up!" Waiting just off school grounds, Maria's friends motioned to her. All of Maria's friends had decided that it would be fun to go to the nearby convenience store to get a snack for lunch, but it was against school rules to leave during school hours. "No one's going to get hurt, so why does it matter?" Maria's friends reasoned. But Maria still knew that it was wrong. She knew that the rules had been put there to keep them safe. Maria had always been known as the "good girl," and she didn't want her friends to make fun of her again. Still... Maria closed her eyes and said a silent prayer in her heart. Asking God for strength, she determined not to let her friends pressure her into doing the wrong thing. With a firm voice, Maria politely declined. "No, I don't want to go

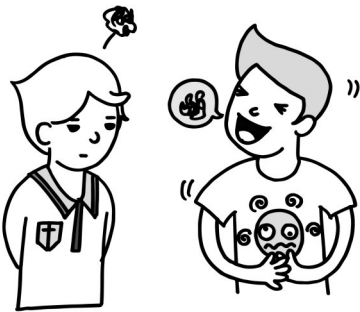
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## TAKING A STAND FOR GOD

**Scenario A**

It was Christmas time and Nicole's friends had planned a Christmas party where they would play "Secret Santa," which required each person to buy a present for another secretly. Nicole knew that Christmas had pagan origins and that the Bible did not tell us to celebrate Christmas, but she didn't want to risk losing her friends or becoming a social outcast!

- What were the peer pressures Nicole faced?
- How could Nicole make a stand for God?

**Scenario B**

Matt's friends at school were always making dirty jokes at school to make fun of their teachers or other classmates. He knew that the jokes they were making were not nice and could hurt others, but Matt was afraid that if he didn't laugh along with them and join in, then they would think he was a boring, uptight person.

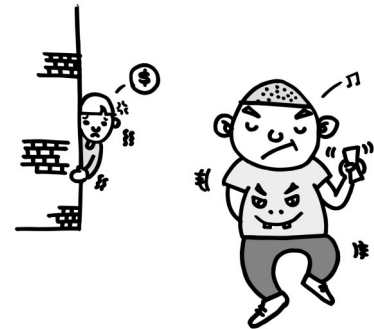
- How could Matt make a stand for God?
- Have you ever experienced the same situation as Matt? If so, how did you respond?

## ELIJAH'S POWERFUL PRAYER

**Scenario A**

Oscar was fearful every time he went to school. He knew that the moment he stepped into school, Roger would grab him and take his lunch money. Oscar had tried praying about this, but felt as if his prayers had no power... One day, Oscar told his RE teacher about his problem, and his RE teacher told him that it was very serious and that he should tell his parents and schoolteacher. But his RE teacher also told him that they could also pray together for this challenge. And guess what? God came through for Oscar. When they all prayed for this matter, God heard their cry! The following week, the teacher caught Roger in the act of bullying and the school officials disciplined him. Our God is truly a mighty God who knows our fears, and He is there for us.

- What did Oscar pray about in his prayer?
- Do you have a teacher or friends that you can pray together with about important matters? Please list them out and thank God!

**Scenario B**

Over a year ago, Vicky's dad lost his job. For an entire year, every night, Vicky's parents would bring her and her little brother together to pray at night. They would always pray for God to provide for their family and to help their dad find a job, among other prayer requests. After a year, Vicky's dad finally found a new job! Thank God!! It was one of the happiest days of Vicky's life. God had provided!

- How do you think Vicky felt when she was praying for the same thing over and over again for a year without any answer?
- Have you ever prayed a long time for something? What was it?



E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 3—Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Proverbs 15:29**)

\_\_\_\_\_

### True or False

1. Queen Jezebel had killed all of the Lord's prophets and only Elijah was alive. \_\_\_\_\_
2. After the prophets of Baal cut themselves, Baal answered by sending down fire. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The people of Israel turned back to God after witnessing God's great power and realizing that He was the true God. \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Answer

4. Before praying to God, what steps did Elijah take to prepare the altar?
5. When did God end the drought?
6. What was Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal to show who was the real god?
7. Write down one way you can stand up for God in school this week.
8. How do we know our God is real today? List out three ways in your life when God has let you know that He is real.

# LESSON 5

## ELIJAH FLEES FOR HIS LIFE



### OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that God will help us when we are afraid.
2. To understand that we are not alone and that we have a strong group of people that can support us when we face fears.

### MEMORY VERSE

“So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”

(Hebrews 13:6)

### PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for guiding us safely through another week. We faced many problems this week. Some were small; others were big. Sometimes, these problems can be so overwhelming. We become frustrated, trapped, and afraid because we cannot find a solution. But Lord, You are merciful. You watch over us and protect us. Thank You for leading us through our problems daily, so that we can pass through the week safely to worship You at Your church.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Queen Jezebel Threatens Elijah's Life (1 Kgs 19:1-2)
- b. Elijah Flees for His Life (1 Kgs 19:3-8)
- c. God Speaks to Elijah (1 Kgs 19:9-14)
- d. God Encourages Elijah (1 Kgs 19:15-21)

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God

#### 3. Life Application

- a. God can help us overcome our fears.
- b. How can we trust in God and rely on Him?

#### 4. Activity—Prayer Network; The Power of the Word of God



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

#### A Wicked King and Queen Ruled Israel (1 Kgs 16:29-33)

After his father died, Ahab ruled Israel. He and his wife, Queen Jezebel, did not worship God. Instead they worshipped a false god named Baal. They also led Israel to worship Baal. This angered the Lord tremendously. The Bible described that Ahab “did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him” (1 Kgs 16:30). Ahab also erected altars to Baal and other structures to honor Baal. Ahab's actions “did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him” (1 Kgs 16:33).

#### Elijah Declared a Drought (1 Kgs 17)

One day, Elijah, the prophet of God, presented himself to King Ahab and said, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word” (1 Kgs 17:1). Just as Elijah commanded, no rain or dew fell on Israel for 3 years and 6 months.

This drought was very severe. Since no rain fell, rivers and brooks slowly dried up. People were running out of water for their farms, livestock, and themselves. Even King Ahab was not spared from the drought. He did not have enough water and grass for his horses and mules. Thus, he had to search through Israel to find grassland to feed his animals. This drought was so long and severe that it resulted in a famine. Because there was no food, people and animals began to die.

#### Elijah Defeated Baal's Prophets on Mount Carmel (1 Kgs 18:19-40)

To prove that the Lord was the true God, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. Elijah and the prophets of Baal would take turns to build an altar and

prepare a bull for sacrifice. Afterwards, they would call to their gods and Elijah to his God; whichever God answered with fire from the sky would be the true God.

They met on Mount Carmel for the challenge. Each built their altar. The prophets of Baal began to call on Baal to send fire down on the altar, but fire never appeared. The prophets continued to chant and even began to cut themselves, as was their custom, but fire never appeared. They did this from morning to noon. Eventually, Elijah called the people to him. He repaired the altar of the Lord that had been broken down and prepared the bull for sacrifice. Next, he poured twelve jars of water onto the altar, soaking the wood and filling the trench around it with water. He then prayed to the Lord to demonstrate to Israel that He was the true God. Fire then fell from the sky and consumed the sacrifice and the water surrounding the altar. The people now knew that the Lord was the true God.

### **Elijah prayed for rain (1 Kgs 18:41-46)**

After Elijah's battle, Elijah turned to King Ahab and told him that it would soon rain. Elijah climbed higher on the mountain, to the top. He knelt and prayed seven times. On the seventh time, Elijah's servant reported a small cloud rising from the sea. Elijah knew that God had answered his prayers. Soon, the sky darkened and poured rain to end the drought and famine.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students are young and adventurous. They are constantly exploring and seeking new excitement. Sometimes, what they do might seem fearless and reckless. However, this does not mean that they do not experience fear. They fear harm, abandonment, and rejection, similar to adults.

As teachers, we need to help the students understand and overcome their fears when we can, and bring them to God when we cannot. In situations where the fear is due to a misunderstanding of the situation or to the student's imagination, you can help correct the student's perception. You can explain to the student that there are no monsters in the dark or that not being selected does not mean that their classmates or teachers do not like them.

The difficulty comes when the fear results in emotional trauma, such as that from abandonment. These fears are difficult to resolve. Do your best to show your love to the student and provide a safe and secure environment, which the student lacks. In addition, pray with the student to connect the student to God. God can provide the student with the parental love and security he craves.



## Opener

5 Minutes

Do you know what is the most common fear people experience? It is the fear of public speaking.

Everyone is afraid of something. When you are young, you might fear imaginary things, such as monsters and ghosts. As you get older, you grow to fear tangible things, such as dogs and bullies. And even further down the line, you will fear rejection and failure.

While it is usually impossible for most people not to feel fear, managing fear is not. Some fears are easy to manage, while others overwhelm us. Thus, the issue is not whether you have fear, but how you manage that fear. For example, some people who are afraid of public speaking learn to manage their fear by practicing. They purposely find opportunities to speak in the public to become accustomed to it so that, slowly, they overcome their fear. Then there are those who do not do this, so they continually remain afraid of public speaking.

But some fears are so overwhelming that you cannot manage them. What should you do? You should turn to God. God can help you manage your fears. He can find a solution that you might not have thought about. David wrote:

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps 27:1)*





## Vocabulary

- fear:** an unpleasant emotion caused by being aware of danger; a feeling of being afraid
- bravery:** the quality that allows someone to do things that are perceived as dangerous or frightening
- flee:** to run away (from danger; from a place)
- zealous:** feeling or showing strong and energetic support for a person, a cause, etc.



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1. The students will fill it out as you go over the lesson. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

### Queen Jezebel Threatens Elijah's Life

By sending fire from heaven and by bringing rain, God demonstrated to Israel that He was the true God. Elijah commanded that the prophets of Baal be seized and then he executed them at the Brook Kishon.

The deaths of all the prophets of Baal angered Queen Jezebel immensely. She sent a message to Elijah, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time" (1 Kgs 19:2). Elijah became frightened and ran away.

### Elijah Flees for His Life (1 Kgs 19:3-8)

Elijah wanted to get as far away from Jezebel so that she could not find him. He fled to Beersheba in Judah. He then left his servant there and traveled another day into the wilderness. Now, no one, including his servants, knew where he was. But God knew where He could find Elijah.

Elijah had come to rest under a broom tree. He cried out to God, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" Then he fell asleep, tired from his journey to run from Queen Jezebel. God sent an angel to Elijah. The angel woke Elijah and said, "Arise and eat" (1 Kgs 19:5). Then Elijah looked around, and "there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again" (1 Kgs 19:6). After Elijah slept for another while, the angel woke Elijah again and told him, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you" (1 Kgs 19:7). Again, Elijah got up and ate and drank. With this food, Elijah traveled forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. Elijah found a cave and hid there.

### God Speaks to Elijah (1 Kgs 19:9-14)

God spoke to Elijah, asking him, "What are you doing

here, Elijah?" (1 Kgs 19:9b). Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life" (1 Kgs 19:10).

God told Elijah to step out of the cave. God then passed by and a great wind tore into the mountains, but God was not in the wind. Next, a great earthquake shook the mountain, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, a great fire burned on the mountain, but the Lord was not in the fire. Finally a still small voice came after the fire. When Elijah heard it, he put on his mantle and walked to the mouth of the cave.

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" the voice asked. Elijah repeated again that he had been zealous for God, while the rest of Israel destroyed God's altars and killed His prophets. He said that he was the only remaining prophet and now the queen wanted to kill him.

### God Encourages Elijah (1 Kgs 19:15-21)

God understood Elijah's misconception. Elijah stood alone when he openly opposed King Ahab, so it seemed to Elijah that he was alone in his task. However, God told Elijah, "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him" (1 Kgs 19:18). Elijah was not alone in his rebellion!

God also understood that Elijah's task was too great for a single person to bear alone. God told Elijah to find Elisha and anoint him to be a prophet. Elisha would be Elijah's successor. He would help Elijah complete his task. Now, Elijah would not be alone in his work.

### FOR TEACHERS

Go over Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to make sure that the students have all filled it out correctly. Then, hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 and guide the students to complete it.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One True God

There is only one true God. He is the Creator. All others who claim to be gods are false. This true God is Jesus. He came to Earth to bear our sins by dying on the cross. He is also willing to help us with our problems because He cares for us: "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Pet 5:7).



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What did Jezebel promise to do to Elijah?** She promised to kill Elijah, just as killed the false prophets.
2. **What did the angel prepare for Elijah to eat?** Cake baked on coals and water.
3. **What four things did Elijah experience on Mount Horeb?** A strong wind, an earthquake, a fire, and a still small voice.
4. **What was Elijah's reason for fleeing?** He had been very zealous for God, but the Israelites still destroyed God's altars and killed His prophets. He believed that he was the only one left and the Israelites wanted to kill him.
5. **Who did God tell Elijah to anoint as his successor?** God told Elijah to anoint Elisha.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. God can help us overcome our fears.

We all have fears. Our fears might be imaginary, such as monsters or ghosts, or they might be real, such as dogs or spiders. We might be afraid of certain environments or situations, such as tall places or flying. Some fears might be within our control, such as the fear of public speaking. Others might be beyond our ability to handle, such as the fear of a bully. Regardless of our fear, we need to find a solution or else these fears will negatively influence our lives.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1. Guide students to answer the first question, and then ask for volunteers to share their answers. Then, continue with the teaching. Read the scenarios and discuss the questions together as a class, or divide the students into groups of 2 or 3 to read the scenarios and discuss the questions.]

Have the students answer the following questions on their worksheet:

#### 1. What are you afraid of and why?

Elijah was a very zealous prophet for God. He spent his time and energy to turn the Israelites away from Baal and his false prophets and back to worshipping the Lord. He stood by himself when he challenged the 450 prophets of Baal and was victorious. He alone prayed to God, and God sent rain.

Though Elijah was zealous, he became afraid when Queen Jezebel threatened to kill him. Elijah ran from Jezreel in northern Israel to Beersheba in southern Judah. He eventually hid in a cave.

When we become afraid, we have to find a solution. We might be like David confronting Goliath and face our fears directly. If we fear dogs or public speaking, we might seek opportunities to surround ourselves with dogs or to speak in public. Other times, we might be like Elijah and try to hide from our fears. If we fear public speaking, we might avoid situations where we need to speak publicly. If we fear a bully, we might avoid him at school. We do this when we encounter a fear that we cannot overcome.

Elijah's fears and his mission were very burdensome, such that he wanted to give up. Elijah prayed to God, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" (1 Kgs 19:4). This was when God acted. God first fed Elijah cakes baked on coals and water to give him physical energy. He then spoke to Elijah. He revealed that Elijah's concept



was wrong. He was not alone. God had reserved seven thousand in Israel who had not worshipped Baal. That was more than the prophets of Baal. God also instructed Elijah to anoint Elisha to be his successor as prophet so that he could help Elijah with his work.

When we encounter a fearful situation to which we cannot find a solution, we should seek God. From Elijah's example, we can see that God cares for us. He is not angry when we are paralyzed by our fears. He is compassionate and merciful. He wants to help us when we are afraid. And, He will help us if we pray to Him. God is all-powerful. He is the Creator. If He can create the universe, then He can protect us from our fears. Just as David wrote:

*The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
Whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life;  
Of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps 27:1)*

Have the students read the following 3 scenarios and answer the following questions on their worksheet:

**2. Can God help you with your fears?**

**3. How can God help you with your fears?**

### Scenario 1

Colin's friend sat at the top of the jungle gym. "Hey, Colin! Up here!" Colin looked up and saw his friend motioning him to go up. "Um... I don't know... I'm kind of tired and don't feel like climbing." Colin had always been afraid of heights, but none of his friends knew this until the school recently built a new jungle gym. Now, all of his friends played on it, and Colin always made excuses to avoid having to go up. Colin's friend was confused, "What? Tired? But I just saw you running around earlier during the break!" This time, Colin knew that his friend didn't believe him. "You're not afraid of heights, are you, Colin?" Colin didn't know how to respond. He didn't want his friend to laugh at him, but he also didn't want to climb the jungle gym. Colin stood there for a while, thinking to himself. "Hey! Hello? Colin? Are you listening?" His friend interrupted his thoughts. "I said that it's OK if you don't want to come up here. But I still think that once you come up here, you'll see that it's not that scary!" At this point, Colin thought back to Moses. Moses had to climb a mountain to go meet with God, but Moses wasn't scared at all! Moses knew that God was with him the entire time. If Moses could do it, then he could also do it! "God, please help me find the strength to overcome my fear of heights," Colin prayed silently to himself. After the prayer, Colin grabbed the lowest bar and started climbing, and before he knew it, he was enjoying a view of the entire playground from the top of the jungle gym.

### Scenario 2

"OK, put your feet in the water first, and then slide into the pool." All of Stacy's friends knew how to swim, so Stacy had told her parents that she wanted to learn how to swim, too. However, now she was having second thoughts. She was afraid of going into the water and not being able to swim. What if she couldn't keep her head above the water? "It's OK, Stacy. I'm here for you. Nothing bad will happen to you." Her swimming instructor sounded so reassuring. With those words, Stacy was brought back to RE class. How many times had she learned that God was with His people, that He would always take care of them? God was with Elijah in the wilderness when he was running away from Jezebel. God was also with her as she faced her fears. Stacy closed her eyes for a few seconds and said a silent prayer. "God, I'm scared. The pool looks so deep, and I've never swum before. Please help me overcome my fear by helping me remember that everything is in Your hands. Thank You for taking care of me, just as you took care of Elijah! Amen." Stacy opened her eyes and confidently slid into the pool.

### Scenario 3

Aaron stared at his feet, the paper shaking in his fingers. He could feel everyone in the classroom staring at him. "Anytime, Aaron," smiled Mrs. Larson. Without looking up, Aaron began to read slowly. "In 1776..." Aaron's voice trailed off. "I'm sorry, Aaron. Can you speak louder? I can barely hear you." Aaron knew that Mrs. Larson had said something, but he was too nervous to hear. I can't do this! I can't do this! The only thought running through Aaron's mind was running away. I don't care if I get a bad grade. I can't do this. It's too hard! So many people are looking at me right now! "Aaron? Are you OK?" Mrs. Larson placed her hand on Aaron's shoulder. Startled, Aaron jumped back. "Oh, uh... um..." Aaron couldn't find the words. "It's OK, Aaron," reassured Mrs. Larson. "Just close your eyes and think of something that gives you calmness and safety." Aaron closed his eyes and started praying silently. "Please, God, help me! I can't do this. I'm too scared." As Aaron continued praying, he suddenly remembered God's encouragement to

Joshua: "Be strong and of good courage, for God is with you wherever you go." Aaron suddenly didn't feel so terrified anymore. He wasn't alone up there; God was with him!

God spoke to Elijah to help Elijah overcome his fear. Today we have the Bible, which is God's word. God speaks to us through the Bible. It is important for us to read and know the Bible because we can use it to overcome our fears.

## 2. How can we trust in God and rely on Him?

God wants us to trust in and rely on Him. He doesn't want us to just go to Him when we have problems or when things go beyond our ability. The Bible teaches us that apart from Him, we can do nothing (Jn 15:5). Therefore, God wants us to trust Him every moment of our lives. This means that we must invite Jesus to rule our thoughts and to guide our decision-making. When we follow Him and rely on Him by taking up our crosses, He will guide us, comfort us, and show Himself strong.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2. Ask students to read the cases and discuss the questions in groups of 2 or 3. Then, come together as a class to discuss their answers.]

### Case 1

One day, Jake's friends invited him to watch a movie. They were going to watch a horror movie. The movie scared Jake. That evening, he could not sleep at night. He could not sleep the next night, or the night after. In fact, Jake was so scared that he could not sleep for the entire week. Jake tried using a nightlight, but he was still scared.

1. You are a True Jesus Church member and Jake's friend. What will you do to help Jake with his fear?
2. If you were Jake, what will you do the next time your friends invite you to watch a horror movie?

When Jake's friends asked him to watch a horror movie again, he refused. He told them what had happened last time. Some of his friends laughed at him, but then, to his surprise, some of them said they also had nightmares, too. He decided to ask those friends if they wanted to watch a different movie together, and they all agreed!

### What does relying on God mean?

Read Deuteronomy 31:6.

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

God wants us to rely on Him. That means we must rely on His strength and His wisdom. It is like relying on His arms! There is no better way to be carried by our Lord! As we trust in Him and lean on Him, not on ourselves, He goes with us; He will not leave us nor forsake us. He will grant us peace and joy, even in times of difficulty.

### Case 2

The reason Jake went to watch the horror movie with his friends was because he was having problems at home. Jake's dad lost his job six months ago. His dad has been searching for a new job without any luck. The family's savings are almost gone. This is causing a lot of strain in the household. Jake is afraid that his family will not be able to survive this tragedy.

1. How do you think Jake feels about his current situation?
2. If you were Jake, what can you do to help your family?

Instead of going to watch a horror movie with his friends, Jake could spend time praying for his father and supporting his father by staying at home to lessen his parents' worries. He can also look through the Bible for encouraging verses that remind Jake's father that God is with him through the good times and the bad times.



## Activity

### 1. Prayer Network / 2. The Power of the Word of God

10-15 Minutes

#### 1. Prayer Network

One of the reasons Elijah was afraid was because he thought he was alone. To his surprise, though, God had reserved seven thousand persons who had not served Baal. We often become afraid when we believe we are alone, when in fact we have a vast support network.

The church and our RE classmates are part of a wonderful support network. We can use this support group for prayer to overcome our fears.

#### Instructions

1. Mark off a section of the whiteboard solely for prayers.
2. Each student will write a fear that they need help overcoming. If the student wishes, he may share the reason with the class.
3. After all of the students have written their fears on the board, the entire class will pray for one another.

#### 2. The Power of the Word of God

God spoke to Elijah to help Elijah overcome his fear. Today, we have the Bible, which is God's word. God speaks to us through the Bible. It is important for us to read and know the Bible because we can use it to overcome our fears.

#### Materials

- Business card-sized slips of paper
- Markers

#### Instructions

1. Have the students search the Bible for verses that might help them during fearful situations.
2. Hand out one slip of paper to each student.
3. Ask students to write the verse on the paper. The students may decorate the paper.
4. The students will keep the paper in their wallets or school bags. When they become afraid, they can read the verse and remind themselves that God will help them.
5. If possible, the teacher may laminate the paper after the students have finished decorating.

#### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. boldly, Lord, helper, fear, man, me
2. zealous, alone, kill
3. D
4. C
5. He sent an angel twice to feed Elijah with cakes baked on coals and to give him water. Elijah survived off this food for forty days and nights as he journeyed further to Horeb.
6. God told Elijah that he was not alone. In fact, there were 7,000 others who had not bowed to Baal. God also told Elijah to anoint kings and the next prophet so that he would not be alone in doing God's work.
7. Answers may vary.

## WHAT ARE THE ROOTS OF ELIJAH'S FEAR?

Elijah had waited three and a half years for one glorious day of triumph on Mount Carmel in order to turn the people back to worship God—and now he was afraid of Queen Jezebel's threat.

Let see the progression of his path. **Fill in the blanks.**

1. Read verse 3: "And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life [...] and left his servant there."

### He wanted to ESCAPE!

Do you know many people try to escape from their problems? Yet, no one can escape from their problems by running from them. Elijah also wanted to be alone.

2. Read verse 4: "And he prayed that he might die, and said, 'It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life.'"

### He wanted to DIE!

Sometimes, when we are fearful, death looks like the only way out. Elijah had lost sight of the power of God. He was gripped by a lot of fear!

3. Read the second part of verse 4: "For I am no better than my fathers!"

### He was experiencing self-pity!

He was saying that he would never get ahead and that everyone else was at fault. He felt that he was the victim.

### God's Solution for Fear and Despair

God is a God of care and compassion.

1. Read verse 8: "So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God."

Even though Elijah asked for death, God provided Elijah with food and rest to care for his fatigue. Sometimes, we don't have enough strength and we need rest and refreshment. When Elijah was well fed, he traveled for forty more days to the cave at Horeb.

2. God confronted Elijah

In verses 9-10, God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" How did he reply?

Read verse 10: "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts [...] I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

Once again, he was telling God he was not being appreciated and that he was full of self-pity.

3. God came in the still small voice

Read verses 11-12.

God wanted to remind Elijah that HE was God, and that Elijah was not to be ruled by fear and despair. He was teaching Elijah two very important teachings:

A. God is a full of power.

B. God is a loving God—full of mercy and peace.

4. God wanted Elijah to help others in need

Read verses 15-16.

God instructed Elijah to anoint two kings and to train Elisha as his successor. God was teaching Elijah that he needed to stop focusing on himself and start seeing the needs of others. He needed to wake up from his own self-pity and see the plan of God. God had reserved 7,000 people in Israel, all whose knees had not bowed to Baal. Elijah was not the ONLY faithful servant of God—there were many helpers around.

### Conclusion

We need to focus our eyes on God when we are fearful, in despair, and discouraged. God is the only one who can give us the strength to overcome our problems in life. God is all-powerful and He is gracious. He will surely guide us and lead us as long as we turn to Him.

## ELIJAH FLEES FOR HIS LIFE

1. What did Queen Jezebel promise to do to Elijah?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who was Elijah running away from? Where did Elijah flee to?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Elijah pray for while under the broom tree?

"It is \_\_\_\_\_! Now, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_, for I am \_\_\_\_\_  
than my \_\_\_\_\_!"

4. What did the angel feed Elijah?

"Then he looked, and there by his head was a \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, and a  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. So he \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ again."

5. Which of these was God not in when He spoke to Elijah on the mountain? Check all that apply.

Great wind                       Earthquake                       Rainstorm  
 Fire                                       Still small voice

6. What did Elijah say to God when God asked him why he was at Mt. Horeb?

He said, "I have been very \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord God of hosts; for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
have \_\_\_\_\_ Your \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Your \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
Your \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_ am \_\_\_\_\_; and they \_\_\_\_\_ to take  
my \_\_\_\_\_."

7. What did God tell Elijah about the people He had reserved?

"Yet I have \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel, all whose \_\_\_\_\_ have not \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_, and every \_\_\_\_\_ that has not \_\_\_\_\_."



# What are the roots of Elijah's Fear?

Elijah had waited three and a half years for one glorious day of triumph on Mount Carmel in order to turn the people back to worship God—and now he was afraid of Queen Jezebel's threat.

Let see the progression of his path. **Fill in the blanks.**

1. Read verse 3: "And when he saw that, he \_\_\_\_\_ and ran for his \_\_\_\_\_ [...] and left his servant there."

He wants to  
**ESCAPE**

He wants to  
**DIE**

2. Read verse 4: "And he prayed that he might die, and said, 'It is enough! Now, Lord, take my \_\_\_\_\_.'"

3. Read the second part of verse 4: "For I am no better than my fathers!"

He is having  
**Self  
Pity**

God's solution  
for **Fear**  
and **Despair**

God is a God of care and compassion.

1. Read verse 8: "So he arose, and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God."

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In verses 9-10, God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" How did he reply?

Read verse 10: "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts [...] I \_\_\_\_\_ am left; and they seek to take my life."

3. God came in the still small voice

Read verses 11-12.

God wanted to remind Elijah that HE was God, and that Elijah was not to be ruled by fear and despair. He was teaching Elijah two very important teachings:

A. God is a full of \_\_\_\_\_.

B. God is a \_\_\_\_\_ God—full of mercy and peace.

4. God wanted Elijah to help \_\_\_\_\_ in need

Read verses 15-16.



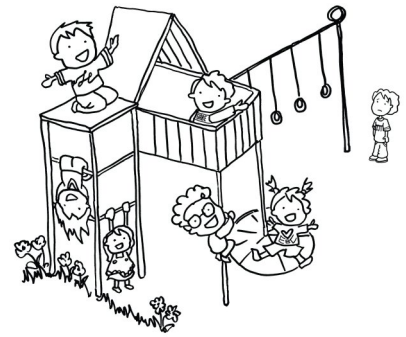
## GOD CAN HELP US OVERCOME OUR FEARS.

1. What are you afraid of and why?
2. Can God help you with your fears?
3. How can God help you with your fears?

**Instructions:** Read the scenarios and answers questions 2 and 3.

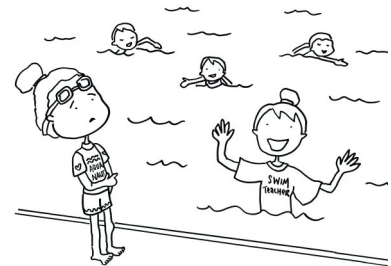
### Scenario 1

Colin's friend sat at the top of the jungle gym. "Hey, Colin! Up here!" Colin looked up and saw his friend motioning him to go up. "Um... I don't know... I'm kind of tired and don't feel like climbing." Colin had always been afraid of heights, but none of his friends knew this until the school recently built a new jungle gym. Now, all of his friends played on it, and Colin always made excuses to avoid having to go up. Colin's friend was confused, "What? Tired? But I just saw you running around earlier during the break!" This time, Colin knew that his friend didn't believe him. "You're not afraid of heights, are you, Colin?" Colin didn't know how to respond. He didn't want his friend to laugh at him, but he also didn't want to climb the jungle gym. Colin stood there for a while, thinking to himself. "Hey! Hello? Colin? Are you listening?" His friend interrupted his thoughts. "I said that it's OK if you don't want to come up here. But I still think that once you come up here, you'll see that it's not that scary!" At this point, Colin thought back to Moses. Moses had to climb a mountain to go meet with God, but Moses wasn't scared at all! Moses knew that God was with him the entire time. If Moses could do it, then he could also do it! "God, please help me find the strength to overcome my fear of heights," Colin prayed silently to himself. After the prayer, Colin grabbed the lowest bar and started climbing, and before he knew it, he was enjoying a view of the entire playground from the top of the jungle gym.



### Scenario 2

"OK, put your feet in the water first, and then slide into the pool." All of Stacy's friends knew how to swim, so Stacy had told her parents that she wanted to learn how to swim, too. However, now she was having second thoughts. She was afraid of going into the water and not being able to swim. What if she couldn't keep her head above the water? "It's OK, Stacy. I'm here for you. Nothing bad will happen to you." Her swimming instructor sounded so reassuring. With those words, Stacy was brought back to RE class. How many times had she learned that God was with His people, that He would always take care of them? God was with Elijah in the wilderness when he was running away from Jezebel. God was also with her as she faced her fears. Stacy closed her eyes for a few seconds and said a silent prayer. "God, I'm scared. The pool looks so deep, and I've never swum before. Please help me overcome my fear by helping me remember that everything is in Your hands. Thank You for taking care of me, just as you took care of Elijah! Amen." Stacy opened her eyes and confidently slid into the pool.



### Scenario 3

Aaron stared at his feet, the paper shaking in his fingers. He could feel everyone in the classroom staring at him. "Anytime, Aaron," smiled Mrs. Larson. Without looking up, Aaron began to read slowly. "In 1776..." Aaron's voice trailed off. "I'm sorry, Aaron. Can you speak louder? I can barely hear you." Aaron knew that Mrs. Larson had said something, but he was too nervous to hear. I can't do this! I can't do this! The only thought running through Aaron's mind was running away. I don't care if I get a bad grade. I can't do this. It's too hard! So many people are looking at me right now! "Aaron? Are you OK?" Mrs. Larson placed her hand on Aaron's shoulder. Startled, Aaron jumped back. "Oh, uh... um..." Aaron couldn't find the words. "It's OK, Aaron," reassured Mrs. Larson. "Just close your eyes and think of something that gives you calmness and safety." Aaron closed his eyes and started praying silently. "Please, God, help me! I can't do this. I'm too scared." As Aaron continued praying, he suddenly remembered God's encouragement to Joshua: "Be strong and of good courage, for God is with you wherever you go." Aaron suddenly didn't feel so terrified anymore. He wasn't alone up there; God was with him!



### How can we trust in God and rely on Him?

**Instructions:** In your groups, read the following two cases, and then discuss the questions for each case. Write down your answers.

Case 1

One day, Jake’s friends invited him to watch a movie. They were going to watch a horror movie. The movie scared Jake. That evening, he could not sleep at night. He could not sleep the next night, or the night after. In fact, Jake was so scared that he could not sleep for the entire week. Jake tried using a nightlight, but he was still scared.



1. You are a True Jesus Church member and Jake’s friend. What will you do to help Jake with his fear?
2. If you were Jake, what will you do the next time your friends invite you to watch a horror movie?

What does relying on God mean? (Read Deuteronomy 31:6.)



Case 2

The reason Jake went to watch the horror movie with his friends was because he was having problems at home. Jake’s dad lost his job six months ago. His dad has been searching for a new job without any luck. The family’s savings are almost gone. This is causing a lot of strain in the household. Jake is afraid that his family will not be able to survive this tragedy.

1. How do you think Jake feels about his current situation?
2. If you were Jake, what can you do to help your family?



E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 5—Elijah Flees for His Life

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Hebrews 13:6**)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Fill In the Blank

1. "So we may \_\_\_\_\_ say, 'The \_\_\_\_\_ is my \_\_\_\_\_; I will not \_\_\_\_\_. What can \_\_\_\_\_ do to \_\_\_\_\_?'" (Heb 13:6)
2. Elijah said, "I have been \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord God, but now I am \_\_\_\_\_, and they want to \_\_\_\_\_ me."

### Multiple Choice

3. \_\_\_\_\_ : How did God communicate with Elijah?
  - a. Through the wind
  - b. Through the earthquake
  - c. Through the fire
  - d. Through the still small voice
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : How many people had God reserved who had not bowed down to Baal?
  - a. 450
  - b. 1,000
  - c. 7,000
  - d. 12,000

### Short Answer

5. How did God show that He was still with Elijah when Elijah was hiding at the broom tree? How did this strengthen Elijah?
6. How did God reassure Elijah when he was hiding on Horeb?
7. How can God help you overcome your fears?

# LESSON 6

## ELISHA RECEIVES A DOUBLE PORTION OF GOD'S SPIRIT

### OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the nature of God—only He has true power!
2. To understand what kind of spirit we need to receive in order to be faithful workers like Elijah and Elisha.
3. To remember to pray earnestly to receive the Holy Spirit and not to give up.

### MEMORY VERSE

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

(Matthew 7:7)

### PRAYER

Lord, we give thanks to You for this day of rest and blessings. Please open our hearts and give us understanding for what we are about to learn in this lesson. We want to be faithful servants, just as Elijah and Elisha were. Please teach us how to be watchful despite obstacles and how to focus our eyes on You faithfully. You're our guide, power, and the source of all wisdom. All glory goes to You, Lord.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Elisha Desires a Double Portion
  - i. Elisha Follows Elijah Until the End
- b. Elisha Receives a Double Portion of Elijah's Spirit
- c. Elisha Heals the Water at Jericho

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God; The Holy Spirit

#### 3. Life Application—I Need the Presence of God

#### 4. Activity—Elisha Prays for Power



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

#### A Double Portion

In the Bible, a “double portion” refers to the inheritance right of the firstborn. The term was used in the Old Testament to refer to the birthright, which is the inheritance received by the oldest son. Deuteronomy 21:17 records, “But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.”

When Elijah's time on earth was nearing an end, he asked Elisha, “‘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!’” (2 Kgs 2:9). After Elisha received the mantle from Elijah, the Spirit of God was evident in all of the things Elisha did and said. As recorded throughout 2 Kings, Elisha indeed performed many miracles of healing and victories, confirming that he had indeed been granted a double portion. His life was filled with the power and anointing of God.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

In the past several lessons, your students have learned that when a worker of God prays often and has strong faith, God shows His mighty power. In this lesson, you need to teach your students that when an ordinary person asks for something with simple faith, God also shows His mighty power. As with previous lessons about trusting in God, you need to build up your students' reliance on God with testimonies and Bible stories. Whenever possible, point out to your students times when God was faithful to His people. Share testimonies of God's faithfulness in your own life. By listening to your stories, your students will eventually understand the love that God has for His people. When your students encounter situations where they need to trust God, they will recall your stories on God's faithfulness, which will reinforce the fact that God will help them through any and all situations. In addition to teaching your students to rely on God for help during grave trouble, teach them to rely on God in their daily lives. Share how you seek God's help even for trivial matters, such as losing a favorite pen, and how these matters are solved after relying on God. You want your students not only to think of God in times of difficulty but also in times of peace and joy.



## Opener

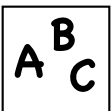
*5 Minutes*

After God defeated Baal on Mt. Carmel, Jezebel told Elijah that she would kill him. Filled with fear, Elijah fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?" Elijah responded, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of Hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant [...] I alone am left; and they seek to take my life" (1 Kgs 19:10).

Students, do you remember where God told Elijah to go? He told him to go stand on the mountain before Him. He then showed Elijah a strong wind, which "tore into the mountains and broke the rocks," but the Lord was not in the wind. Then, after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. Lastly, after the fire came a still small voice. The voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah replied as he had earlier, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of Hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant [...] I alone am left; and they seek to take my life" (1 Kgs 19:11-15).

After hearing the same reply twice, God told Elijah to go and anoint two kings—Hazeal, King of Syria and Jehu, King of Israel—and Elisha, who was to be prophet in his place (1 Kgs 19:15-17).

Elijah set off and found Elisha plowing with oxen on his father's land. He passed by Elisha and threw his cloak over him. Elisha immediately left his oxen and pursued Elijah, saying, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Elijah replied, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" Elisha obeyed and returned, slaughtered a yoke of oxen and gave the food to his people. With this gesture, Elisha could now follow Elijah and be his servant.



## Vocabulary

**mantle:** a loose garment made of sheepskin that was usually worn over other pieces of clothing  
**double portion:** the blessing normally bestowed upon the firstborn by the father



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### Elisha Desires a Double Portion

Elijah was greatly used by God in his generation, but with everyone, his time on earth had to come to an end. The day came when it was time to pass the baton to Elisha. Elisha wanted God's power in his life, and he was willing to follow Elijah faithfully.

When Elijah first anointed Elisha as his successor, he threw his own mantle on Elisha. The teaching in this action is valuable in our own lives as well. As it did with Elisha, the mantle should rest upon you and me. If we are going to be servants of God, then we, too, need the power of God's Spirit. Let's look at the example of Elijah and Elisha and see how the Bible instructs us to receive the power of God in our lives.

Let's turn to 2 Kings 2:1-15. The time came when God would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind. Elijah and Elisha traveled to Gilgal, where Elijah asked Elisha to stay. However, Elisha refused to leave Elijah's side.

"As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So, Elijah and Elisha continued on to Bethel. As Elisha and Elijah neared Bethel, a group of men studying to be prophets came to them and reminded Elisha that God would be taking away Elijah that very day. He told the men to be quiet. Students, if one of your friends were going to move away soon, would you want other people reminding you of it? Probably not! Likewise, Elisha didn't need these men to remind him. Of course he would know that his master would be taken away soon.

Once again, Elijah asked Elisha to stay, this time in Bethel. But once again, Elisha refused to leave his master's side. He wanted to spend as much time with him as he could before he was taken away. So, Elijah and Elisha continued on to Jericho, where God had sent Elijah.

In Jericho, another group of men came to remind Elisha, but he replied as before. For the third time, Elijah asked Elisha to stay. Elijah wanted to continue on to the Jordan without Elisha. What do you think Elisha said? [Allow students to respond.] That's correct! Elisha still refused to leave Elijah's side. So, they continued on to the Jordan. At the Jordan, a group of fifty sons of the prophets stood facing them; Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and hit the water. When his mantle touched the water, the Jordan parted and allowed Elijah and Elisha to cross on dry land.

### Elisha Follows Elijah Until the End

It is truly amazing how faithful Elisha was ever since it became apparent that the time for Elijah to leave was coming soon. At every turn, the sons of the prophets

asked Elisha the same question, "Don't you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?" Those prophets were trying to convince him to leave his master. When we decide to follow God, sometimes there will be people who will try to hinder you along the way. Let's look at the places Elijah and Elisha passed through and learn about the significance of each location.

First, they started at **Gilgal**—The Israelites first celebrated Passover in the promised land here (Josh 5).

Second, they traveled to **Bethel**—At Bethel, Jacob met God and dreamed of angels descending and ascending on a ladder that stretched from earth to heaven (Gen 28).

Third, they traveled to **Jericho**—Israel had its first victory here (Josh 6).

Fourth, they crossed the **Jordan**—This river is the boundary for the promised land. At the Jordan, the Israelites crossed over to enter the promised land. Once they crossed over, there was no returning; they would go with God all the way (Josh 3).

Elijah himself tried three times to get Elisha to stay behind; Elisha steadfastly went on and refused to allow any obstacles to stand in his way. Elisha remained focused.

### Elisha Receives a Double Portion of Elijah's Spirit

When Elijah and Elisha crossed to the other side, do you think Elijah asked Elisha to stay at the Jordan while he continued on to another place? [Give students some time to think and answer.] No, actually, this time Elijah asked Elisha a very important question. "What would you like me to do for you before I am taken away?" Without hesitation, Elisha replied, "Please grant me a double portion of your spirit!"

Elisha's request was not a simple one, and Elijah knew that. Instead of guaranteeing that Elisha would receive a double portion of his spirit, Elijah told Elisha to watch for a sign. "If you see me when I am taken from you, then you shall be granted a double portion. However, if you don't see me, then you will not receive a double portion." After these important words, they continued talking; suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and separated them. Then, Elijah went up into heaven by a whirlwind!

After witnessing this, Elijah took his clothes, tore them into two pieces, and picked up Elijah's mantle, which had fallen from Elijah. Elisha went to the bank of the Jordan, held the mantle, and struck the water with it. What do you think



happened when he did this? [Allow students to answer.] Precisely! The Jordan parted, just as it had parted when Elijah struck the water with his mantle. Elisha crossed over on dry land. When the sons of the prophets from Jericho saw Elisha do this, they proclaimed, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." Because of Elisha's faithfulness and steadfastness, he received the mantle and obtained the double portion.

Because Elisha stayed focused and remained with Elijah, he was able to witness an amazing event—the man of God being taken up into heaven by a whirlwind!

As Elijah was taken up into heaven, his mantle fell from him. Because he stayed by Elijah, Elisha was able to take Elijah's mantle. What is a mantle? It is a sheepskin garment that people usually wore over their clothing. Do you remember how Elijah first anointed Elisha as his successor? He threw his mantle on Elisha. Now, Elisha finally received the mantle for which he was asking—he was now Elijah's successor and, since he saw Elijah being taken up, he inherited a double portion of God's spirit.

When Elisha returned to the banks of the Jordan, he called on God, who had worked through Elijah, to work through him. Elisha struck the water, it was divided, and Elisha crossed over. The sons of the prophets nearby now understood that Elijah's spirit was now on Elisha.

Are you willing to remain steadfast and focused on God and to go with Him through every obstacle and difficulty? If you choose the easy path, you will be unable to see God's power in your life. We need to go the extra mile in order to receive God's double portion of spirit. Stay with God and don't retreat or get sidetracked. Elisha obtained a double portion, so you can, too.

### **Elisha Heals the Water at Jericho**

After seeing Elijah being taken up into heaven, Elisha returned to Jericho. Then, some men in Jericho

approached him and said, "Jericho is indeed a great city, but the water is actually bad and nothing can grow because of it."

Elisha instructed the men to bring him a bowl with salt in it, and they did as he instructed. Then, Elisha took the bowl to the source of the water and threw the salt in. After he threw in the salt, he said, "Thus says the Lord, 'I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.'" Since that day, the water was healed and it stayed that way, just as Elisha had said.

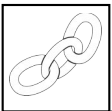
This is the first miracle that Elisha performed. Students, do you know why the water was bad in the first place? The city of Jericho had been living a divine judgment since the days of Joshua. Let's read Joshua 6:26.

If you were to stand in the city of Jericho, everything would have looked good on the surface. The city was in a good location, well built, and beautiful to look at. But let's read the second half of verse 19, "But the water is bad, and the ground barren."

The people of Jericho could have worked the land until they could work it no more, but that would not have made a difference. No matter what they did, the land yielded nothing. It wasn't the land; it was the water. The water was bad. Elisha didn't heal the ground; he went right to bad water. He put some salt in a bowl and threw it in the water. When the salt came in contact with the water, it was completely healed. God's power was manifested. By healing the water, God gave life to an entire city through Elisha's hand. The land was no longer bitter and unusable, it became fruitful.

#### **FOR TEACHERS**

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 and Worksheet #2 to the students now. Go over each worksheet with the students, providing guidance where needed. Keep a copy of the worksheets to reference.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

*2-5 Minutes*

### **One True God**

Both Elijah and Elisha performed many miracles, but they were two different men, from two different cities, born from two different sets of parents. So, how were they both able to perform miracles, and sometimes even the same miracles? They both had the abundance of God's Spirit. God is the One the true power, and when He abided in Elijah and Elisha, they were able to perform miracles through His power. Today, we, too, can do many great things through the power of God, if only He truly abides in us. We must strive to seek the fullness of the Holy Spirit. With His Spirit abiding within us, the impossible can become possible, and not only that, we can do many great works in His name. So let us take comfort in knowing that through Him, we can overcome any obstacles that may come our way, and through Him, we may also perform "miracles" of our own!



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **To which cities did Elisha and Elijah travel?** Gilgal, Bethel, and Jericho.
2. **How many times did Elijah ask Elisha to stay behind, and how many times did Elisha agree to stay?** Three times; zero times.
3. **How did Elisha respond to Elijah each time he asked him to stay?** "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!"
4. **What happened when Elijah took his mantle and struck the water of the Jordan?** The Jordan parted and allowed Elijah and Elisha to cross on dry land.
5. **When Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted him to do for him before he was taken away, for what did Elisha ask?** Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit to come upon him.
6. **How did Elijah and Elisha become separated?** A chariot of fire with horses of fire came down from heaven and came between them.
7. **How was Elijah taken up to heaven?** He was taken up by a whirlwind.
8. **What was the first miracle that Elisha performed after Elijah was taken up?** He took Elijah's mantle, struck the Jordan, and parted its waters.
9. **What was wrong with the water in Jericho?** It was harmful for the people to drink and harmful to the land so that no crops could be grown.
10. **How did Elisha heal the water?** He asked for a bowl of salt, went to the source of the water, threw the salt in, and then healed the water in God's power.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### I NEED THE PRESENCE OF GOD

1. Elijah threw his mantle on Elisha. (1 Kgs 19:19b)
2. "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." (2 Kgs 2:8)
3. "That suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went by a whirlwind into heaven." (2 Kgs 2:11)
4. "He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 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." (2 Kgs 2:13-14)

#### What Can I Learn?

1. **Following God requires single-minded steadfastness and devotion. You should not be distracted by things in the world. It requires aligning our will to His. What are the things in the world?**

Turn to **1 John 2:16** and fill in the blanks below.

a. The lust of the flesh

b. The lust of the eyes

c. The pride of life

- A. Today, June's mother had baked a dozen cookies especially for her younger brother's birthday party. When June arrived home from school, her mother told her that she was not allowed to touch any of the cookies until after the party, which was three hours later. As time passed, June became hungry. She went down into the kitchen and saw the cookies sitting on the counter. It can't hurt if I eat just one, right? June thought to herself. As June reached for the cookie, she suddenly heard her mother's voice, which was filled with disappointment.
- B. Every day, Jason's best friend would ride his shiny bike to school, a present he had received for his birthday last month. After school, Jason would always go home and complain to his parents, saying that he also needed a bike so that he could ride to school with Jason. "You already received your birthday present this year. You have to wait until

next year to get a new bike." Jason's grandparents were visiting at the time, so he came up with a plan. He would tell them that he needed a bike for a school project. Jason's grandparents took him to the store to buy the bike, but just as he was about to choose which bike to buy, his parents called his grandparents. Jason could tell from the look in his grandfather's sad eyes that his parents had told them the truth about the bike.

C. Bruce and Luke had been best friends since first grade. They did everything together. Six years later, they were still best friends, but lately, Bruce had been acting more competitive during sports. "Beat you again, Luke!" Bruce yelled happily as he ran past the finish line. "Wow, you run as fast as a turtle walks!" Bruce's words stung, but Luke didn't say anything. He didn't want to lose his best friend. One day, Bruce and Luke's friends were playing basketball during lunch. "Wow, you're really bad at basketball, Luke! Too bad you can't be like me and be the best player on the team!" Without saying a word, Luke chucked the basketball at Bruce and stormed away. After that day, Luke stopped talking to Bruce, and Bruce didn't know how to fix it.

## 2. Elisha had Elijah's mantle, the symbol of God's power and God's presence. We also need God's presence and His power. Why?

- He is a caring God. (1 Pet 5:7)
- He is a God who answers prayers. (Mk 11:24)
- He strengthens those who serve Him. (1 Tim 1:12)



## Activity

### Elisha Prays for Power

10-15 Minutes

**Objective:** To create a sun catcher to remind the students of the importance of praying to God for strength and power.

#### Materials

- Colored tissue paper
- Construction paper
- Single-hole punch
- Paper plate
- Yarn
- Markers
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue
- Pencils

#### Instructions

- Using the paper plate, trace circles on both the tissue and construction paper and then cut them out.
- Take the construction paper circle cutout and measuring one inch from the edge, mark another circle inside it with a pencil. Cut out the smaller circle without damaging the 1-inch rim or the inner circle. [Note: The teacher and/or teaching assistant may use an X-Acto knife to cut out the circle, but must exercise caution when students are nearby.] You will end up with a small circle and a rim.
- Write "Pray to the Lord" on the rim.
- On the smaller circle cutout, have the students trace one of their hands with a pencil. Then cut out the handprint.
- Glue the tissue paper circle onto the back of the rim.
- Glue the handprint onto the tissue paper, making sure to glue it on the same side as the rim. You should now be able to see the handprint and "Pray to the Lord" both at the front.
- Punch a hole at the top of the rim and tie a piece of yarn through it.
- Hang the sun catcher to remind you to pray to the Lord.

[Variation: Instead of cutting out an inner circle from the large circle, simply cut the handprint from the large circle. Now glue the tissue paper onto the back of the large circle, and the hand should be accented by the tissue paper.]

#### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

- Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, Jordan
- three, leave
- D
- B
- When Elisha took up Elijah's mantle and struck the Jordan with it, the waters of the Jordan parted and Elisha was able to cross over on dry land. Elijah had performed the exact same miracle shortly before he was taken away.
- Answers may vary. Possible answer: Never accept "no," as an answer and continue to stay with God steadfastly; ask and pray earnestly.

THE WATER IS BAD AND THE LAND IS UNPRODUCTIVE  
 ...THE LAND BECOMES FRUITFUL

THE CAUSE

Read Joshua 6:26.  
 Write it down below:

Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the Lord who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."



The desperate need of Jericho represents the desperate need of having Jesus in our life.



Jericho is plagued with "bitter waters."



"Bitter waters" is the sinful condition of mankind.



"Barren ground" is unproductive. A life without Jesus cannot bear any fruit.



THE CURE

We need Jesus: Why?

Turn to Exodus 15:26.  
 Write it down below:

"If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."

What does the Lord do?

H E A L

What did Elisha use to cure the water?

S A L T

"Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?" (Jas 3:11)

Nothing clean can come from something that is unclean. The salt is God's healing power.

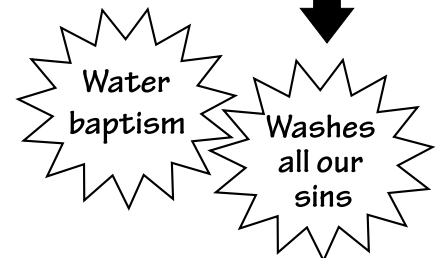
THE RESULT

"And the water remains healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke."



No one can be "righteous" without being "born" again.

You must be born again to be (Jn 3:7)



A newborn person is a person whose life is in Christ.

When we are in Christ, we bear the best kind of fruit.

Read Galatians 5:22-23. List out the fruit of the Spirit.



- love
- joy
- peace
- longsuffering
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self-control

Elijah & Elisha  
follow an  
Awesome God!

The same God who supplied wisdom and power through Elijah also works in us. Each of the following sentences demonstrates God's amazing power and mercy!

Fill in the blanks by choosing words from the word bank.

feed	fire	spoke	ravens	dead	oil	earthquake	wind	voice	tore	multiplied
------	------	-------	--------	------	-----	------------	------	-------	------	------------

1. God commanded the ravens to feed His servant.
2. On Mt. Carmel—God answered by fire.
3. In Zarephath, God multiplied the flour and oil.
4. God can raise the dead.
5. God tore the mountains with the wind and shook them with the earthquake.
6. God spoke to Elijah with a still small voice.

According to Deuteronomy 21:15-17, it was common for firstborn children to receive a double portion of their father's estate. The Law of Moses mandated this.

Elisha  
has the  
Right Spirit!

Let's turn to verse 17 and fill in the blanks.

"But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his."

When Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, Elisha was asking for the right of the firstborn! He was asking for the same Spirit that had empowered Elijah to be given to him as well.

Elijah told Elisha that he had asked a "hard thing." In other words, it was beyond the power of Elijah to grant such a request. Only God, who is all-powerful and all-knowing, can grant it. What kind of spirit was Elisha asking for? Read the following verses and fill in the blanks.

### 1. A Spirit of Trusting in the Power of God

*Romans 15:13* "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

### 2. A Spirit of Courage to Stand for God Even in the Midst of Difficulty

*2 Timothy 1:7* "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

### 3. A Spirit of Obeying God Command

*Philippians 2:8* "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Elisha recognized that, in order to serve God, he needed power that did not come from him! He needed the power of God working in him and through him if he was going to be Elijah's successor. In the end, because of his steadfastness, Elisha received a double portion of God's spirit. We also need to seek the Lord for the Holy Spirit and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. We need to be filled with the Spirit of God! We need to come before the Lord and pray earnestly and wholeheartedly.

Come and seek Him for the double portion you need for your life!





Elijah & Elisha  
follow an  
Awesome God!

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# I need the Presence of God

1. Elijah threw his mantle on Elisha.  
(1 Kgs 19:19b)



2. "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." (2 Kgs 2:8)



3. "That suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went by a whirlwind into heaven." (2 Kgs 2:11)



4. "He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 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." (2 Kgs 2:13-14)



## What Can I Learn?

1. *Following God requires single-minded steadfastness and devotion. You should not be distracted by things in the world. It requires aligning our will to His. What are the things in the world?*

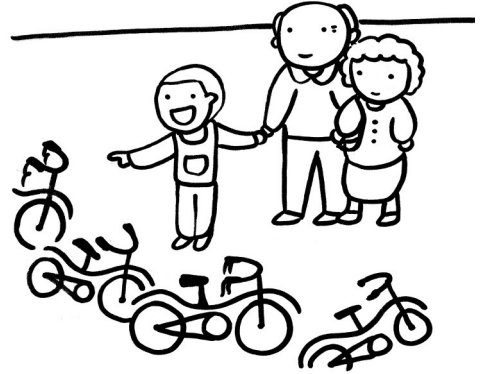
Turn to 1 John 2:16 and fill in the blanks below.

- a. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Today, June's mother had baked a dozen cookies especially for her younger brother's birthday party. When June arrived home from school, her mother told her that she was not allowed to touch any of the cookies until after the party, which was three hours later. As time passed, June became hungry. She went down into the kitchen and saw the cookies sitting on the counter. It can't hurt if I eat just one, right? June thought to herself. As June reached for the cookie, she suddenly heard her mother's voice, which was filled with disappointment.



B. Every day, Jason's best friend would ride his shiny bike to school, a present he had received for his birthday last month. After school, Jason would always go home and complain to his parents, saying that he also needed a bike so that he could ride to school with Jason. "You already received your birthday present this year. You have to wait until next year to get a new bike." Jason's grandparents were visiting at the time, so he came up with a plan. He would tell them that he needed a bike for a school project. Jason's grandparents took him to the store to buy the bike, but just as he was about to choose which bike to buy, his parents called his grandparents. Jason could tell from the look in his grandfather's sad eyes that his parents had told them the truth about the bike.



C. Bruce and Luke had been best friends since first grade. They did everything together. Six years later, they were still best friends, but lately, Bruce had been acting more competitive during sports. "Beat you again, Luke!" Bruce yelled happily as he ran past the finish line. "Wow, you run as fast as a turtle walks!" Bruce's words stung, but Luke didn't say anything. He didn't want to lose his best friend. One day, Bruce and Luke's friends were playing basketball during lunch. "Wow, you're really bad at basketball, Luke! Too bad you can't be like me and be the best player on the team!" Without saying a word, Luke chucked the basketball at Bruce and stormed away. After that day, Luke stopped talking to Bruce, and Bruce didn't know how to fix it.



2. *Elisha had Elijah's mantle, the symbol of God's power and God's presence. We also need God's presence and His power. Why?*

- a. He is a \_\_\_\_\_ God. (1 Pet 5:7)
- b. He is a God who answers \_\_\_\_\_. (Mk 11:24)
- c. He \_\_\_\_\_ those who serve Him. (1 Tim 1:12)

E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 6—Elisha Receives a Double Portion of God's Spirit

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

### What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Matthew 7:7**)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Fill In the Blank

1. Elisha and Elijah's journey started in \_\_\_\_\_, then continued to \_\_\_\_\_, followed by \_\_\_\_\_, while finally ending at the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Elijah asked Elisha to stay behind \_\_\_\_\_ times, but Elisha always replied, "As the Lord lives, I will not \_\_\_\_\_ you!"

### Multiple Choice

3. \_\_\_\_\_ : Before Elijah was taken away, Elisha asked Elijah \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. To give him all his possessions and money
  - b. To anoint another prophet instead of Elisha
  - c. To stay
  - d. To grant him a double portion of his spirit
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : Elijah was taken up into heaven by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. A chariot of fire
  - b. A whirlwind
  - c. Horses of fire
  - d. Both A and C

### Short Answer

5. How did the sons of the prophets from Jericho know that the spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha?
6. How can we be like Elisha when praying for the Holy Spirit?

# LESSON 7

## ELISHA RAISES THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN'S SON

### OBJECTIVES

1. To remember to show love and kindness to those around us through our actions.
2. To set our mind to be a prayer warrior for God's people by spending more time in prayer.
3. To recognize that God can turn a difficult situation into something good.

### MEMORY VERSE

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

(1 John 3:18)

### PRAYER

Lord, we give thanks to You for this day of rest and blessings. We are so thankful that You love us so much that You died for us. You truly back up Your word with action. We have a mission to share with those around us so that they can see God's love through our actions. Today, we will study the prophet Elisha, a great worker for God, who showed his love for God in action. Please open our eyes and our hearts to learn the teachings from today's lesson.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Elisha Received into the Shunammite Woman's Home (2 Kgs 4:8-10)
- b. Elisha Promises the Woman a Son (2 Kgs 4:11-17)
- c. The Boy Dies (2 Kgs 4:18-31)
- d. Elisha Prays for the Dead Boy (2 Kgs 4:32-37)

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The one true God

#### 3. Life Application

- a. An Act of Kindness
- b. Rely on God in Times of Need

#### 4. Activity—What a Blessing!; God Is My Helper!



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

#### Shunem

Located five miles from Mt. Tabor, the city of Shunem was given to the descendants of Issachar, Jacob's son through Bilhah, Rachel's servant. It is called a double resting place.

#### The Shunammite Woman

The Shunammite woman is a great character! She was hospitable, kind, considerate, and she went out of her way for others and had a strong faith. She realized that Elisha was a man of God, so she prepared a room for him to use whenever he was in town. She did this out of kindness because she sensed a need. Since she did so without any selfish motives, her kindness was rewarded far beyond her comprehension.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

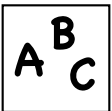
In the past several lessons, your students have learned that when a worker of God prays often and has strong faith, God shows His mighty power. In this lesson, you need to teach your students that when an ordinary person asks for something with simple faith, God also shows His mighty power. It is important to develop your students' reliance on God through testimonies and Bible stories. Emphasize and remind the students about situations in which God has been faithful to His people. Furthermore, share personal testimonies to demonstrate God's faithfulness in your life. As your students hear more and more testimonies and Bible stories, they will eventually understand the love God has for His people. When your students face difficult situations and need to take that step to trust in God, they may remember all that you have told them about His faithfulness and will take comfort in knowing that God can help them through any kind of situation, no matter how big or small. Reinforce the concept that they can rely on God in their daily lives, not only when they're in need of help.



## Opener

5 Minutes

Whenever we need help, we usually go to someone whom we know is able to help us. Who do you go to when you need help with your homework? Who do you go to when you are sick? The woman that we are going to learn about from the Bible today needed some very special help. She couldn't just go to a family member or friend for help. But instead of worrying, she knew exactly who to go to for help. Let's hear the story!



## Vocabulary

**Shunammite:** a person who dwells in the city of Shunem



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Prepare a map that indicates the location of Shunem. Hand out the Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to your students and help them complete it as you teach the story. Then after completing the Bible story, follow with Bible Discovery Worksheet #2.

### Elisha Received into the Shunammite Woman's Home

As a messenger of God, Elisha the prophet traveled a lot to go to different places in Israel to do God's work.

One day, a woman from Shunem [show the location of Shunem on a map] saw Elisha walking through town, and she invited him to her house for dinner. She probably heard of many good works that God did through Elisha. Elisha accepted the woman's invitation and joined her and her husband for dinner.

Ever since then, the woman and her husband would always invite Elisha to eat with them whenever he passed by. Why do you think this couple did that? [Let students

answer.] No one had asked this couple to offer Elisha food every time he passed by. Rather, they did this out of kindness. They loved Elisha as a servant of God, and they wanted to offer him a warm, home-cooked meal whenever they could. They didn't expect Elisha to do anything in return.

Time passed by and this Shunammite woman said to her husband one day, "Elisha travels through here often. Let's fix up a room for Elisha so that he can stay overnight and rest when he passes by our home." She must have thought about Elisha's situation; he traveled often, but only had a place to stay if someone invited him to stay.

Her husband agreed, so they built a room on their flat roof and put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp there. That's so thoughtful of her! They made a lovely room where he could rest comfortably and study God's word, too.

Elisha had a helper named Gehazi who traveled with him. As Elisha traveled from place to place, Gehazi would go with him and help him in any way that he could.



From then on, whenever Elisha came through, he and his servant Gehazi would stay in their own special room. Students, how would you feel if you were Elisha? [Pause for students to think.]

### **Elisha Promises the Woman a Son**

Elisha was very grateful for the woman's kindness. He never asked for such a nice place to stay. The kindness of the Shunammite woman was such a gift to Elisha. Let's think about this. How many people have you met that treat you with such love and kindness? It is highly likely that Elisha had not previously met someone who treated him with such generosity as this woman had.

Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. And Elisha said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" "She answered, "I dwell among my own people." The woman was telling Elisha that she had all that she needed.

Later, Elisha wondered out loud what he could do for her. Elisha's servant, Gehazi, had an idea. "Well," Gehazi said, "she doesn't have any children, and her husband is very old." Elisha thought, "Good idea—now I know how I can help the woman." He sent Gehazi to get the woman. When she came upstairs, Elisha said, "Around this time next year, you will have a son." The woman was surprised. She could hardly believe what the prophet was saying. "My lord," she said, "don't say such a thing if it is not true!" Sure enough, about a year later, the Shunammite woman did give birth to a boy.

God is a God who always keeps His promises. God is a loving God, and He always rewards those who show love to others. God knew what the Shunammite woman wanted, and He gave her a son for the love and kindness she had shown to His servant Elisha.

The woman and her husband must have been exceedingly glad to finally have a son. Imagine when this boy was born; he must have brought tremendous joy to the woman and her husband! Their son was a true miracle that only God could have given to them as their reward for taking care of His servant Elisha.

### **The Boy Dies**

One day, several years later, the boy went out in the fields to see his father. While in the field, he suddenly told his father, "My head hurts!" His father asked a servant to carry the boy home to his mother. She held him on her lap, but around noontime, she saw that her son had died!

Imagine what she must have felt as she saw her child sick in her arms. She was probably in tears and asking God to heal her son. Unfortunately, her son was not healed and instead passed away.

Instead of mourning for her son for a long period of time, she knew what she had to do. She laid her son on the bed in Elisha's room. Then, she hurried and asked her husband to send a servant and a donkey to her so she could travel somewhere. Where do you think she was going? [Allow students to answer.] She was going to see Elisha, right away! "Why are you going to him today?" her husband thought that maybe something was wrong. "Everything's alright," she replied. She saddled the donkey and instructed the servant to drive quickly. She had to see Elisha right way to ask him for God's help.

### **Elisha Prays for the Dead Boy**

Elisha saw the Shunammite woman coming. He sent Gehazi to ask if everything was all right. She simply replied, "All is fine," before continuing on to find Elisha. When she reached Elisha, she fell down and grabbed hold of his feet. Gehazi attempted to push her away, but Elisha could see that she was in extremely upset, so he told Gehazi to leave her alone. Still, Elisha did not know why the Shunammite woman had come. Finally, the woman cried out, "Did I ask God for a son? Didn't I ask you not to promise me something you could not give?"

Then Elisha understood. The son that the woman loved so much had died! The woman had come to Elisha to see if God would give her son back to her. Elisha sent out his servant Gehazi with the instructions to place Elisha's staff on the boy. However, the Shunammite woman refused to leave Elisha's side. Then, Elisha immediately got up and followed her to her home. While they were journeying, Gehazi came back with the news that the staff had done nothing to help the boy. When Elisha reached the home, he went up to his room and found the boy lying dead on his bed. He closed the door and prayed fervently to God for a long time. Then, he stretched himself out on the boy, bringing some warmth to the boy's body, but not enough to bring him back to life. Elisha got up and walked around the room, and then once again, stretched himself out on the boy. After this second time, the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. God had given his life back to him! Elisha called Gehazi and told him to call the Shunammite woman. When she came back upstairs into the room, Elisha told her, "Here is your son."

Students, how would you feel if you were this Shunammite woman? [Pause for students to think.] This was a miracle! Elisha had just made her son come alive! But think again, who actually saved this little boy's life? [Allow students to answer.] Ultimately, God was the one

who saved the Shunammite woman's son. Elisha wasn't a doctor, and he didn't have any power to save the woman's son. But he was a man of God, a prayer warrior. He prayed and prayed for the boy until God answered his prayers. The power that saved this boy's life came from God; it was an almighty and supreme power!

Today, the same power that saved the Shunammite woman's son's life is available for us. Whenever we need help with a matter, big or small, we can always ask God for help. The Shunammite woman looked to God for help and God did not disappoint her—He will not disappoint us either!



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### The One True God

Jesus Christ is the only Savior of mankind, the Creator of the heavens and earth, and the only true God.

When we are sick, we may go to a doctor to receive treatment, we may pray to God and rely on His power to heal us, or we may do both! But whichever method we choose, it is God who ultimately has true power to heal us. There are many testimonies in which a person had an illness or injury that no doctors could heal, but miraculously, through prayer and intercession from others, the person was healed. He is the greatest healer! It is these testimonies that show us the true power of God, who has power even over death. When we pray earnestly to God, His mighty power will be shown!



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. Why did the Shunammite woman and her husband invite Elisha to eat with them every time he passed by and build a special room for him?** They did all these things out of love and kindness for the servants of God.
- 2. Why did Gehazi suggest giving the Shunammite woman a son to thank her?** The woman had no children and her husband was old.
- 3. What did the Shunammite woman do as soon as she found out that her son had died?** She prepared a donkey so that she could go see Elisha right away for help.
- 4. What did Elisha do to make her son alive again?** He prayed to God for help and stretched himself out on the boy two times.
- 5. Who ultimately saved the boy's life?** God did!



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. AN ACT OF KINDNESS

In this lesson, we learned about a Shunammite woman and her husband who were very kind to Elisha. Do you remember what they did for him? [Allow students to answer.] They invited Elisha to eat with them and built a room for him to stay whenever he passed by. The Bible says, "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward" (Mk 9:41). This couple knew that Elisha was a man of God. They saw him passing by often while traveling to preach the word of God, and they wanted to do something for him. Sure enough, their act of kindness was rewarded by God. They had everything they needed already, but God knew that they wanted a child, so He gave them a son.

Today, we should be kind to others not because we want a reward from God but because we are His children. God has promised His eternal kingdom as a reward to those who obey Him. There's no other reward better this. In other words, as children of God who faithfully seek His kingdom, it is our responsibility to love and show kindness to those who are around us. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 Jn 4:11). God loves us, and He wants us to show His love to people around us through our genuine kindness. He wants us to be the light of the world, setting an example for others and leading them to Christ. Do you think anyone would follow a selfish, rude, and mean person to church? [Pause for students to think.] Of course not. If we love God, we should obey His commandment to love our

neighbors and shine His light in our daily lives. In due time, God will reward us just as He rewarded the Shunammite woman. Let's strive towards the heavenly reward that God has prepared for us!

### Scenario

Quiet, shy, and always alone at school, Christine longs for friends at school, but doesn't have any because she doesn't have the courage to talk to any of her classmates.

One day, as Christine walked off the school bus to go home, she felt something brush her leg. Turning back, she saw that a classmate of hers, Vanessa, had a hole in her backpack, which caused everything inside to spill onto the bus floor. Christine immediately went back to help Vanessa, volunteering to put some of her things in her backpack while holding the rest. They managed to clean up everything quickly so that the cars waiting behind the bus didn't have to wait long.

Though Christine didn't say much on the way, she walked Vanessa home, helping her hold her things the entire way. She felt uncomfortable, but she knew that it was the right thing to do. However, Vanessa was very excited to make a new friend. She talked and talked, making Christine laugh often. Vanessa never knew that Christine was such a nice and kind person, but since that day, she talked to Christine more at school and included her in social activities. Time went by and the two became close friends, always walking home together. Even though Christine is still shy and quiet, she now has a very good friend to hang out with every day at school! God knew that Christine didn't have any friends, so He gave her one in reward for her kindness. Praise God!

### Reflection Questions

- 1. How did God reward Christine for her act of kindness? What can we expect from God if we're kind to those who are around us?** God knew that Christine didn't have any friends, so He gave her a friend who eventually became Christine's best friend. For us, even though we are not to expect a physical reward from God for obeying His word, we can expect to receive both earthly blessings from God and His promised kingdom in heaven.
- 2. Share a time when you showed kindness to someone around you.** Possible answers: Helping your younger sibling with his/her homework, helping your mom with housework, helping a friend with a task he/she needs to complete, etc.
- 3. What do you plan to do from now on in order to show more kindness to your family members and to your friends at school?** Answers may vary.

When we obey the word of God, which teaches us to be kind to others, we lay up treasures in heaven. Our rewards may not always be instant or made known to us, but we know that in reward for our obedience, God will continue to bless us with His provision, love, and ultimately, His promised kingdom. Everything we do in obedience to Him, including every small act of kindness, is a merit that counts towards our heavenly inheritance. May God continue to give us wisdom to know how to do good and to show kindness to people around us so that we can be a step closer to receiving the kingdom of God!

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## 2. RELY ON GOD IN TIMES OF NEED

Whenever we need something, we go to people who can provide what we need. When we are sick, we go to the doctor. When we are sad, we talk to our best friend. When we need advice, we go to someone who has more experience than we do, such as our parents and teachers. But sometimes, we may not be able to find anyone who has a solution for our needs. Or simply, the people who can help us are not available. Have you ever felt helpless before? [Pause for students to think.]

We learned today in our lesson that Elisha relied on God's power to raise the Shunammite woman's son from dead. There have been many testimonies that bear witness to God's power. Have you heard of any? [Let students share some of the testimonies that they have heard before.] It is true, whether back in Elisha's time or today, that God has supreme

power to work miracles in our lives. God loves us and is more than willing to help us in any situation whenever we feel the need. Nothing is too big, or too small, for Him to want to help! He listens to our prayers and will not delay in reaching out His hands to save us from our troubles. Let me share a testimony with you.

### Testimony

One day, I was in the kitchen of our newly-purchased house, cooking a pot of macaroni when the doorbell rang. I went to the front door and saw that one of my aunts and her family had come to visit us. Keen to see them, I went out to the front porch to greet them. Suddenly, there was a strong gust of wind, and I heard the front door slam behind me! When I realized that I did not have the door key with me, I began to panic. The gas stove was on high heat in order to cook the pot of macaroni, and my three-year-old son was in a nearby room playing. What if all the water in the pot evaporated? What if my son decided to venture into the kitchen? I dared not to think of the consequences.

Hurriedly, my guests and I made numerous attempts to get into the house but we were unsuccessful. When it seemed as if I could do nothing more, I decided to pray to God. Once again, my gracious Lord did not turn away from my pleas.

At this crucial moment, the previous owner of the house happened to be in the neighborhood and stopped by to inform us that she still owed us a set of door keys. When she learned of my plight, she rushed home to get me that spare set of keys. With this key, I was able to enter the house and quickly switch off the gas stove. Thank God, the water in the pot had not evaporated, and my son was unharmed.

May all glory be given unto the Lord.

### Reflection Questions

- 1. What made the person in this testimony panic?** She was locked out of her house and her stove was on high heat while her three-year-old son was playing in a nearby room. She was worried that all the water in the pot would evaporate and that her son would get hurt.
- 2. What did she do after making numerous attempts to get into the house without success?** She prayed to God for help.
- 3. Did God answer her prayer? How?** Yes, He did! Miraculously, the previous owner of the house happened to stop by, and she went to get a set of spare keys.

Imagine if the person testifying were not a believer of God, what do you think she would have done instead of asking God for help? [Allow students to answer.] We will never know. What we do know is that she tried everything she could, but she just couldn't get into the house. Her son's life was in danger. As a believer of God, she relied on God's power and God did not disappoint her. Today, we're very lucky to be God's children because He is our helper. We can always pray to Him if we need anything. God promised never to fail us—all we need is to have the faith to ask!



## Activity

### 1. What a Blessing! / 2. God Is My Helper!

10-15 Minutes

#### 1. What a Blessing!

[Hand out the Activity worksheet to the students.]

To find out how Elisha helped a family, read 2 Kings 4:8-10, 17-22, and 32-37. Then read the sentences below. The sketch in each blank resembles a letter of the alphabet. Can you guess which letters they are? Then, think of a word suggested by the sketches that fit the corresponding blanks.

**2. God Is My Helper!**

Instruct students to write a letter to God to tell Him one (or more) thing that they need help in their lives.

Remind your students to write about their faith in God's power to help them and encourage them to pray about this matter every day.

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

1. B
2. A
3. A
4. Elisha prayed earnestly for the boy, and God ultimately used His power to save his life.
5. Answers may vary.

## GOD WORKS MIRACLES THROUGH ELISHA

**Instructions:** Using words from the word bank, fill in the blanks below.

more	sought	turn	son	blessed	stretched	Elisha	seven	opened	room
------	--------	------	-----	---------	-----------	--------	-------	--------	------

**1** A remarkable relationship began when the woman sought to do something for Elisha.

**2** As often as Elisha passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.

**3** The Shunammite woman then sought to do more for Elisha. She and her husband made a room for him. It contained a bed, a table, a chair, and a lampstand.

**4** Elisha told the Shunammite woman that she will have a son at this time next year.

**5** The barren Shunammite woman was blessed with a son.

**6** The boy grew, but his head hurt so much that he died. The Shunammite woman went to see Elisha at Mt. Carmel.

**7** Elisha came into the room, lay on the child, and stretched himself out. The child sneezed seven times.

**8** And the child opened his eyes. The Shunammite woman came in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then, she picked up her son with joy.

### Psalm 77:14

"You are the God who does *wonders*; You have declared Your strength among the peoples."

## GOD WORKS MIRACLES THROUGH ELISHA

**Instructions:** Using words from the word bank, fill in the blanks below.

more    sought    turn    son    blessed    stretched    Elisha    seven    opened    room

**1**

A remarkable relationship began when the woman \_\_\_\_\_ to do something for Elisha.



**2**

As often as Elisha passed by, he would \_\_\_\_\_ in there to eat some food.



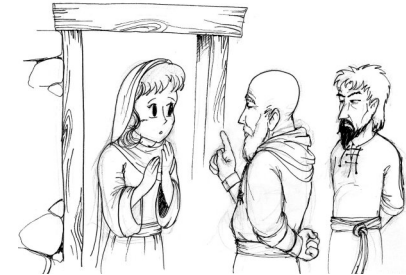
**3**

The Shunammite woman then sought to do \_\_\_\_\_ for Elisha. She and her husband made a \_\_\_\_\_ for him. It contained a bed, a table, a chair, and a lampstand.



**4**

Elisha told the Shunammite woman that she will have a \_\_\_\_\_ at this time next year.



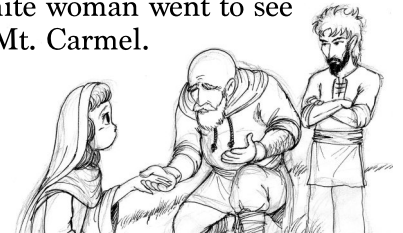
**5**

The barren Shunammite woman was \_\_\_\_\_ with a son.



**6**

The boy grew, but his head hurt so much that he died. The Shunammite woman went to see \_\_\_\_\_ at Mt. Carmel.



**7**

Elisha came into the room, lay on the child, and \_\_\_\_\_ himself out. The child sneezed \_\_\_\_\_ times.



**8**

And the child \_\_\_\_\_ his eyes. The Shunammite woman came in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then, she picked up her son with joy.



**Psalm 77:14**

"You are the God who does *wonders*; You have declared Your strength among the peoples."



# POWERFUL PRAYERS

**"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." (Acts 1:8)**



Ask ... and you shall receive



Give ... and it will be given to you



Receive ... and give thanks to God

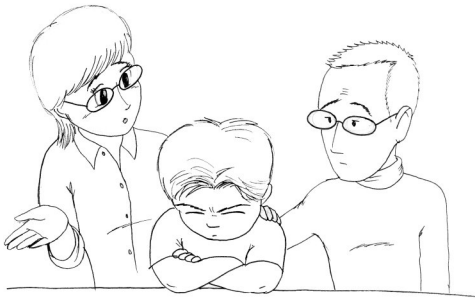
The power of prayer should not be underestimated because the power resides in God. 1 John 5:14 tells us, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

**1. We must pray in agreement with His will. That means our desires line up with His. When we pray according to God's will, God responds powerfully.**

**Which prayer is according to God's will?**

"Blake, honey, we have something to tell you." Blake looked at his parents sitting next to him on the sofa. "You know how your father has been trying to look for a better job? Well, he found one! And the house we're moving into is even closer to church than this house!" Blake's eyes brightened and just as he was about to say something, his mother continued. "But...it's on the other side of the country, and we will have to move in two months." Blake's eyes sunk, and he found himself staring at his hands. Noticing his change in demeanor, Blake's mom reassured him, "I know that you have a lot of friends here, and that you spent a lot of time decorating your room, but that doesn't mean you won't make a lot of new friends in your new school! And you can still talk to your old friends using your computer. You're not going to lose any of your friends; actually, you'll make even more friends! And all those decorations and things in your room? Of course we'll bring those with us! It'll be like the same exact room, just... in a different city!" Blake could tell that his mom was trying really hard to cheer him up, and he knew that his father had been working so hard at his current job. It was making his father really tired and sad every day, and he didn't want to see him like that anymore. He knew that God must have helped his father get this new job, and that it was God's will for them to move, even if it meant going to a completely new school and making new friends. Blake looked up at his mom. "Will I get to paint my new room the same way, too?" His mother replied, smiling, "You can paint it however you want!" That night, Blake knelt down to pray. "Dear God, thank You for blessing my father with this new job. I'm sad that I have to move, but I know that You always want what is best for us. It's going to be hard to say good-bye to all my friends. Please give me the strength to support my parents and to have complete faith in Your will. Amen."





"But I don't want to move! All my friends are here, and I like it here! I'm going to hate you both forever if you make us move!" Blake's father had just found a new job in a city clear across the country, but it required their family to move in two months time. This job had higher pay, better benefits, and it was in a nice neighborhood. What's better, their new house would be much closer to church than their current one! But Blake didn't want to hear it. He didn't want to move, and he made sure that his parents knew it. Ever since Blake's parents told him that they would be moving to a place far away, he stopped listening to them. "Blake, it's time for dinner! Come down!" Still fuming from their announcement, Blake ignored his mother, even though it was two weeks later. He knew that his mother would

leave dinner on the table for him, and he didn't care if he was acting badly. He believed his parents were being selfish. They don't care that I have so many friends here. They don't care that I like my room in this house. My parents don't care about me at all! Two weeks before they had to move, Blake still refused to help start packing. He even tried to block his parents from packing up his room. He was determined to make this move difficult for them. One day, Blake knelt down to pray about this matter. He thought that maybe God could help him. "Dear God, I know that You are a caring God and merciful God, so You want what's best for all of us. Well, God, I know what's best for me. Staying in this town with my friends in my room is the best for me. I can't imagine that there could be anything better than this! I know my parents can't see it right now, but God, can you please help change their minds so they can see the big mistake that they are making? Thank You! Amen."

## 2. We must pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests (Eph 6:18).

### A. Powerful prayer that overcomes sickness.

"Your husband may never walk again, Mrs. Banks." Penny overheard the doctor talking to her mother. Two days ago, her father had been in a devastating car accident, which injured most of his body. But she didn't know it was this bad until just now. She thought that doctors could heal everyone and make them 100% again. But it's clear that she was wrong.

For the next two years, Penny prayed every day before her parents woke up in the morning, in addition to their daily family prayers. Contrary to what the doctor said, it seemed like her father was getting better, but slowly. Neither her parents, the doctors, nor Penny were sure if her father would ever regain full control of his legs. Each morning, Penny knelt down to pray. "Dear God, thank You for blessing me with this loving family. Even though my father can't walk right now, he is still smiling every day and I always have fun sitting on his lap and giving him a hug. And my mother always encourages him when he does his physical therapy exercises! God, the doctors could not heal my father, but I know that You can. You are the Creator, and the One who has power and might. You healed a person in the Bible without even seeing that person! How great is Your mercy! If it is Your will, please help my father walk again. I know that he has complete faith in You, too. Thank You again for all the blessings You've given us. Amen."

"Let's go, Penny! The sun isn't going to wait for us!" Penny's father yelled from downstairs. They were going to the beach today! And her father promised that he would bring her into the ocean to let her play around a little bit! "OK! OK! Almost done!" Penny grabbed something and rushed out to the garage, where her parents were waiting. At the beach, Penny's mother set up a blanket and a beach umbrella, and then the time came. As Penny saw her father running towards the ocean, she closed her eyes and said, "Thank You, God, for giving my family this moment. Two years ago, the doctors told my mother that my father wouldn't walk anymore. But today, I have witnessed Your amazing mercy and might. Only You have the power to heal, and only You have power over everything: the birds, the air, the sea, everything. You are the God almighty. Amen." Then, she ran off after him.



### B. Powerful prayer that defeats demons.

"It happened again, Mom!" Addison's voice quivered as she recounted what had happened last night. "I was praying when suddenly, I felt a jab really hard in my side. I opened my eyes and looked around, but no one was there! I closed my eyes and continued praying, but it happened again! I was too scared to continue praying with my eyes closed, so I stopped and went to bed." Addison's mother had a concerned look on her face. "Addison, I think maybe a demon was trying to stop you from praying. We need to pray together about this as a family and cast it out. We can't let this demon win!" Addison gasped. "A demon? But I'm scared! What if the demon does something worse?" Addison asked. "Don't worry, Addison; God is on our side. Just have complete faith and pray to Him sincerely. He has power over demons and He can defeat them! We can even pray right now!"



Addison's mother called their family together, and as one, they started praying. In her prayer, Addison said, "Dear God, I'm really scared right now. I've never encountered demons before, but I keep feeling a mysterious jab in my side when I pray sometimes! And no one is ever there when I open my eyes! But I feel that something doesn't want me to pray to You! I know that You are an all-powerful God. In RE class, I have learned how You cast out demons from so many people in the Bible! May You please also help me overcome whatever it is that is bothering me when I pray. I know that only You have the power to help and only in Your name can demons be cast out. May all the glory be unto You. Amen." After the prayer, Addison felt comforted. The next day, when she began praying, she felt the jab again. Immediately, she yelled out, "Hallelujah! In the name of Jesus Christ, I cast you out!" After that, she never felt the jab again. Addison will always remember the day God helped her overcome the demon.

### C. Powerful prayer that requests for protection and peace.

"Boom! Crash! Pew pew!" Arthur and Andrew were playing with their toy tanks, while their parents were out getting dinner. Then, Andrew tilted his head to the side. "Did you hear that, Arthur? It sounds like something is coming from the kitchen, but Mom and Dad just left five minutes ago!" Andrew and Arthur tiptoed into the hallway overlooking the kitchen. To their shock, they found an intruder in their house looking through all the drawers. Panicked, Andrew and Arthur quickly ran to their room and locked the door. Arthur dialed the police and whispered their address and situation. Not long after, the policemen came and the intruder ran into the backyard. The police were able to catch him and put him in jail. However, Arthur and Andrew couldn't forget about what happened. Each night, they would stay awake with flashlights, too afraid to sleep. Each morning, their eyes would be red, they would be too tired to stay awake in school. Andrew and Arthur's parents installed new locks and windows, but that wasn't enough to comfort them. One day, they brought Andrew and Arthur together for a family talk. "Boys, we know that you're still scared about what happened, but God protected you both that day. Instead of going upstairs, the intruder stayed downstairs the entire time, trying to take things from the living room. God will always watch over us, but it is important that we also pray to Him when we need help. So, every day, let's come together to pray and give thanks for His protection and ask for His peace to abide in us, OK?" Andrew and Arthur nodded silently in agreement. They didn't want to lose another night of sleep. "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray." Their father started the prayer, and Andrew and Arthur each prayed for the same thing. "Dear God, thank You for protecting us from that intruder. We were terrified that something bad would happen to us. We thought we were alone, but now we know that we are never alone. You will always be standing on our side, protecting us. But even though we have faith in You, it's still a little hard for us to be at peace completely. We need wholehearted faith; we need to trust in you 100%. God, You are a compassionate God. I know that You want us to be in peace, too. Please help give us the strength and courage to overcome our fears and doubts, so that we can come to you in full faith and find the peace that is within You. Amen."

**The power of prayer should never be underestimated because it draws on the glory and might of the infinitely powerful God of the universe. Read Philippians 4:6.**

# An Act of Kindness

Quiet, shy, and always alone at school, Christine longs for friends at school, but doesn't have any because she doesn't have the courage to talk to any of her classmates.

One day, as Christine walked off the school bus to go home, she felt something brush her leg. Turning back, she saw that a classmate of hers, Vanessa, had a hole in her backpack, which caused everything inside to spill onto the bus floor. Christine immediately went back to help Vanessa, volunteering to put some of her things in her backpack while holding the rest. They managed to clean up everything quickly so that the cars waiting behind the bus didn't have to wait long.



Though Christine didn't say much on the way, she walked Vanessa home, helping her hold her things the entire way. She felt uncomfortable, but she knew that it was the right thing to do. However, Vanessa was very excited to make a new friend. She talked and talked, making Christine laugh often. Vanessa never knew that Christine was such a nice and kind person, but since that day, she talked to Christine more at school and included her in social activities. Time went by and the two became close friends, always walking home together. Even though Christine is still shy and quiet, she now has a very good friend to hang out with every day at school! God knew that Christine didn't have any friends, so He gave her one in reward for her kindness. Praise God!

## Reflection Questions

1. **How did God reward Christine for her act of kindness? What can we expect from God if we're kind to those who are around us?**
2. **Share a time when you showed kindness to someone around you.**
3. **What do you plan to do from now on in order to show more kindness to your family members and to your friends at school?**

# Rely on God in Times of Need

One day, I was in the kitchen of our newly-purchased house, cooking a pot of macaroni when the doorbell rang. I went to the front door and saw that one of my aunts and her family had come to visit us. Keen to see them, I went out to the front porch to greet them. Suddenly, there was a strong gust of wind, and I heard the front door slam behind me! When I realized that I did not have the door key with me, I began to panic. The gas stove was on high heat in order to cook the pot of macaroni, and my three-year-old son was in a nearby room playing. What if all the water in the pot evaporated? What if my son decided to venture into the kitchen? I dared not to think of the consequences.

Hurriedly, my guests and I made numerous attempts to get into the house but we were unsuccessful.

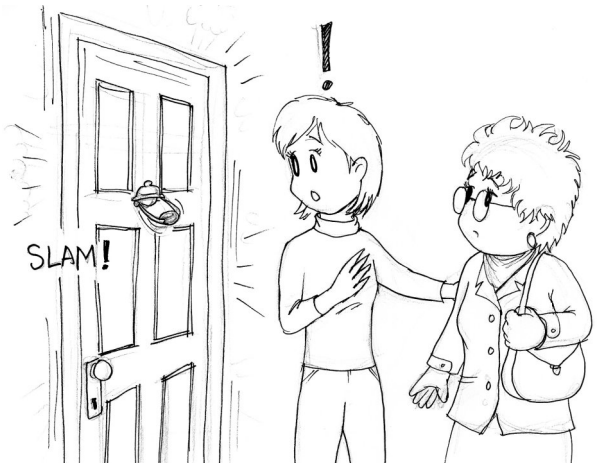
When it seemed as if I could do nothing more, I decided to pray to God. Once again, my gracious Lord did not turn away from my pleas.

At this crucial moment, the previous owner of the house happened to be in the neighborhood and stopped by to inform us that she still owed us a set of door keys. When she learned of my plight, she rushed home to get me that spare set of keys. With this key, I was able to enter the house and quickly switch off the gas stove. Thank God, the water in the pot had not evaporated, and my son was unharmed.

May all glory be given unto the Lord.

## Reflection Questions

1. What made the person in this testimony panic?
2. What did she do after making numerous attempts to get into the house without success?
3. Did God answer her prayer? How?




## WHAT A BLESSING!


To find out how Elisha helped a family, read 2 Kings 4:8-10, 17-22, and 32-37. Then read the sentences below. The sketch in each blank resembles a letter of the alphabet. Can you guess which letters they are? Then, think of a word suggested by the sketches that fit the corresponding blanks.

1. A well-to-do woman asked Elisha to stay for a


\_\_\_\_\_  (v. 8).


2. The woman and her husband made a room on the roof and put in it a bed, a table, a

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_, and a lamp for Elisha (v. 10).

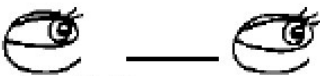

3. The woman gave birth to a \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17).

4. The boy sat on his mother's lap until


\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ and then died (v. 20).


5. When Elisha reached the \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_, the boy was lying dead on his couch (v. 32).

6. Elisha laid upon the boy, mouth to mouth,

 \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ to eyes, hands to hands (v. 34).

7. The boy \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ seven times and opened his eyes (v. 35).

8. Elisha said to Gehazi, "\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ the Shunammite" (v. 36).

9. When Elisha told the woman to take her son, she fell at his \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 37).

## E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 7—Elisha Raises the Shunammite Woman's Son

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

### What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 John 3:18)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Multiple Choice

1. \_\_\_\_\_: The Shunammite couple wanted to build Elisha a room because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Elisha had asked for it.
  - b. They knew that Elisha was a man of God and they wanted to do something for him.
  - c. They wanted to make some money by renting out a room to Elisha.
2. \_\_\_\_\_: In order to thank the Shunammite couple, Elisha \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Offered to ask a favor from the king or commander of the army for them
  - b. Prayed for their dead son
  - c. Gave them some money and gifts
3. \_\_\_\_\_: When Elisha saw the dead boy, he \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Prayed for him and stretched himself out on him
  - b. Put his hand on the boy's head
  - c. Told the boy to sneeze seven times

### Short Answer

4. Explain why Elisha had the power to raise the Shunammite woman's son from the dead.
  
5. What did you learn about the power of prayer and the power of God from this lesson?



# LESSON 8

## GOD'S ARMY PROTECTS ELISHA AND HIS SERVANT

### OBJECTIVES

1. To teach students that God is in control of all events.
2. To ask God to open our spiritual eyes to see God's work around us.
3. To encourage students to trust in God and praise Him in all circumstances.

### MEMORY VERSE

"My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

(Psalm 121:2)

### PRAYER

Thank You, God, for keeping us safe for the past week and for bringing us here on this Sabbath day to worship You together. Lord, we know that everything, good or bad, is in your control. Please give us an unmovable faith so that we can place our trust in You in everything we do.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. The King of Syria Seeks to Kill Elisha
- b. Elisha's Servant Sees God's Army of Angels
- c. The Syrians Become Blind

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God

#### 3. Life Application—Elisha Demonstrates God's Power

#### 4. Activity—Yes, I Will Trust Him; Chariots of God and Man of God



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

While the servant 2 Kings 6 is not explicitly named, this servant may have been Gehazi, the same servant who traveled with Elisha to Shunem.

In 2 Kings 6, the king of Syria was upset with Elisha for revealing the location of the Syrian army to the king of Israel each time they relocated. He sent an army to find him, and Elisha found an entire army surrounding the city of Dothan the next morning. Assured of God's protection, Elisha turned to God for help. Instead of finding a violent resolution to this situation, God chose to help Elisha find a peaceful resolution.

When the king had the army of Syrians in his midst, under his authority, he asked Elisha if he should kill them. But Elisha ordered the king not to take their lives; the king was not to take credit for what God alone had done. Instead, Elisha instructed the king of Israel to "set food and water before them," so he prepared a great feast for the Syrian army. In giving food and water to them, the king was heaping burning "coals of fire on [their heads]" (Prov 25:21-22).



## Reaching Out to Your Students

### God Protects Israel

This lesson should reinforce your students' faith about God's protection over us. Since they have not yet developed the ability to grasp abstract concepts, they often don't think about an invisible God or the invisible spiritual world. Your students may take for granted God's everyday protection and only think of God when they are in trouble or when they are in church. Don't forget to show them how our faith enables us to praise God, especially in situations that we cannot control. Use Elisha's faith in God to illustrate this. Elisha was able to praise God in such a hostile environment because of his strong faith and fullness of the Holy Spirit. Use today's lesson to show how trust, praise, and the Holy Spirit are integral to our faith.

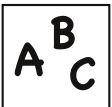
Teach your students to praise God by reminding them that God is always in control of the environment. Humans cannot live without air, water, sunshine, or plants. God has always been protecting us, but we may not have noticed because our eyes are blinded. Encourage your students to think about God's power and protection by asking them if there are things that God doesn't have control over in their lives. You can take this opportunity to correct some of their misconceptions about God's omnipotence.



### Opener

*5 Minutes*

It is not easy to trust another person to be in control when we're in danger. Sometimes we feel afraid and as if no one can help us at all, so we find it difficult to trust in God—especially since we can't see Him. Has that ever happened to you? [Ask students to share a few experiences of their own.] Of course, if you could see God standing right beside you, you wouldn't be afraid. The truth is that God is right here with us, even though we can't see Him. God is in control even when we feel afraid. In this lesson, we will hear how Elisha trusted in God when he was in danger, and how God, in turn, sent His angels to protect him.



### Vocabulary

**spy:** :a person whose job is to find out secrets about an enemy



### Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

*30-35 Minutes*

During Elisha's time, the country of Syria was one of Israel's most threatening enemies. Geographically, Syria was right next to Israel, and they constantly moved their army to find places where they could safely attack Israel. The king of Syria wanted to surprise the king of Israel and attack before Israel's army could get there to defeat him. Each time the king of Syria was ready, he told his officers, "Move the army to that place over there." This move was supposed to be a secret. However, somehow the king of Israel always seemed to know where the Syrians were going to attack! Can you guess why? [Let students answer.] God was helping Israel, His people! Every time the king of Syria made a new move, God would reveal it to Elisha so that he could tell the king of Israel where to be watchful for the Syrian army.

#### The King of Syria Seeks to Kill Elisha

Because of numerous failures, the king of Syria became furious. How did the king of Israel know where he was going to attack? He would tell his officers, "I'm going to move the army to this location." However, as soon as the king of Syria made the decision to move, the king of Israel knew to avoid that location. The Syrian king moved his army again and again. But every time he did so, the Israelites knew his secrets and always remained vigilant. No wonder the king of Syria was angry. He shouted at his officers. "There's a spy here! Someone is telling the king of Israel where we're going to move. Who's doing this?" Then one of his servants answered, "There's no spy here. The prophet Elisha tells the king of Israel everything that

you say." So the king of Syria sought to kill Elisha.

Soon a whole army set out for Elisha's hometown of Dothan. They came to the city at night, and while everyone was still sleeping, the Syrian army surrounded the town. The next morning, the Syrians would capture Elisha for sure!

### **Elisha's Servant Sees God's Army of Angels**

When morning came, Elisha's servant got up early. He went outside the house and was shocked by what he found. An army of Syrians surrounded the entire city. The servant could hardly believe his eyes. The whole Syrian army was here to kill Elisha! Elisha was in terrible danger, and the servant was terrified. Students, if you were Elisha's servant, how would you feel at this time? How do you think Elisha would feel when he finds out? [Allow students to answer.] Right away, the servant rushed in and informed Elisha. "There are enemy soldiers out there. They've surrounded the town. What are we going to do?"

"Don't worry, we have more on our side than they do on theirs," Elisha told his servant. Elisha's servant looked around. He didn't see anyone there at all. There were just the two of them—and thousands of Syrian soldiers! Was Elisha out of his mind? Elisha saw how puzzled his servant was. So he prayed, "Dear Lord, open my servant's eyes so that he can see."

Suddenly, the servant was able to see what Elisha knew was there all along. All around them, situated between Elisha and the enemy soldiers, was God's army in chariots of fire! Elisha trusted in God, and he wasn't afraid at all. He knew that God can do anything and that the danger he was facing was all in God's control. Indeed, God won't let us down when we place our trust in Him. He sent an army to protect Elisha! And God's army was far more powerful than the Syrian army. God was protecting Elisha and his servant at all times.

### **The Syrians Become Blind**

Then Elisha prayed, "Lord, please make the Syrians blind." God struck the Syrian army with blindness, and then Elisha walked right up to the commander. "You're in the wrong place," Elisha told the commander. "Follow me, and I'll take you to Elisha."

So the Syrians followed Elisha, and Elisha led them right to Samaria, where the king of Israel was. Elisha led them through the city gate, behind the city's great stone walls. And then Elisha prayed again. "Lord, please allow the Syrians to see again." God opened their eyes and the Syrians realized that they were inside Samaria! Now the tables were turned and the soldiers of Israel surrounded

the army of Syrians!

The king of Israel must have been really excited. "Shall I kill the Syrians?" he asked Elisha. "Of course not," Elisha replied. "Would you kill those whom you have captured? Rather, feed them and send them back home." So, the king of Israel prepared a great feast for them. After the soldiers ate and drank, the king of Israel sent them back to Syria and they came no more in the land of Israel.

Students, how do you think the king of Syria felt when he heard what had happened to his army? [Pause and allow students to think and share their answers.] He must have been very surprised, as it was difficult to believe what had happened. He believed that his army could have captured Elisha in Dothan, but instead, they were led by Elisha himself to their enemies. They were temporarily blind. How was that possible? The king of Syria quickly realized that God was with the Israelites.

God had always been helping Israel. He had always been the one protecting the Israelites from getting attacked. Now that the king of Syria knew that there was a powerful God behind the Israelites, he stopped sending his soldiers to attack them anymore.

#### **FOR TEACHERS**

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students now. Guide them to complete it, and keep a copy for reference when teaching. After the students have completed Worksheet #1, continue with Bible Discovery Worksheet #2. Divide the students into groups of 2 or 3, and instruct them to look up the verses and discuss the questions within their groups. Then, come together as a class to share the answers.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One True God

Jesus Christ is the only Savior of mankind, the Creator of the heavens and earth, and the only true God. His power is above all things. Everything is in His control and we can rely on Him in times of helplessness.

When Elisha learned that an army of Syrians had surrounded Dothan, did he panic? No, he did not. Actually, he was extremely calm for someone in his situation. An entire army wanted to capture him, most likely so that the king of Syria could do something bad to him. However, Elisha knew God's nature. He knew that God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. Elisha had complete faith in God and did not doubt God's protection for one second. Nowadays, when we encounter difficult situations for which we cannot find the solution, we must have faith as Elisha did. If we are lost, if we are scared, if we are mad, or if we simply feel helpless, God will always help us find our way. We must be comforted and remind ourselves that He is always using His great power to protect us at all times!



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **The king of Syria moved his army many times trying to find a good place to ambush the Israelite army.** True.
2. **Each time the king of Syria was ready, he told his officers to tell Elisha.** False; through God's power, Elisha knew where the king of Syria was planning to place his army.
3. **The king of Syria was happy that the Israelites knew his secrets.** False; the king of Syria was furious that the Israelites knew his secrets.
4. **An army of Syrians surrounded Elisha's hometown of Jerusalem.** False; they surrounded him at Dothan.
5. **What kind of army was protecting Elisha and his servant?** An army with horses and chariots of fire was protecting Elisha and his servant.
6. **Why do you think Elisha wasn't scared when he saw the Syrian army?** Elisha knew that God was in control of all things.
7. **What did Elisha do to the Syrian army?** He prayed to God to make them blind so that he could lead them to Samaria.
8. **The Syrians followed Elisha, and Elisha led them to the battlefield.** False; the Syrians followed Elisha, and Elisha led them to the king of Israel in Samaria.
9. **The king killed all those in the Syrian army when they arrived at Samaria.** False; he wanted to, but he did not in the end.
10. **What did Elisha tell the king to do?** He told him to feed them with food and water and send them home.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### ELISHA DEMONSTRATES GOD'S POWER

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet to the students. Go over one point at a time with the students. First, explain the teaching, and then read the verses. Then, allow the students to read the scenario on their own. When they have finished reading the scenario, come together as a class to discuss the question provided for each scenario.]

#### 1. God has an invisible army!

His protection is upon us. We are as protected when we stick close to Jesus as Elisha's servant was when he stayed close to Elisha.

*"So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'" (2 Kgs 6:16)*



*"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him." (Nahum 1:7)*

### Scenario

"Are we there yet?" Meredith's family was finally taking a road trip to visit different national parks! She had been planning for this trip for a long time, choosing which areas to visit and which places to stay at. However, when they finally set off on the trip, they ran into bad weather. The sound of the rain falling on the windshield sounded frightening, and yet soothing. Before she knew it, Meredith had fallen asleep. Then, a quick jerk forward and Meredith's eyes shot wide open. What was happening? In an instant, everything was spinning in front of her eyes, and she realized that it wasn't the world that was spinning, it was their car! Suddenly, she heard her father shout, "Hallelujah!" from the driver's seat and heard her mother pray loudly in the front passenger seat. Her younger brother, who had also been asleep next to her, looked at her with terror in his eyes, and she grabbed his hands, closed her eyes, and started praying with her mother. It seemed like forever before it happened, but the car finally came to a rest. Meredith didn't dare to open her eyes. "Is everyone OK?" Her father sounded both worried and relieved. "It's OK. We're OK. No one hit us. I braked hard to avoid hitting the car in front of me and the car spun out of control. But we're OK now. Thank God. Let's all say a prayer to thank God for His unfailing protection."

- How could Meredith feel God's unfailing protection?

## 2. Open My Eyes!

Ask the Lord to continue to open our spiritual eyes to His truth and presence in our lives so that we can see and discern what is right and wrong.

*"Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." (2 Kgs 6:20)*

*"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." (Eph 1:18)*

### Scenario

Landon had always enjoyed playing the most popular shooting games, which were usually violent and bloody. He didn't think that it was a problem because video games weren't real. He was just shooting the bad guys in the game; no one was getting hurt. But slowly, he started becoming addicted to these games and to violent movies. If there wasn't any violence, then it wasn't interesting to him. He started playing even more violent games, and spent more time playing games than doing homework, reading the Bible, and praying. When his parents told him that he needed to limit his time, he'd yell at them. This went on for a while. But then one day, his mother came into his room and told him to start doing his homework. She politely asked him to turn off his video games, but he ignored her and kept playing. Then, she went over to turn off the system for him. As soon as she pressed the power button, Landon ran at her and pushed her really hard. She stumbled backwards a bit, but was otherwise fine. Landon didn't know what had come over him. "Mom, I'm sorry..." Landon's mother looked at him with sadness in her eyes and walked away without saying a word. That night, as he passed by his parents' room, he could hear her crying behind the doors and talking to his father about what he had done. Landon now saw what kind of influence these games had on him, and he did not like who he had become. Before going to bed, Landon prayed to God. "God, I am sorry for what I did. I am sorry that I didn't know how bad it was. And...thank You for opening my eyes to see the truth."

- How were Landon's eyes opened to the truth?

## 3. God's love enables us to bless our enemies.

The king of Syria sent a very large army with horses and chariots. They arrived in Dothan at night and surrounded the city. They planned to capture Elisha and kill him.

But Elisha was a man of God, and he had a deep understanding of God. Even though Elisha's enemy wanted to capture him, God wanted Elisha to show love and bless his enemy instead. Elisha showed Israel's enemies God's love. The enemies weren't expecting kindness from Israel. Elisha told the king to give them a big feast and send them home after. That's a blessing!

**Scenario**

Kaley used to enjoy going to school every day, but recently, she found it difficult to get out of bed and on to the school bus. Janet, a classmate of Kaley's, had started bullying her, and Kaley didn't even know why. They used to be good friends until a new girl came to their school and started telling Janet that Kaley was "uncool" and "boring." After that, not only would Janet refuse to hang out with Kaley, she would also call Kaley horrible names every day. Once, as Kaley was walking in the cafeteria with her food tray, Janet walked up to her and flipped the tray into Kaley's face. The food was all over Kaley's clothes. When Kaley's mother asked her what had happened, Kaley simply said that she had tripped in the cafeteria. Instances like this continued for a few months. Then, one day at school, Kaley found Janet sitting in the corner at the end of the hallway, crying. Looking at Janet, Kaley suddenly thought about all the times that Janet had made her cry. However, instead of smiling and ignoring Janet, Kaley walked up to her. "Janet, what's wrong? Can I help?" Kaley asked softly. Janet looked up and couldn't believe who was talking to her. "Why are you being so nice to me, Kaley? I've been so mean to you the past few months," said Janet, tearfully. "Yeah, you hurt my feelings a lot, but that doesn't mean I stopped caring. We used to be good friends, and I don't think you're a bad person." Kaley extended her hand to Janet, and together, the two of them walked down the hallway.

- How did Kaley show love to her enemy?

**Activity****1. Yes, I Will Trust Him / 2. Chariots of God and Man of God**

10-15 Minutes

**1. Yes, I Will Trust Him**

**Objective:** To reinforce the teaching that we can place our trust in God.

**Instructions:** Write these following verses on the board. Then, guide the students to sing the lyrics to the melody of "Jesus Loves Me."

*God made everything I see,  
All the world, including me.  
He can help me when I pray,  
So I'll trust Him every day.*

Refrain:

*Yes, I will trust Him,  
Yes, I will trust Him.  
Yes, I will trust Him;  
I'll trust Him every day.*

*When I don't know what is right,  
Or when I'm afraid at night,  
Friend and helper He will be,  
For He knows what's best for me.*

(Refrain.)

*God sees all things everywhere;  
I can trust Him to take care.  
He is wise and kind and strong;  
I will trust Him all day long.*

(Refrain.)

## 2. Chariots of God and Man of God

**Objective:** To visualize the confrontation between God's army and the Syrian army.

### Materials

- Clay, various colors to represent Elisha, the Syrian army, and God's army
- Construction paper
- Empty Half-pint milk cartons
- Scissors
- Brass fasteners
- Glue, optional
- Cardboard, optional

### Instructions

1. Assign students to create and decorate different parts of the scene.
  - Elisha; Syrian army; God's army (clay)
  - Chariots of fire; Syrian chariots (milk cartons) + wheels (construction paper)
  - Elisha's house (construction paper)
2. Provide different colored clay each for Elisha, the Syrian army, and God's army, so that they can be easily distinguished. Students can make fewer Syrian soldiers than soldiers of God to illustrate that more were on God's side.
3. To make the chariots, help students cut them to create a chariot, then, using a brass fastener, fasten a wheel cut out of construction paper to the chariot.
4. When all pieces of the scene have been completed, you can choose to keep the scene by gluing it onto a piece of cardboard, or students can re-enact the story using the created pieces.

### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. He knew that the Syrian army had come for Elisha.
5. He knew that an army of God's angels was on his side and that God's army was much more powerful. He knew that God was on his side to help him.
6. Answers may vary.



## AN INTERVIEW WITH ELISHA

God is in control. He is watching over us and He has an invisible army! (2 Kings 6)

**Reporter:** Hi, Elisha. We heard that the nation of Syria was always at war with Israel. Yet, every time they would move their army somewhere, God would tell you. Is that correct?

**Elisha:** Yes, God would tell me so Israel would win over and over again.

**Reporter:** So when Syria's king learned that it was you who was giving away his plans, he sent an army to get you.

**Elisha:** That's right. One morning, my servant went outside and saw that we were surrounded by enemy troops.

**Reporter:** What was his reaction?

**Elisha:** He asked me, "What are we going to do?" And I told him, (fill in the blanks by looking up verse 16) "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them," and I prayed, (verse 17) "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see."

**Reporter:** What did he see?

**Elisha:** You'd be amazed! The mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around me! I was not afraid. So, when the Syrians came down to me, I prayed to God, (verse 18) "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And I said to them, "Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And I led them to Samaria and the Lord opened their eyes."

**Reporter:** This is amazing guidance and protection from God, without ever firing a shot at them. So what happened?

**Elisha:** When the king of Israel saw them, he asked me if he should kill them. And I told him not to. I simply told him to set food and water before them, so the king prepared a feast and then sent them away. So, the bands of Syrian raiders came no more in the land of Israel.

**Reporter:** So what can we all learn from this?

**Elisha:** Well, there are four things that we can learn.

**Instructions:** Fill in the blanks by using the words in the word bank.

protects    invisible    spiritual    blind    good    righteous
--

God always <u>protects</u> those who follow His commandments! We have an <u>invisible</u> spiritual protection, who is our God.
---

We need to pray and ask God to open our <u>spiritual</u> eyes. When a person is <u>blind</u> to spiritual matters, only God can open the eyes.
--

Repay "no one evil for <u>evil</u> " (Rom 12:21) "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with <u>good</u> ."
---

God answers the prayer of the " <u>righteous</u> ".  (1 Peter 3:12)
---

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

Close your eyes for a minute and imagine what Elisha had to face in today's story. [Ask your students to close their eyes.] In front of you, there are thousands of armed soldiers who are about to capture you to take you to the king of Syria, a person who really doesn't like you. At this point, it may be difficult to believe that God has everything under control. Is God's power greater than these trained soldiers and their weapons? Does God even know that you are in danger? Where is He? [Ask your students to open their eyes.] It takes a lot of faith for someone to stay calm and hopeful when facing danger. But Elisha had experienced God every day of his life. He had utmost confidence that God is greater than the army of Syria, and that He was right there to help him because He knew that Elisha was in danger. Elisha had no doubt, even when facing death, that God has power over everything.

This is the kind of faith that we should strive for as children of God—unshakable! No matter what we are facing, whether danger or difficulty, we can have faith that God is in complete control. Still doubting? Let's read a few verses to see how God reassured us of His almighty power!

For Teachers: Divide the students into groups of 2-3. Ask them to turn to the following verses and read them, and then discuss the questions with their group. They should write their answers down on the worksheet. The answers are provided below.

### 1. Matthew 19:26

"But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

**Is there anything impossible with God?** No. Everything is possible with God.

### 2. Psalm 22:28

"For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He rules over the nations."

**Each nation has its own authorities. But who rules over all nations?** God rules over all nations.

### 3. Jeremiah 32:27

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"

**Is there anything God cannot do? If so, list them.** No, there's nothing God cannot do. There's nothing too hard for God.

### 4. Proverbs 16:33

"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."

**Who makes every decision in our lives?** God makes every decision in our lives.

### 5. Isaiah 45:6-7

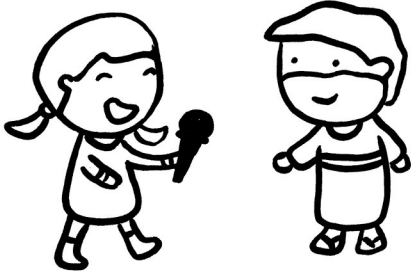
"That they may know from the rising sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things."

**Who makes everything around us happen? List some examples.** God makes everything happen. He forms light and creates darkness. He makes peace and creates calamity.

From the verses we just read, we can see that there's nothing too difficult for God—not our problems, not any sickness, not even a whole army! Furthermore, we know that God has promised never to leave or forsake us. Let's turn to Deuteronomy 31:6. [Ask students to read aloud together.] "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." God is always here for us. He is the One who is above all things and has control over all things. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ps 46:1). We can rest assured that God is our protector.

# AN INTERVIEW WITH ELISHA

God is in control. He is watching over us and He has an invisible army! (2 Kings 6)



**Reporter:** Hi, Elisha. We heard that the nation of Syria was always at war with Israel. Yet, every time they would move their army somewhere, God would tell you. Is that correct?

**Elisha:** Yes, God would tell me so Israel would win over and over again.

**Reporter:** So when Syria's king learned that it was you who was giving away his plans, he sent an army to get you.

**Elisha:** That's right. One morning, my servant went outside and saw that we were surrounded by enemy troops.

**Reporter:** What was his reaction?

**Elisha:** He asked me, "What are we going to do?" And I told him, (fill in the blanks by looking up verse 16) "\_\_\_\_\_"  
 \_\_\_\_\_"  
 and I prayed, (verse 17) "\_\_\_\_\_".

**Reporter:** What did he see?

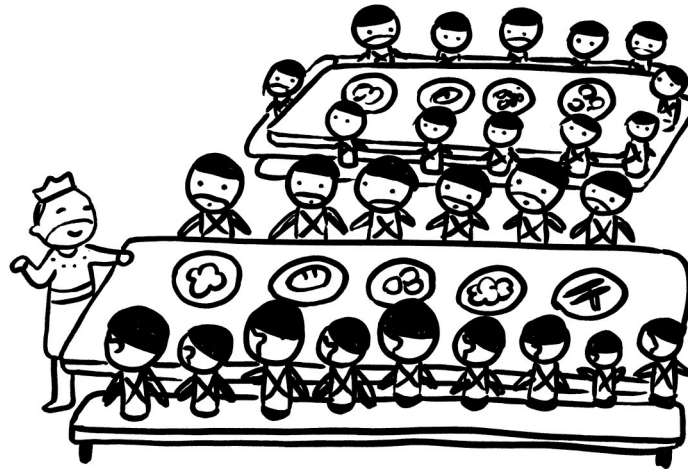
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And I said to them, "Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And I led them to Samaria and the Lord opened their eyes."

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**Reporter:** So what can we all learn from this?

**Elisha:** Well, there are four things that we can learn.

**Instructions:** Fill in the blanks by using the words in the word bank.

protects    invisible    spiritual    blind    good    righteous

God always \_\_\_\_\_ those who follow His commandments! We have an \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual protection, who is our God.

We need to pray and ask God to open our \_\_\_\_\_ eyes. When a person is \_\_\_\_\_ to spiritual matters, only God can open the eyes.

God answers the prayer of the " \_\_\_\_\_ ".

(1 Peter 3:12)

Repay "no one evil for \_\_\_\_\_"  
(Rom 12:21)

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with \_\_\_\_\_."



GOD  
IS = = IN  
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**Instructions:** Turn to the following verses and read them, and then discuss the questions within your group.

**1. Matthew 19:26**

Is there anything impossible with God?

**2. Psalm 22:28**

Each nation has its own authorities. But who rules over all nations?

**3. Jeremiah 32:27**

Is there anything God cannot do? If so, list them.

**4. Proverbs 16:33**

Who makes every decision in our lives?

**5. Isaiah 45:6-7**

Who makes everything around us happen? List some examples.

# ELISHA DEMONSTRATES GOD'S POWER!



"Are we there yet?" Meredith's family was finally taking a road trip to visit different national parks! She had been planning for this trip for a long time, choosing which areas to visit and which places to stay at. However, when they finally set off on the trip, they ran into bad weather. The sound of the rain falling on the windshield sounded frightening, and yet soothing. Before she knew it, Meredith had fallen asleep. Then, a quick jerk forward and Meredith's eyes shot wide open. What was happening? In an instant, everything was spinning in front of her eyes, and she realized that it wasn't the world that was spinning, it was their car! Suddenly, she heard her father shout, "Hallelujah!" from the driver's seat and heard her mother pray loudly in the front passenger seat. Her younger brother, who had also been asleep next to her, looked at her with terror in his eyes, and she grabbed his hands, closed her eyes, and started praying with her mother. It seemed like forever before it happened, but the car finally came to a rest. Meredith didn't dare to open her eyes. "Is everyone OK?" Her father sounded both worried and relieved. "It's OK. We're OK. No one hit us. I braked hard to avoid hitting the car in front of me and the car spun out of control. But we're OK now. Thank God. Let's all say a prayer to thank God for His unfailing protection."

## • How could Meredith feel God's unfailing protection?



Landon had always enjoyed playing the most popular shooting games, which were usually violent and bloody. He didn't think that it was a problem because video games weren't real. He was just shooting the bad guys in the game; no one was getting hurt. But slowly, he started becoming addicted to these games and to violent movies. If there wasn't any violence, then it wasn't interesting to him. He started playing even more violent games, and spent more time playing games than doing homework,

reading the Bible, and praying. When his parents told him that he needed to limit his time, he'd yell at them. This went on for a while. But then one day, his mother came into his room and told him to start doing his homework. She politely asked him to turn off his video games, but he ignored her and kept playing. Then, she went over to turn off the system for him. As soon as she pressed the power button, Landon ran at her and pushed her really hard. She stumbled backwards a bit, but was otherwise fine. Landon didn't know what had come over him. "Mom, I'm sorry..." Landon's mother looked at him with sadness in her eyes and walked away without saying a word. That night, as he passed by his parents' room, he could hear her crying behind the doors and talking to his father about what he had done. Landon now saw what kind of influence these games had on him, and he did not like who he had become. Before going to bed, Landon prayed to God. "God, I am sorry for what I did. I am sorry that I didn't know how bad it was. And...thank You for opening my eyes to see the truth."

## • How were Landon's eyes opened to the truth?



Kaley used to enjoy going to school every day, but recently, she found it difficult to get out of bed and on to the school bus. Janet, a classmate of Kaley's, had started bullying her, and Kaley didn't even know why. They used to be good friends until a new girl came to their school and started telling Janet that Kaley was "uncool" and "boring." After that, not only would Janet refuse to hang out with Kaley, she would also call Kaley horrible names every day. Once, as Kaley was walking in the cafeteria with her food tray, Janet walked up to her and flipped the tray into Kaley's face. The food was all over Kaley's clothes. When Kaley's mother asked her what had happened, Kaley simply said that she had tripped in the cafeteria. Instances like this continued for a few months. Then, one day at school, Kaley found Janet sitting in the corner at the end of the hallway, crying. Looking at Janet, Kaley suddenly thought about all the times that Janet had made her cry. However, instead of smiling and ignoring Janet, Kaley walked up to her. "Janet, what's wrong? Can I help?" Kaley asked softly. Janet looked up and couldn't believe who was talking to her. "Why are you being so nice to me, Kaley? I've been so mean to you the past few months," said Janet, tearfully. "Yeah, you hurt my feelings a lot, but that doesn't mean I stopped caring. We used to be good friends, and I don't think you're a bad person." Kaley extended her hand to Janet, and together, the two of them walked down the hallway.

• **How did Kaley show love to her enemy?**





E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 8—God's Army Protects Elisha and His Servant

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Psalm 121:2)

\_\_\_\_\_

## Multiple Choice

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : The king of Syria was angry because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. He found a spy in his army.
  - b. The Israelite army always seemed to know where he planned to attack.
  - c. The Israelite army defeated him.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ : When Elisha saw the Syrian army, he \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Ran to the wilderness
  - b. Was not afraid because an army of God's angels was on his side
  - c. Prayed to God for wisdom to know how to escape from them
3. \_\_\_\_\_ : When the Syrian army was led to Samaria, Elisha \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Told the king to feed them
  - b. Had them killed
  - c. Threatened the king of Syria so that he would never attack Israel again

## Short Answer

4. Why was Elisha's servant so afraid when he saw the Syrian army?
5. Why was Elisha not afraid when he saw the Syrian army?
6. Share a time when you felt God's protection.

# LESSON 9

## NEHEMIAH REBUILDS THE WALL

### OBJECTIVE

To enable your students to help those in need.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow."

(Isaiah 1:17)

### PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for watching over us and keeping us safe this past week. We also thank You for bringing us all together on this Sabbath day to worship You and to fellowship with one another. In this lesson today, we are going to learn about Nehemiah, who returned to Jerusalem and planned a way to help the people of Judah work together to rebuild the wall. Lord, please open our hearts for what we are about to learn so that we may understand the truth and apply it to our daily lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Nehemiah Prays for His People (Neh 1)
- b. Nehemiah Sent to Judah (Neh 2:1-10)
- c. Nehemiah Views the Wall of Jerusalem (Neh 2:11-20)

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One True Church

#### 3. Life Application

- a. I Can Help, Too!
- b. Reach Out

#### 4. Activity—Nehemiah's Interview



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

Nehemiah wasn't the first of the exiles to return to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel had led the first group back in 537 B.C., more than ninety years earlier (Ezra 1-2). Ezra followed with a second group in 458 B.C. (Ezra 7), and now Nehemiah was ready to lead the third major return to Jerusalem in 445 B.C..

Upon hearing about the conditions in Jerusalem, Nehemiah knew that he had to return to rebuild the wall. Despite Nehemiah's willingness to sacrifice and take risks, Nehemiah knew that he could not do this enormous task alone. First, he approached God through prayer and fasting to determine if his plan was truly God's will. The Book of Nehemiah recorded eight instances where he prayed (2:4; 4:4-5, 9; 5:19; 6:14; 13:14, 22, 29). Nehemiah took every opportunity to pray, praying even while talking with others.

After reassurance that the plan was indeed God's will, Nehemiah bravely asked King Artaxerxes to support him. Then, Nehemiah courageously left his familiar surroundings to journey to Jerusalem where he endured the scorn of enemies as he shared his plan with the Jewish people. Equipped with his courage and enthusiasm that he received through prayer, he was able to convince the Jewish people of the importance of rebuilding the wall.

Sanballat and Tobiah labeled the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls a rebellious act and attempted to hinder the reconstruction efforts. These enemies also ridiculed Nehemiah and said the walls could never be rebuilt because the damage was too extensive. Nehemiah did not let their negative words and actions influence him because he knew that he had God's guidance.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Children at this age can learn to be sensitive to the environment around them. Older E2 students are developing the ability to think and comprehend abstract concepts and to project or imagine the outcomes of an event. They can now imagine what it is like to be handicapped or poor. However, these thoughts may be idealistic and not realistic. It is important to help them learn how to differentiate their ideals from reality by bringing in real-life examples.

While your students may never have had the chance to build something as large as a tall wall at their age, they can still understand the motivation behind Nehemiah's desire to return and rebuild Jerusalem's wall. Have a discussion with your students about the people around them who may be in need. These people could be classmates, church members, or even their family members. Talk about what it is like to be elderly, handicapped, or a new immigrant. You may want to try role-playing by asking students to do a task with only one hand or with their eyes covered. Then, ask the students to share about what it felt like not being able to use both hands or to see. Don't forget to bring in the needs of the church on a local, national, or even international level. Touch upon the needs of the society, the underprivileged, and the unsaved. Emphasize that it is a blessing from God to be where we are today, and that we should always think about how we can help others.

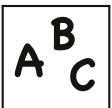


## Opener

5 Minutes

Why do members of a team need a coach to help them play their best? (For encouragement, to know how to play the game, etc.) Why must a coach make game plans to help the team? Why is a coach considered a leader? [Give your students a few minutes to discuss and share their answers.]

In our Bible story, we'll hear about a group of people who needed help from a good leader to accomplish a difficult task.



## Vocabulary

**cupbearer:** an individual who serves the king's food, gives advice to the king, and guards the king from unexpected dangers

**fasting prayer:** a type of prayer in which an individual does not eat or drink for an extended period of time to increase focus in prayer



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Before class, prepare a large poster made to look like a wall that has a few pieces missing. The number of missing pieces should be double the number of students in the class or greater. This wall will be incorporated at the end of this section.

Nehemiah was a good man who loved God. He lived and worked in the royal court of the Persian king, Artaxerxes. Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer. [Explain what a cupbearer does.] As you have probably guessed, the king trusted Nehemiah very much. The king wouldn't let someone he doesn't trust serve him food. Indeed, Nehemiah was one of the most trusted persons around King Artaxerxes.

Even though Nehemiah was of Jewish background, he had never lived in Jerusalem, where his ancestors had lived. Before Nehemiah was born, the Jewish people of Judah had disobeyed God by worshipping idols. As punishment for their disobedience, God allowed Babylonian armies to conquer the people of Judah and carry them off into captivity. Nehemiah's relatives were among the captives brought to the city of Babylon when Judah was defeated.

Now, Nehemiah was very excited because some of the Jewish people had recently been allowed to return to Jerusalem. One day, some men traveling from Judah came to the palace where Nehemiah worked. Nehemiah anxiously questioned them to find out the conditions of the people in Jerusalem, as well as the state of the city

itself. "The people are not doing well," said one of the men. "The gates to the city of Jerusalem have been burned and the wall is broken down." Nehemiah was shocked. The once great city of Jerusalem where his relatives had lived was in great danger. Nehemiah was so upset at the news that he sat down and cried. He knew how discouraged and afraid the Jewish people who still lived in Jerusalem must have been. He fasted and prayed for many days. Nehemiah wanted to concentrate on his prayers as he asked God for help. For four months, Nehemiah continued to work for the king without letting the Persian officials know of his deep sadness.

### The King Helps Nehemiah

But one day, when Nehemiah brought King Artaxerxes something to drink, Nehemiah couldn't hide his sadness, and the king noticed. "What's the matter Nehemiah?" King Artaxerxes asked, "You don't seem sick, so why do you look so sad?" Nehemiah was afraid to speak. But God gave Nehemiah the courage to explain. "Why shouldn't I be sad when Jerusalem, the city of my fathers, is in ruins and even the gates have been burned?" Nehemiah told the king. Instead of being angry, King Artaxerxes and his queen listened carefully to Nehemiah's words.

"What do you want from me?" the king asked.

Before answering the king, Nehemiah prayed to God for help. Then Nehemiah pleaded, "Oh, King Artaxerxes, if I have pleased you, let me go to the country of Judah, the place where my relatives lived. Please let me go rebuild the city I love!"

"How long would you need to be gone?" the king asked. "And when will you come back?"

When he heard these words, Nehemiah's worried frown disappeared. The king would let him go! Nehemiah agreed upon a time to return and then prepared to depart. Before Nehemiah left on his journey, the king gave him permission to take wood from the king's forest to make the city gates, the walls and the home where Nehemiah would stay while working on these projects. The king also gave Nehemiah letters to give to the rulers of areas through which Nehemiah would be traveling. The letters were to make sure no one harmed Nehemiah on his journey. After making all of the arrangements, Nehemiah was eager to begin his journey!

### The Arrival of Nehemiah

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, accompanied by officers and soldiers from the Persian army, news spread quickly about his arrival. Two men, Sanballat and Tobiah, were upset by this news. They didn't want anyone to help their enemies, the Jewish people. Sanballat and Tobiah probably wondered what Nehemiah was up to! But Nehemiah kept his plans a secret. When he arrived in Jerusalem, Nehemiah waited for three days. Late one night, he went out to look around the city. He took along only a few men and one horse to ride. Nehemiah didn't

want anybody to know about his plans to rebuild the wall yet. That night, Nehemiah looked at the burned gates and at the broken wall. What he had heard from the travelers was true. The wall and gates were in terrible shape! Soon after his inspection, Nehemiah gathered his people together. It was time to announce his plan!

### Nehemiah Shares the Plan

"God sent me back to Jerusalem for a reason," Nehemiah began. "God even gave me the courage to ask permission for my trip from King Artaxerxes. You can see the trouble we are in here. Jerusalem is a pile of ruins and its gates have been burned. Come, everyone, let's rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and then we won't be ashamed and sad any longer." The people knew that building the wall was going to be a big project and lots of people would need to help, but they were excited about this plan and eager to begin. It didn't take long for word to spread to Nehemiah's enemies about what was going on. Sanballat and Tobiah laughed at the plan to rebuild the wall and gates of Jerusalem. However, Nehemiah was full of faith. He told the enemies that God would help them in their work and that they would continue to build.

With God's guidance and Nehemiah as their planner and leader, the people worked together to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Now they had hope for a safer and happier future.

Spiritual renewal often begins with one person's vision. Nehemiah had a vision, and he shared it with enthusiasm, inspiring Jerusalem's leaders to rebuild the wall. From the moment he arrived in Jerusalem, everyone knew who was in charge. He organized, managed, supervised, encouraged, overcame opposition, sought justice, and kept going until the wall was rebuilt. Today, does God have a vision for us? Are there "walls" that need to be built today? God put the desire to rebuild the wall in Nehemiah's heart; what about you? [Let the students write down what they can do for the church and their family in the missing spaces in the wall that you prepared before class.]

#### BIBLE DISCOVERY WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

After students have completed writing in the missing pieces, hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students and go over it with the students. Emphasize the idea that we can pray to God at any time and for any thing.

#### BIBLE DISCOVERY WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

- 1) **Praise and thanksgiving** (Answer: verses 5, 10)
- 2) **Repentance** (Answer: verses 6, 7)
- 3) **Remembering God's faithfulness** (Answer: verses 8, 9)
- 4) **Specific request for God's mercy and to prosper in all that he does** (Answer: verse 11)
- 5) **Commitment** (Answer: verse 11)





## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One True Church

Jerusalem's city wall can be seen as the barrier that provides protection for the holy city, and in today's context, our church is the holy city of God and we, as its members, dwell within. There is only one true church, just as there was only one holy city of Jerusalem in the days of the Israelites. We should love the city of God just as Nehemiah and those who worked with him to rebuild the city wall did. We should rely on God's power to maintain the "wall" of our church, and do our part, by staying convicted in our faith and resistant to outside influences, to keep this wall strong when parts start to break down. For this will bring glory to God's name, just as a rebuilt and powerful Jerusalem was a good testimony to God's glory.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. Why was Nehemiah concerned about Jerusalem?** It was the holy city. It represented Jewish national identity, and it was blessed with God's special presence in the temple.
- 2. Why did Nehemiah want to return to Jerusalem?** He wanted to return to reunite the Jews and to remove the shame of Jerusalem's broken wall. They would bring glory to God and restore the power of God's presence among His people.
- 3. Read Nehemiah's prayers and write down the elements of an effective prayer.** Praise, thanksgiving, repentance, remembrance, request, and commitment.
- 4. When Nehemiah arrived in Judah, he was greeted with opposition. How did he handle it?** He had complete faith in God and believed that God would help him in his task. He refused to allow the negative words from others to stop him from doing what God had called him to do.
- 5. Who were those who opposed Nehemiah?** Sanballat and Tobiah.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. Helping others who are in need

When Nehemiah found out that the wall of Jerusalem was in disrepair, he was extremely distressed. He sat down and wept, and mourned for many days. Do you remember what else he did? [Let students answer.] He fasted and prayed. Let's revisit the story and really think about Nehemiah's situation again. Firstly, he was a cupbearer, a trusted servant of King Artaxerxes. He had a stable job serving the most powerful person in Persia. What do you think his life was like? Was it rough, or was it fairly smooth? [Let students answer.] His life was definitely not rough. The king treated him well because he trusted Nehemiah to perform his job well. So, why do you think that Nehemiah still cared about the wall of Jerusalem? The wall being in disrepair wouldn't affect his life because he lived comfortably in Persia. What do you think? [Let students answer.] Nehemiah was so concerned about the wall of Jerusalem being in disrepair because he truly cared about the people whose lives were endangered in Jerusalem. They were his brethren, the children of Israel, of God! Even though Nehemiah himself had nothing to worry about, he was anxious for those who were in great distress and reproach. The Bible says, "But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17) Nehemiah knew that there was something he could do for his brethren. The love of God abided in him, and he was moved to help the people who lived in Jerusalem. He didn't "shut his heart" from them.

Today, there are many people around us who are in need. They may have physical needs, emotional needs, or even spiritual needs. Can you think of some examples? [Let students discuss with their partners and share their answers.]

**Examples:****Physical Needs**

- Sick / in the hospital / recovering from illness
- Handicapped
- Needs help with moving to a new house
- Has questions about homework
- Homeless
- Does not have enough money for needed clothes or school supplies

**Emotional Needs**

- Loneliness; needs a friend
- Seeks advice for a problem
- Needs a shoulder to lean on
- Just wants someone to listen

**Spiritual Needs**

- Needs prayers
- Wants someone to study the Bible and pray together
- Feels weak in faith and needs spiritual encouragement
- Has questions about the Bible

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## 2. Reach Out

The Bible encourages us to “look out not only for [our] own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Phil 2:4). Too often, we make ourselves the “center of the world,” meaning that we are preoccupied by only the things that relate to or affect us. If Nehemiah was this way, do you think that he would have cared to help rebuild the wall of Jerusalem? Probably not. How often do we pay attention to other people’s needs? Are we sensitive about other people’s feelings? Are we willing to reach out and help with what they need? The Bible says, “Give, and it will be given to you” (Lk 6:38). If we are not willing to help others when we are able to, do you think that God would still be happy to help us when we are in need? God wants us to love one another just as He loves us. We should always remind ourselves and be thankful for how much God loves us and has given us. That way, we can be inspired to treat others the same way God treats us. Let me share a story with you.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2. Read the scenario together with the students or ask the students to read it to themselves. Then, divide the students into groups of two or more, depending on class size. Give the groups a few minutes to discuss and write down the things that they would say to Stephen. Afterwards, ask one student from each group to share their answers with the rest of the class. Once each group has shared, continue with the story. The following section of the story is not on their worksheets.]

“Let’s find out how Peter responded!”

Peter said to Stephen, “I’m so sorry to hear this. I didn’t know that your dad has been in the hospital. I hope he gets well soon! If you need help with anything, just let me know. I can also come over to your place to study after school if that helps since you have to go home for your little brother. I will definitely be praying for your dad and your family!” Not only did Peter give Stephen the comfort that he needed that day, he also continued to show support and encouragement to Stephen every day. Even though Stephen’s dad is still in the hospital recovering, Stephen seems happier these days to have a friend who supports him and cares about him so much.



## Activity

### Nehemiah's Interview

10-15 Minutes

**Objective:** To reinforce the Bible story in the students' minds.

In this activity, students will pair up to complete an interview between Nehemiah and a reporter. The students will work together to fill in the blanks with the correct answers by referring to chapters 1 and 2 of Nehemiah. Afterwards, choose volunteer pairs to act out the dialogue.

**Reporter:** Nehemiah, we would like to ask you a few questions.

**Nehemiah:** I would be glad to answer them.

**Reporter:** What made you look so upset while serving the king?

**Nehemiah:** I was upset because \_\_\_\_\_.

**Reporter:** Why did you fast and pray for God's help?

**Nehemiah:** I fasted and prayed because \_\_\_\_\_.

**Reporter:** After King Artaxerxes gave you permission to go to Jerusalem, you came up with a plan. What was it?

**Nehemiah:** My plan was \_\_\_\_\_.

**Reporter:** Sanballat and Tobiah opposed your efforts. How did the Jewish people react?

**Nehemiah:** They \_\_\_\_\_.

**Reporter:** Why do you think the people were willing to follow you and help you rebuild Jerusalem's wall?

**Nehemiah:** \_\_\_\_\_.

#### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Artaxerxes; cupbearer
2. Judah; Jerusalem
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. He sat down and wept, and mourned for many days. He also fasted and prayed (1:4).
7. He "prayed to the God of heaven" (2:4).
8. Answers may vary.



Nehemiah was an ordinary person in a unique position. He was serving the Persian King Artaxerxes as a faithful cupbearer. He was trusted by the king to go back to the people with their spiritual needs.

# understanding NEHEMIAH'S Prayer

From the very beginning, Nehemiah was concerned about Jerusalem because it was the holy city. It represented Jewish national identity. Nehemiah loved his homeland, so he prayed for God's help. He is indeed a prayerful man of character and perseverance. He prayed anytime and anywhere. The Book of Nehemiah records a total of eight of his prayers. He had an intimate relationship with God. If we want to reach God with our prayers, we need to take the time to cultivate a strong relationship with God through in-depth prayer.



After receiving the bad news about the condition of Jerusalem, Nehemiah was deeply grieved. Immediately, he poured out his heart to God and asked God for ways to improve the situation. He fasted and prayed for several days, expressing his sorrow for Israel's sin and his desire that Jerusalem come together again to worship the one true God.

Let's study how Nehemiah used prayer to help him overcome difficulties. His prayer contained many important elements that we should strive to include in our prayers! After reading Nehemiah 1:5-11, write down the verses that correspond to the different elements of a complete prayer.

**His prayer demonstrated the elements of effective prayer. They are:**

① PRAISE & THANKSGIVING  
Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Repentance ② Verse \_\_\_\_\_

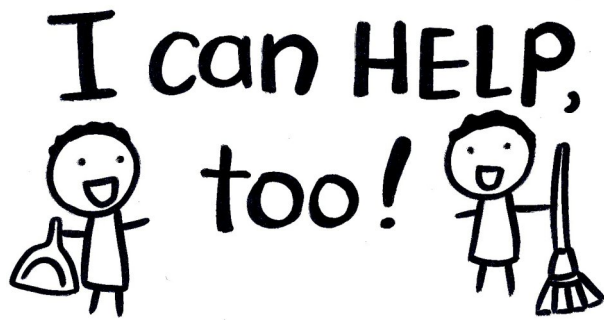
Remembering GOD'S Faithfulness ③ Verse \_\_\_\_\_

④ Specific Request for God's mercy & To PROSPER in all that he does  
Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Commitment ⑤ Verse \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions to Think About**

- How often do you pour out your heart to God?
- How often do you give Him a specific request to answer?



Put a check mark by one person you would like to help.

Then, create a plan detailing how you can help that person. Use the questions below to help you plan.

- \_\_\_\_\_ An elderly neighbor who is always home by herself/himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A homeless person who needs food.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A student who is often absent from Religious Education classes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ An elderly person who needs help to buy food and do things around the house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A sick friend who needs help.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_



Who do you know who needs help? \_\_\_\_\_

What can you plan to do this week to help and encourage that person?



1. How do I want to help this person?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What will I need in order to help?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How can I get what I need?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How long will my plan take?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What problems could I face?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How will I overcome these problems?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How will I know when I've succeeded?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## REACH OUT



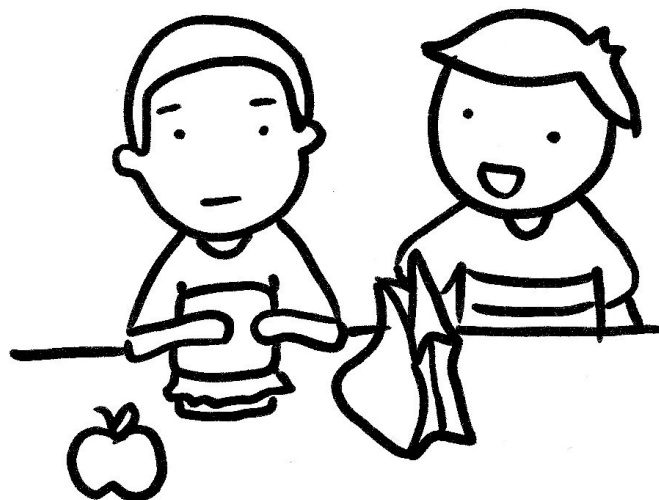
For the past few weeks, Peter and his friends have been staying after school almost every single weekday to study together for their final exam this year. Each time, they come up with questions at the end to test each other on what they have just studied. Peter noticed that Stephen, however, hasn't been showing up for the past few days. Everyone thought that Stephen was no longer interested in studying with them, and they didn't bother asking him to join them again. Nonetheless, Peter decided to take a step further and see if everything was okay with Stephen. By paying more attention, Peter realized that Stephen hasn't

been very happy at school lately. During lunchtime, he always sits by himself to eat. He also frantically leaves the school every day as soon as the bell rings.

One day, Peter went over to where Stephen was sitting by himself to eat during lunchtime, and he sat down next to Stephen. He said to him, "Stephen, is everything okay? You don't seem very happy lately. You've been missing every day after school and we miss you!" Stephen answered, "Hmm, I'm okay..." Peter knew that something was wrong. He said, "Well, I won't force you to say anything. But just letting you know that if you need somebody to talk to, I'm here for you!" Stephen thought for a moment and he finally opened up to Peter. He said to Peter, "My dad's been in the hospital. My whole family is very worried. I can't stay after school to study with you all anymore because my mom needs me to go home and take care of my little brother while she is in the hospital with my dad. I'm very worried about him, too!"

### Question

- What would you say to Stephen if you were Peter?



## NEHEMIAH'S INTERVIEW

**Reporter:** Nehemiah, we would like to ask you a few questions.

**Nehemiah:** I would be glad to answer them.

**Reporter:** What made you look so upset while serving the king?

**Nehemiah:** I was upset because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Reporter:** Why did you fast and pray for God's help?

**Nehemiah:** I fasted and prayed because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Reporter:** After King Artaxerxes gave you permission to go to Jerusalem, you came up with a plan. What was it?

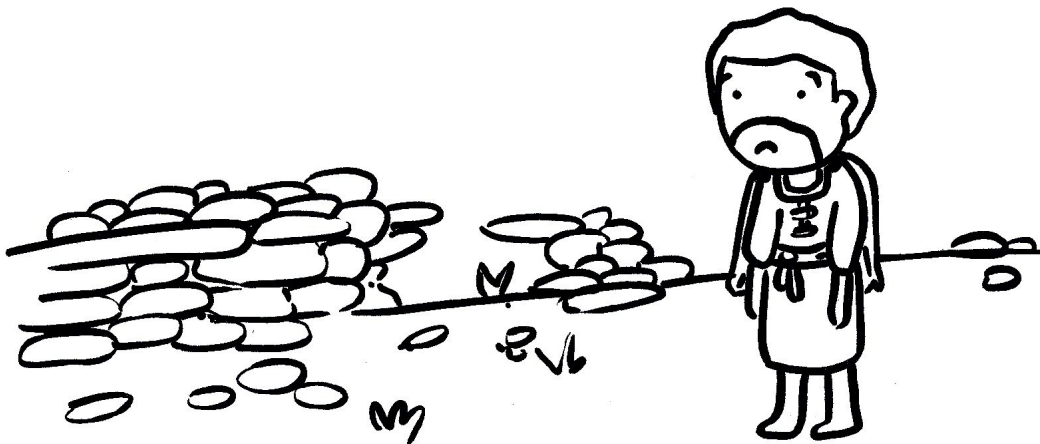
**Nehemiah:** My plan was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Reporter:** Sanballat and Tobiah opposed your efforts. How did the Jewish people react?

**Nehemiah:** They \_\_\_\_\_.

**Reporter:** Why do you think the people were willing to follow you and help you rebuild Jerusalem's wall?

**Nehemiah:** \_\_\_\_\_.



E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 9—Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Isaiah 1:17)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Fill In the Blank

1. Nehemiah worked for King \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Nehemiah asked for the king's permission to return to \_\_\_\_\_ to rebuild the wall of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Multiple Choice

3. \_\_\_\_\_: The king knew that something was bothering Nehemiah because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Nehemiah wrote him a letter.
  - b. Nehemiah broke one of his cups.
  - c. Nehemiah looked sad.
4. \_\_\_\_\_: After Nehemiah told the king about the wall of Jerusalem, the king \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Permitted Nehemiah to go back to Judah
  - b. Had Nehemiah killed
  - c. Wrote letters to his other servants commanding them to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's place
5. \_\_\_\_\_: As soon as Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Gathered everyone together and started rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem
  - b. Found out that the wall had already been rebuilt
  - c. Stayed there for three days without telling anyone his plan

### Short Answer

6. How did Nehemiah react when he first heard about the wall of Jerusalem?
7. What did Nehemiah do before letting the king know his request?
8. What can you learn from Nehemiah's actions?

# LESSON 10

## EZRA'S PEOPLE OBEY GOD'S WORD



### OBJECTIVES

1. To help students understand the value of God's word.
2. To encourage students to listen to and obey God's word through reading the Bible and acting upon the truth.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law."

(Psalm 119:18)

### PRAYER

Thank You, God, for gathering us here on this Sabbath day to worship You and learn Your word together. May You open our hearts and help us understand the importance of Your wisdom in our daily lives. May You grant us an eager and willing heart to accept Your truth.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- The Jews Returned to Jerusalem (Ez 1-2)
- Worship Restored in Jerusalem (Ez 3:1-7)
- Rebuilding of the Temple (Ez 3:8-6:22)
- Ezra Returned to Jerusalem (Ez 7-8)
- Inter-marriage with Pagans (Ez 9)
- Confession of Improper Marriages (Ez 10:1-17)
- Pagan Wives Put Away (Ez 10:18-44)

#### 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Holy Bible

#### 3. Life Application—The Importance of Reading the Bible

#### 4. Activity

- a. God's Word Comes First
- b. Favorite Bible Verses



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

626 B.C.	597 B.C.	527 B.C.	445 B.C.	444 B.C.
Jeremiah warned of destruction	Jerusalem destroyed by enemies (Israelites finally taken to Babylon in 587 B.C.)	Captives return to Jerusalem	Jerusalem wall and temple rebuilt	Ezra reads the Law

The Book of Ezra opened in 538 B.C., 48 years after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, defeated the southern kingdom of Judah, and carried the Jews away to Babylon as captives (2 Kgs 25; 2 Chr 36). Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C., and because his successor was not strong, Babylon was overthrown by Persia in 539 B.C., just prior to the events recorded in this book.

King Cyrus of Persia allowed many groups of exiles, including Jews, to return to their homelands. For the Jews, this was a day of hope, a new beginning. Ezra returned to the land with a second group of exiles, eighty years after Zerubbabel. Ezra found the temple rebuilt, but the lives of the people in shambles. Inter-marriages with foreigners, which was in opposition to God, threatened the spiritual future of the nation. So, Ezra prayed for guidance and then followed through with action by teaching



the people to obey the word of God.

Christians today must also strive to keep their lives pure, and refuse to let the sinful allurements of the world around them compromise their lifestyle.

#### Facts about Ezra

- He was committed to studying, following, and teaching God's word
- He led the second group of exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem
- He may have been the author of 1 and 2 Chronicles in the Bible
- He was sent by King Artaxerxes to Jerusalem to evaluate the situation there and returned with a firsthand report
- He set up a religious education system in Jerusalem
- He worked alongside Nehemiah during the last spiritual awakening

Ezra achieved great things and made a significant impact because he had the right starting place for his actions and his life: God's word. He studied it seriously and applied it to his life faithfully. He taught others what he learned, and his life is a great model for anyone who wants to live for God.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students may have very good language skills by now, in terms of speaking and reading. However, they may still think of Bible stories as ancient tales that are unlikely to occur today. In part, this is due to their limited life experiences. Moreover, it may not be easy for them to understand how they should listen to and obey God's word: after all, most have never physically heard instructions from Him, even while reading the Bible.

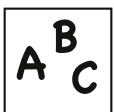
Teach your students the different ways they can listen to God's word through the Bible. They may lack real-life experiences, but they would certainly love to hear about how others have learned and obeyed God's word. Share testimonies with them about how you or someone applied God's word in their lives. Demonstrate that the stories in the Bible are real and very applicable to their lives. Give examples of receiving the Holy Spirit or of the sick being healed. As their teacher, you should constantly remind them to read the Bible, and, of course, set a good example for them to follow. Perhaps you could even ask the students to bring any questions they may have after reading the Bible to class each week.



## Opener

*5 Minutes*

What are some of the things we've learned about the Bible that makes it special? [Let your students express their ideas. You may wish to record what they say on the board.] The one thing that really makes the Bible special to us is that God speaks to us through His word each day.



## Vocabulary

**intermarriage:** marriage between two different races or religions





## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery Worksheet now and guide your students to complete it as you teach the lesson. Answers have been underlined below, with the question number indicated at the end of the answer.

For more than forty years, Jeremiah the prophet warned the kings of Judah that God was about to punish the people with destruction because of their disobedience (1). Let's read Jeremiah 25:4-7. [Ask your students to read aloud with you.]

"And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.' Yet you have not listened to Me," says the Lord, "that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt."

Sadly, the evil rulers of Jeremiah's times refused to listen to the Lord's warning. They continued leading God's people to sin and the prophecy finally did come true, just as Jeremiah had predicted. What was the prophecy? Let's continue reading Jeremiah 25:11-12. [Let a student read.]

"And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the Lord, 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.'"

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, invaded Judah and destroyed it (2). He took all the people, except the poorest Jews in Israel, and carried them to Babylon. Seventy years later, just as Jeremiah also predicted, King Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon (3). Cyrus freed many of the Jewish captives, and permitted them to return to Jerusalem. In other words, after seventy years of Babylonian captivity, the Jews were finally free to go home! Returning to Jerusalem was something that many of the Jews had hoped for every day while living in a foreign country. The Bible records three groups of people who returned to Jerusalem over the span of ninety years. The first group was led by Zerubbabel; their mission was to go back to

Jerusalem, rebuild the temple there, and restore their worship.

Many years went by, and the Jews finished the temple. Then, Ezra the scribe came from Babylon with the second group of people. Ezra was a teacher; as soon as he went back to Jerusalem, he began teaching God's laws to the people (4). Let me ask you a question: what do you think makes our pastors, RE teachers, and other holy workers at the church qualified to teach the word of God? [Pause for students to think and let them share their answers.] Of course, they must be knowledgeable about the Bible, eager to serve God, and good Christians themselves. Likewise, Ezra was a well-qualified teacher for the people at that time. He set his heart to study God's word. He was filled with godly wisdom. What is more, Ezra also determined to obey God's word and teach it to His people. When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, he found that some of the leaders had broken God's laws by marrying women who were not Jews and who worshipped idols (5). Ezra was heartbroken that so many people had disobeyed God's laws, and immediately began to pray and confess the sins of God's people. Students, why do you think Ezra was so upset about this? [Pause for students to think and let them share their answers.] Ezra was upset because he genuinely cared about God's people and their relationship with God. He knew that they had time and time again angered God and brought destruction upon themselves. Ezra didn't want the people to make the same mistake and disappoint God all over again. He was in great distress and sorrow because the people didn't know the word of God.

In the end, Ezra's prayers and tears moved the people of Jerusalem. He showed them what they did wrong, and they were convicted of their sins. Soon, everyone was weeping and praying with Ezra. Most importantly, the people were all determined to obey God's word. Those who had wives who worshipped idols put away all their wives so that the people would no longer be corrupted by idol worship (6).

Ezra's commitment to study, obey, and teach God's word turned many people back to the Lord. He convinced the people that only God could give them hope and peace as a nation, and that they must obey God's word in order for Him to stand on their side again. Today, God also is the only God who can give us hope and peace. He has promised us that if we obey Him, He will always be on our side, watching over us in this life and welcoming us to the next, where we will enjoy eternal joy and peace. Ezra understood the importance of obeying God's word, and he didn't want other people to miss out on it.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### The Holy Bible

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

True Jesus Church believes that the Bible was inspired by God and that everything in it is His word, which we must obey. God speaks to us today through the Bible, and we must not add or take away anything from it (Rev 22:18-19). As followers of God, we should treat the Bible as a guide.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What was Jeremiah's prophecy about Judah? Did it come true?** Judah would be captured by Babylon. Yes, it came true.
- 2. Who was the king that allowed the Jews to go back to Jerusalem?** King Cyrus of Persia.
- 3. Who led the first and second group of Jews back to Jerusalem?** Zerubbabel and Ezra, respectively.
- 4. What did the people do when they returned to Jerusalem?** They rebuilt the temple and restored their faith and worship of God.
- 5. What was Ezra praying about as soon as he got back to Jerusalem?** He prayed and repented on behalf of the Israelites for their sins; they had left their faith, married foreigners, and followed their spouses to worship foreign gods.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### THE IMPORTANCE OF READING THE BIBLE

"Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to my path." (Ps 119:105)

### Why is it so important for us to know God's word and to obey Him?

#### 1. The word of God is like a sword (Heb 4:12)

*"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

The word of God is called a sword because it has a piercing ability. It is universally effective, striking deep within all of us: those who are baptized, those who aren't, believers, and non-believers; it even works on Satan. The word of God cuts to the heart of the matter. When Satan is trying to tempt us or discourage us, it's the word of God we use to defeat him. Jesus Christ Himself used the word of God as a sword to deflect the temptations of the enemy (Matthew 4:1-11).

#### 2. The word of God is like a mirror (Jas 1:23)

*"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror."*

James calls God's word a mirror. A mirror helps us evaluate ourselves. How many times have we opened the Bible, only to see ourselves there. James told us to be doers of the word, not just hearers only. Once you look at a mirror, you can decide if you need to make any changes to your appearance before you leave your house. Likewise, we can make the necessary changes in the power of the Holy Spirit by reading the word of God. We become what God wants us to be instead of what we have decided to be. The word of God is a mirror because it reflects God's image onto us.

**3. The word of God is like a burning fire (Jer 20:9)***"His word was in my heart like a burning fire."*

The word of God is like a burning fire; it burns the "filth" out of our lives. It purifies and consumes people's hearts because it has a consuming capacity. When the word of God penetrates our hearts and grip our minds, it is like going through the fire of God's word; it burns off the "filth" of our lives, leaving only what is good. The fire can engage our will to move toward transformation.

**4. The word of God is like a hammer (Jer 23:29)***"Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"*

How many of you have been hammered by the word of God? You were comfortable and complacent in your faith, but when you read the word of God, the word just jumped off the page and hit you straight between the eyes, hammering you with the truth of God's word. The word of God has the capacity to break. Think of a time when your heart was very hard and God had to break it. As painful as it may seem, God has to break our hearts so that we feel the conviction and desire to change.

**5. The word of God is like water (Eph 5:26)***"That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."*

God's word is a cleansing agent; it's like water that renews. Paul said that Jesus Christ sanctified and cleansed the church with the washing of the water by the word. God's word has this refreshing and washing effect in our lives. It is like a spiritual cleansing; it washes out the bad thoughts and replaces them with the good thoughts of God's truth.

**6. The word of God is like a seed (1 Pet 1:23)***"Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."*

God's word is like an incorruptible seed that is planted within us. A seed starts small and takes time to grow. When it is grown, it brings forth life, growth, and fruit. Just as a seed needs repeated watering and time to grow, once we have planted God's word in us and hear it several times, it really starts to connect with us. When we put God's word right into our hearts, it doesn't stay dormant; it spreads out and grow.

**7. The word of God is like a silver (Ps 12:6)***"The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."*

God's word is like pure silver tried in a furnace of earth. Why does God choose this precious metal to describe God's word? It is called silver because it is precious, it is desirable, it is beautiful, and it has value. God definitely requires purity in us.

**8. The word of God is like a lamp and a light (Ps 119:105)***"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."*

God's word is like a lamp; it shines the light upon where you are now and where you need to be next, and it keeps you from stumbling in the dark. It shows you the way to go. When you're confused about an important decision, you need to go back to the word of God and understand what God wants you to do. That's the value of having God's word light your path.

Life is a journey. No matter where we start this journey, we will all end up in either one of two destinations—heaven or hell. Raise your hand if you want to enter the kingdom of heaven. [Pause for students to raise their hands.] Of course, we all want to be part of God's heavenly kingdom. This is exactly the reason why it is so important for us to know God's word—because His word can lead us there!

The Bible says that God's word is like a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Ps 119:105). His word lights up the correct path for us so that we can safely reach our destination. Without this light, we could easily go onto the wrong path and get lost somewhere far, far away from God. When we meet a crossroad—an important decision to make—His

word will show us which way to turn. When we meet a winding road—a hardship that is very difficult to endure—God's word will provide all the comfort and encouragement to lead us through. When we meet an obstacle—a problem that makes us stumble—His word will give us hope. No matter what comes along, God's wisdom will keep us on the right path. Without His word, we would be left with no guidance and no light on our journey. Can you imagine living in a world with no maps or directions, and worse yet, with no light? What would it be like walking on the streets? What would it be like driving in traffic? It'd be chaotic! That being said, it is very important for us to know God's word and obey Him. His word is the only map that leads us to the kingdom of God!

Today, God speaks to us through the Bible. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim 3:16). As God's believers, we should treat the Bible as a guide and take every word in it seriously. In other words, this book is essential for every Christian who wants to enter the kingdom of God. Nothing should be added or taken away from it, as every word in it is the precious word of God—His wisdom and the truth!

So, let us remember to do these four important actions every day:

- Read your Bible. "Whoever looks intently..."
- Review the Bible. "...and continues in it..."
- Remember the Bible. "...not forgetting what they have heard..."
- Respond to the Bible. "...but doing it."

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet to your students. Go over the worksheet with your students and ask them to bring it back next week to share with the class.]



## Activity

### 1. God's Word Comes First / 2. Favorite Bible Verses

10-15 Minutes

#### 1. God's Word Comes First

[Hand out the Activity worksheet and ask students to complete it on their own. Then come together as a class to review the answer.]

The Israelites heard what Ezra told them regarding the word of God. They confessed their sins and made changes in their lives accordingly. God has spoken to people through His written word for thousands of years. And, He still speaks to us today through the Bible.

Read Deuteronomy 11:18-19 to find out how God told the Israelites and us to honor His word. Crack the code to complete His instructions the way we would say them today.

**Study the Bible and (memorize) it. (Talk) about it (wherever) you go. (Think) about it before you go to (sleep) and as soon as you (wake) up.**

We honor the Bible because it is God's word. What is the most important wonderful thing about God's word?

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#### 2. Favorite Bible Verses

In pairs, have the students interview each other about their favorite Bible verses. Each student should ask his partner, "Why is this verse special to you?" When the interviews have been completed, ask each pair of students to report their findings. Point out that one of the reasons we value God's word is because God speaks to us individually, giving each person specific help and encouragement that apply to their needs.!

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

1. A
2. A
3. C
4. Only God's laws could guide them to do the right thing. Without it, they would not be aware that they were doing wrong.
5. When they heard God's law, they wept, knowing that they had sinned. Then they determined to follow His law. Likewise, we must acknowledge when we have strayed from God. We can do this by reading the Bible and making a commitment to follow His word.
6. Answers may vary.

## Turning Wrong into Right

**Instructions:** Cross out the wrong words and write down the right words in their place.

1. Isaiah the prophet warned the kings of Judah that God was about to punish the people with destruction.

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2. The prophesy came true, just as the prophet had predicted. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Judah, invaded the city and destroyed Jerusalem.

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3. Then forty years later, Babylon was conquered by King Jeremiah.

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4. Many years went by, and the Jews finished the temple. Then, Ezra the governor came from Babylon with another group of people.

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5. After Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, he found that some of the leaders had married Jewish women who worshipped God.

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6. The people showed their determination to obey God's word by staying with their foreign wives who worshipped idols.

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## The Importance of Reading the Bible

The Bible is just as true for you today as it was for people 3,000 years ago. Likewise, it will be just as true 3,000 years from now. It is God's word, and God's word lasts forever.

God wants to speak to you through His written word. Here's how you can listen to Him this week.

1. Take this page home. Choose a different Scripture passage each day. Read it carefully.
2. Think about what you've read. Write about what God is saying to you in these verses.
3. Ask the Lord to speak to your heart through these verses.
4. Did you receive a message from God through your reading? If you did, create a picture of the new message.

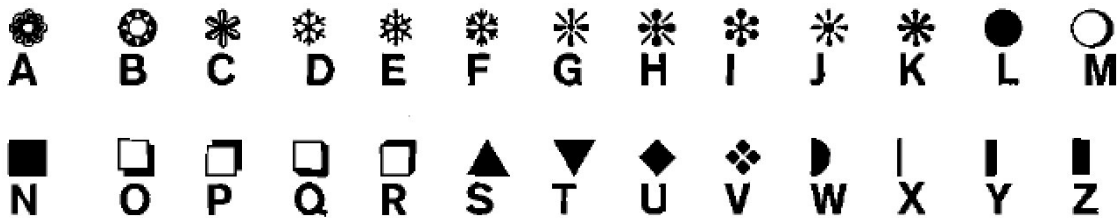
	Verse	Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">When you need help. (Psalm 121)</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">When you are happy (Psalm 100)</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">When you have a need (Philippians 4:6-7, 19)</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">When you feel hatred (Ephesians 4:26-27, 29, 31, 32)</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">When you are discouraged (Psalm 27:1; 25:1-2, 4-6)</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">When you are tempted (James 4:7-8, 10)</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">When you have done wrong (Psalm 51:1-3, 10, 17)</p> <hr/> <hr/>	



### God's Word Comes First

The Israelites heard what Ezra told them regarding the word of God. They confessed their sins and made changes in their lives accordingly. God has spoken to people through His written word for thousands of years. And, He still speaks to us today through the Bible.

Read Deuteronomy 11:18-19 to find out how God told the Israelites and us to honor His word. Crack the code to complete His instructions the way we would say them today.



**Study the Bible and**

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We honor the Bible because it is God's word.

What is the most important wonderful thing about God's word?

E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 10—Ezra's People Obey God's Word

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Psalm 119:18)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Multiple Choice

1. \_\_\_\_\_: The Jews were able to go back to Jerusalem because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. King Cyrus of Persia freed them.
  - b. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon allowed them to go home.
  - c. God helped them escape from Babylon.
2. \_\_\_\_\_: The mission of the people who went back to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel was to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Restore their worship and rebuild the temple
  - b. Find their family members who were left there seventy years ago
  - c. Rebuild the wall of Jerusalem
3. \_\_\_\_\_: As soon as Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, he found out that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. The people had not begun rebuilding the temple.
  - b. Many people had left Jerusalem to go back to Babylon.
  - c. Some of the people had sinned against God by marrying pagan women.

### Short Answer

4. Why was it necessary for the people to know that they needed to read God's laws?
5. How do you suppose the people of Ezra's day set an example for us today?
6. What did you learn from Ezra?

# LESSON 11



## NEHEMIAH STANDS UP FOR GOD UNTIL THE END

### OBJECTIVES

1. To enable your students to encourage others and work together to overcome difficulties, as Nehemiah did.
2. To encourage students to reflect on their own lives and examine if they have built up spiritual walls.
3. To understand that everyone plays an important role in building up the church.

### MEMORY VERSE

“But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”

(2 Thessalonians 3:3)

### PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for bringing us together to worship You on Your Sabbath day and to learn Your words together. Thank You for choosing us to be Your children. As Your children, we know that we should do what is right, even though others may cause problems for us. We ask that You help us see that no matter how big the problems seem to be, they are all small compared to You. Please help us to rely on You to overcome any difficulties we face. We also ask that You protect us and give us wisdom in our daily life so that we are not deceived by the enemy’s lies. Lastly, please give us the strength to keep doing what is right and stand up for You to the end. Amen.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- a. The Rebuilding Project (Neh 3)
- b. The Enemy Attacks (Neh 4; 6)
- c. The Wall Completed (Neh 6:15-16)

#### 2. Link to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Second Coming of Jesus Christ

#### 3. Life Application

- a. How Would You Handle...?
- b. The Wall of Your Life

#### 4. Activity—Pieces of the Puzzle



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

#### 1st Return

Zerubbabel

Rebuild the temple  
(Ezra 1-6)

#### 2nd Return

Ezra

Spiritual reformation  
(Ezra 7-10)

#### 3rd Return

Nehemiah

Rebuild the city wall  
(Nehemiah 1-7)

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, Jewish exiles had been there for nearly one hundred years. Some improvements in the city had been made. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel, a new temple had been built. Under the leadership of the scribe Ezra the Law of Moses had been instilled once again in the faith of the Israelites. But the walls and gates of the city were much as the Babylonians had left them after destroying the city in 586 B.C.

Nehemiah secretly inspected the city wall rubble before announcing his plans to the people living in Jerusalem. Even though he knew that success came from the Lord (Neh 2:20), he also knew that it did not mean that he should just sit back and relax. He wanted to know the scope of work required to repair the wall (Lk 14:28-29). His inspection confirmed what he had been told earlier by one of his brethren, Hanani: the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the people there were in distress.

Nehemiah began his plan to rebuild the wall by first encouraging the people, and the people readily agreed to cooperate with his plan. His leadership also involved delegating the work of the wall-building project to a wide variety of people.

But some others were not so pleased by it. The leader of the opposition was Sanballat, governor of Samaria (north of Judah). Sanballat's main allies were Tobiah, governor of Ammon (east of Judah), and Geshem, leader of a league of Arab tribes that had occupied Moab and Edom (southeast of Judah). These enemies surrounded Judah on almost all fronts. They did not only mock the Jews for fun; rather, their mocking was meant to threaten. The mocking led to more plots to disrupt the work, including one plot to harm Nehemiah and make him sin against God.

When faced with the attacks from the enemies, Nehemiah didn't lead the people only to pray, or only to arm themselves for battle. He led them to do both! "Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night" (Neh 4:9). He told them to fight (Neh 4:14), but at the same time, he reminded them that God would fight for them (Neh 4:20).

Nehemiah's purpose for rebuilding the walls was not primarily to end the Jerusalem's vulnerability. He wanted to end the disgrace to God caused by the holy city's deteriorated condition. Even though opposition to the rebuilding intensified, the Jewish people persevered. And, in only fifty-two days, they made the city wall whole again. Their success brought glory and honor to God in the eyes of everyone, including their enemies.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

The temple had been rebuilt, and the people's faith restored, but God's work was not complete yet because the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the city gates burned with fire. Students may not understand why it was so important for the city of Jerusalem to have a well-built city wall. In this age of fighter jets and missiles capable of reducing an entire city to dust in seconds, it's difficult for students to appreciate the meaning of a city wall. Make them understand that without a wall, no city in Nehemiah's time would be safe from bandits, wild animals, and enemies. The more developed a city became, the more need there was for a wall. The walls were extremely thick and high, as they were usually the only real means of defense for a city. It was necessary to protect the assets in Jerusalem, such as the temple and the people living in the city. Rebuilding the broken city wall required a united effort from the Jewish people. Let your students discover that every believer has work to do, just as every person had a hand in helping Nehemiah rebuild the wall.

Your students, like most people, face problems on a daily basis. They can be small problems, such as how to solve that tricky math problem, or big problems, such as how to stop that one bully in school. When they were younger, it was normal for them to seek help from the adults around them, whether it was their teachers or their parents. However, your students are now at the age where they want to be independent and solve their own problems. It is common to hear, "No, I can do it on my own!" as a response to, "Do you need help?" While your students may be able to solve the majority of their problems on their own, they may still lack the ability to solve abstract problems correctly, such as why their friends are nice one day, but mean the next. Through the lesson today, show them how they can encourage each other when facing a problem and how they can pray for one another, as a group, to help with a problem. Share personal testimonies of how God answers prayers and strengthens the hands of His workers.



## Opener

*5 Minutes*

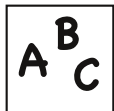
Activity: "Lookout!"

1. Choose two students. One will be the "inside" student and the other will be the "outside" student.
2. Have the remainder of the class form a tight circle by locking arms while facing outward.
3. The "inside" student will stand in the middle of the circle. The "outside" student will be outside of the circle.
  - The object is for the "outside" student to try to tag the "inside" student.
  - The job for the students forming the circle is to protect the "inside" student.

Set a limited amount of time for the “outside” student to try to tag the “inside” student. Give other students the opportunity to be the “inside” and “outside” students.

Today, we are going to learn about how evil people tried to cause problems in Nehemiah’s Jerusalem wall-building project. These evil people came up with many different ways to make things difficult for Nehemiah and the Jewish people. But through prayer and relying on God, they were able to continue and finish building the wall in less than two months! God protected His people and added to their strength!

The Bible says that our enemy is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet 5:8). But with God’s help, and the help of our brothers and sisters, we can be protected from the attack of the enemy. Compare the game just played to this truth. The lion is like the student on the outside trying to tag the student on the inside. By staying united and praying for one another, we can be protected from the attacks of the enemy.



## Vocabulary

**inhabitants:** the people who live in a place (e.g., “inhabitants of Jerusalem” referred to people living in Jerusalem)

**Nethinim:** people given to the Levites to be their servants, doing work specifically related to the service of the temple

**feeble:** weak, faint, lacking strength

**provoke:** to do something deliberately to anger or annoy another

**mock:** to laugh at; to make fun of



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

*30-35 Minutes*

### The Rebuilding Project

Chapter three in the Book of Nehemiah may seem uninteresting at first glance because it contains so many unpronounceable names and long-forgotten people! Sometimes, when we are reading the Bible, we may think that reading a chapter like this is not important and also extremely boring. However, this chapter tells the story of the work of repairing the gates and walls of Jerusalem. From this chapter, we can see how Nehemiah went about this project, the work that was actually done, and the people behind the work.

God specifically recorded these names for a purpose. There are many chapters like this in the Bible, and each of these chapters should really encourage us. They show us that God has not forgotten our names either. He loves to record the names of people. He may be writing your name down in some great book right now for the future (Mal 3:16)!

#### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students now. As you go over the different gates and the work that was done on them, ask the students to record the passage reference for each gate, as well as the names of the people who worked on the gates. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

### Who was working? How did they split the work?

With the wisdom God gave him, Nehemiah set different people to work on different sections of the wall. This chapter is centered on the ten gates of the city of Jerusalem. Nehemiah assigned each person or group of people to a certain section of the wall, and this was recorded in order of the gates that gave access to the city. Most likely, each person worked on the part of the wall nearest to their own houses so that they were personally involved in rebuilding the wall.

As we read through the selected verses below, follow the map of the Jerusalem city wall.

1. Next to the each gate on the map, write the passage where the work was recorded in the Bible.
2. In the box on the right, write the name of the person(s) or group of people who helped rebuild the wall.
3. Lastly, record the name of those who did not help rebuild the wall.

Let’s read Nehemiah, chapter 3!

#### FOR TEACHERS

Read Nehemiah chapter 3 with the students. Refer to the chart provided in this lesson to help the students fill out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1.



This chapter teaches us about cooperation. We all know that the church is the body of Christ with many members, and we are the members. Numerous individuals were involved in the work, and they all worked on different sections of the wall! This long list of volunteers included people who lived in Jerusalem, as well as people who lived in surrounding cities (e.g., Jericho, Tekoa, Mizpah, etc.). Priests, Levites, Nethinims, goldsmiths, perfumers, leaders, merchants, and women helped repair the walls. Even though perfumers probably didn't know much about building walls, they still pitched in to help! The two leaders who each ruled one half of Jerusalem both had hands-on involvement in rebuilding the wall. But, we also learned very specifically that the nobles of the Tekoites refused to do any work. How beautiful is it to have God remember our names and record it according to what we've done! So, make sure that when God writes about us, it's for a good reason—for working hard or for working carefully like Baruch (3:20)—and not because we are not working, like the nobles of Tekoa.

#### FOR TEACHERS

Ensure that all the students have filled out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 correctly, and then hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2. The students will be filling in the blanks on the worksheet as you go over this section. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

### The Enemy Attacks

The Bible gives us the name of three enemies who didn't want the Jerusalem city wall to be fixed. They continuously caused trouble for Nehemiah. Recorded in Nehemiah 2:19, their names were:

- Sanballat the Horonite
- Tobiah the Ammonite
- Geshem the Arab

Let's study Nehemiah chapters 4 and 6 to see how Nehemiah dealt with these increasing attacks from his enemies. We'll find that no matter how difficult the enemies made things, God's work could not be stopped.

#### Attempt #1 (Neh 4:1-6)

The enemies were furious that the Jewish people were starting to rebuild their city wall and fix the gates. The first tactic they used to stop this work was to mock and laugh at the Jewish people for rebuilding the broken wall and gates. How did they mock the Jewish people? Let's read verses 2-3 in chapter 4.

But how did Nehemiah respond to this? Let's continue reading verses 4-5. Nehemiah kept everyone's mind on the work, as verse 6 says, "For the people had a mind to work." So the enemy's first attempt failed.

When we are made fun of by people because of what we believe in or what we do for God, we should always tell it to God first and pray that He will give us the strength to overcome.

#### Attempt #2 (Neh 4:6-23)

The Jewish people didn't give up, in fact the opposite happened. They built the wall up to half of its height (4:6). But their enemies didn't give up either. Next, how did they attack Nehemiah and the people? Let's see by reading verses 7-8. This time it was serious! The people were trying to work on construction, but now they were under attack!

This time, Nehemiah's response was well planned out.

1. Let's read verse 9. Nehemiah prayed to God again, but he did more than just that. He also set people to be watchmen to keep watch for the enemy's attack day and night.
2. Let's continue by reading verses 13-14. He set men at sections of the wall where it was lower or had openings, most likely to prevent a sneak attack from the enemies.
3. In verse 16, it recorded that he made half the men work on construction, while the other half he turned into soldiers, making them wear armor, hold spears, shields, and bows, to stand watch to fight!
4. But he made sure that even those who were working on construction were armed, making them hold weapons in one hand (4:17).
5. Nehemiah also got involved, too. What did he do? We can refer to verse 18. He stood watch and had a trumpet blower by his side. If he saw the enemy attacking, he would ask the trumpet blower to blow the trumpet and sound the alarm!
6. Everyone was keeping watch and guarding by night, and then working by day (4:22). How tiring this must have been. But they knew the importance of this work and kept soldiering on!

#### Attempt #3 (Neh 6:1-4)

Moving on to chapter 6. Now, the wall was rebuilt so there were no gaps left. Next, the enemy planned to harm Nehemiah physically and also tried to distract Nehemiah from the work of rebuilding the entire wall. Let's read verse 2.

Did Nehemiah go? NO. Let's read verse 3. The enemies tried to distract Nehemiah four times. All four times Nehemiah sent back the same reply. Nehemiah kept his focus on God's work.

If people try to harm us or distract us from doing what is right, we should learn from Nehemiah and firmly say, "NO." Keep our mind focused on God's work and on doing what is right.

Attempt #4 (Neh 6:5-9)

The enemy was really sneaky. They decided that since they couldn't convince Nehemiah to come out, they would create a lie about Nehemiah and the people in Jerusalem. What did they say? Let's read verses 5-7.

Nehemiah was getting used to the attacks by now. Straight away he confirmed that it was a lie (4:8), and then he prayed to God to strengthen his hands (4:9). Another failed attempt by the enemy!

Attempt #5 (Neh 6:10-14)

The enemies weren't giving up yet. They made one final attempt. Let's read verse 10. They hired Shemaiah to be their spy. Shemaiah pretended to prophesy, saying that Nehemiah should go into the temple of God and hide because enemies were coming to kill him. He tried to make Nehemiah sin against God!

This was by far the toughest thing for Nehemiah to face. Thank God that Nehemiah knew the commandments of God VERY clearly. Only priests and Levites were allowed into the temple. He was forbidden from entering. Do we

know the commandments of God as clearly as Nehemiah? It is important to read the Bible and pray so that we do not unknowingly break the commandment of God.

**The Wall Is Completed!**

Let us read Nehemiah 6:15-16. The city wall was finished in only fifty-two days! Imagine how happy everyone must have been to see the work of their hands completed. More importantly, to see how God had protected them! It would have been a very tiring time for them, having to work during the day and then take turns to watch for enemies at night.

We have learned that our enemies, Satan or other people, will use many different ways to scare us and stop us from working for God and doing what is right. But no matter how much people try to stop us from doing God's work, from doing what is right, God's work can never be stopped! As long as we have the heart to do it and don't mind working extra, while always keeping watch, God will help us and give us strength to do what is right and get the work done.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

*2-5 Minutes*

**The Second Coming of Jesus Christ**

The Lord's Second Coming will take place on the Last Day when He descends from heaven to judge the world; the righteous will receive eternal life, while the wicked will be condemned.

Today, we learned that every time the enemy attacked Nehemiah, he would pray to God or turn his focus to God and not the enemy's attack. Nehemiah was able to stand firm in God's way until the very end. Never once did he try to plan anything bad for the enemies. Not once did he speak badly to them. He always put his problems in prayers to God. Let us read again Nehemiah 6:14.

The Bible doesn't record what happened to Sanballat after this, but it said that even after all these evil things had been done, Tobiah was still very powerful, even in the Jewish community. This was because he married a Jewish woman and even got help from the high priest! It didn't look like God punished them straight away, or at all, for all the bad things they tried to do to stop Nehemiah and the Jewish people.

Even though those who hurt us or cause us problems may not be punished straight away, we must still do what is right in the eyes of God. Like Nehemiah, we must stand up for God until the end! It doesn't matter what happens to our enemies, we need to focus on God's work and prayer. This is because we know that Jesus will surely come again. And when He does, He will give us the reward we deserve and will punish the wicked people according to what they have done.





## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Who are the people who worked on the various sections of the wall?** High priest Eliashib, priests, Levites, the Nethinims, leaders, women/daughters, goldsmiths, perfumers, merchants, and people from other cities.
2. **Who didn't work on the wall?** The nobles of the Tekoites.
3. **Who were the enemies of Nehemiah and the Jewish people?** Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab.
4. **What were the difficulties Nehemiah and the Jewish people faced?** They were discouraged, insulted, in danger of physical harm, and lies were spread about them.
5. **The enemies laughed at the Jewish people to discourage them from working on the wall. Did it work?** No. Nehemiah prayed, and the people still had the mind to work.
6. **When the enemies came up with the plan to attack the Jewish people and cause confusion on the worksite, what did Nehemiah do?** Nehemiah prayed to God again, and then set people to keep watch and to guard different sections of the wall during the day and the night. He made half the people stand watch ready to fight, while the other half worked on construction. But everyone was required to keep weapons by their side.
7. **How did Sanballat plan to harm Nehemiah physically?** By sending messengers to Nehemiah and telling Nehemiah to meet them out in villages in the plain of Ono.
8. **Did Nehemiah fall for that?** No, he kept his focus on the work of God.
9. **The enemies then told a lie in a letter, saying that Nehemiah had prophets in other countries proclaiming that he was now king. What did Nehemiah do?** Nehemiah wasn't fooled and prayed to God again to strengthen his hands.
10. **Sanballat and Tobiah had one more plan. They hired Shemaiah to pretend to be Nehemiah's friend. What did Shemaiah tell Nehemiah to do?** He told Nehemiah to go hide inside the temple for protection from people who wanted to kill him.
11. **How did Nehemiah respond to Shemaiah?** Nehemiah said, "No," very firmly because he knew God's law well; only the priest and Levites could go into the temple.
12. **How long did it take the Jewish people to finish the rebuilding of the wall?** Fifty-two days.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE IT?

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 and ask students to complete it. Then, have some volunteers share their answers.]

Read these difficult problems. Then, fill in one of your own problems in the empty box provided. Remember how Nehemiah prayed and then made plans to overcome the difficulties he faced. Write down what you can do about the problems listed.

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### 2. THE WALLS OF YOUR LIFE

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 to the students. Guide them to complete it using the instructions provided.]

*"Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls." (Prov 25: 28)*

This verse teaches us that if we can't rule over our own spirit, we are like a city without walls. To be able to "rule" our spirit means to have self-control.

## (1) Examine the wall in your life

- Is your wall built up tall and strong?
  - Do we spend enough time every day to read the Bible so that we know what pleases God?
  - Do we spend enough time in prayer? (Jude 20)
  - Are we obeying God's word in actions? (James 1:22)
- Or, is your wall very weak, cracked, and even broken down in some places?
  - Do you feel that the enemy is attacking you from every side and you fall easily into temptation?
  - Do we sometimes lose our self-control and end up doing what doesn't please God?
  - Do we find it difficult to live by the spirit?

## (2) Complete the "wall" on the worksheet

- Strong Bricks
  - Write things you have done well or things you can do to fortify and make your wall stronger.
  - Color them in a strong color.
- Broken Wall
  - Write things that have made your wall weak, and what you can do to build it up again.
  - Color it in a "need fixing" color.

REMEMBER: When you are rebuilding your wall, your enemies will not be happy and will do everything to try and stop you! Don't give up in prayer. Remember how Nehemiah overcame his enemies with God's help, and how you can do it, too!



## Activity

### Pieces of the Puzzle

10-15 Minutes

**Objective:** To understand that even though we may not see the whole picture, God makes sure everything fits.

#### Materials

- 24 or 36-piece puzzle
  - Do not show students the original picture of complete puzzle
- A blank jigsaw puzzle with large pieces, disassembled
  - Number of pieces must equal the number of students and teachers involved
  - To make your own blank puzzle, type "blank jigsaw puzzle template" into a web search engine
- A piece of cardboard large enough for the blank puzzle to be glued on
- Glue

#### First puzzle

Have the students work together putting the 24 or 36-piece puzzle together. Discuss with the students as they put it together what they think the completed picture will be. Once the puzzle is assembled, discuss:

- How God is working through believers to accomplish His work. Each believer is a piece of the bigger picture (1 Pet 2:4-6).
- We may not always see the bigger picture as we do the work God has given us to do. The same idea can be applied to the puzzle. When we first started, if we had picked up only one or two pieces, it would have been difficult to tell what the completed picture was.
- Was it difficult to put the puzzle together without first seeing the picture? Yes, it would have been easier if we knew what the picture was. But, as we faithfully serve and obey God, one day we will see how everyone's work fits together.
- What difficulties did we face while putting the puzzle together? [Let students think and discuss.] How did we solve the difficulties, or how could we have solved it better?

- [Take a piece or two from the puzzle.] If someone chooses not to serve or chooses to give up halfway, does that mean God's work cannot be completed? No. Nothing can stop God's work. The person that chooses to quit will miss out on the blessings that come from serving the Lord.

**Second puzzle**

Give everyone a piece of puzzle. On the front of the piece, ask each student to write down:

- One thing they can do to build up their faith;
- One thing they can do to build up the class;
- One thing they can do to build up the church.

Then, have everyone put the pieces of the puzzle together. Once assembled, stick it onto the cardboard, give the puzzle a name, and hang it up in the classroom!

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

1. True
2. False
3. weapon
4. finished
5. He prayed to God to strengthened his hands and kept the people's focus on the work.
6. Rebuilding our spiritual wall means to build up our defenses against things that may cause us to stray from God or things that may cause us to sin against God. Answers may vary.
7. The wall could not have been finished so quickly without the Jewish people working together as one. Each individual played an important part in building up the wall as a whole. Answers may vary.

### WHO DID THE WORK? (NEHEMIAH 3)

Name of the Gate	Where was it recorded?	Who did the work?
Sheep Gate	3:1	The high priest Eliashib himself and other priests
Fish Gate	3:3	Sons of Hassenaah
	3:5	The nobles of the Tekoites
Old Gate	3:6	Jehoiada
	3:8	The goldsmith Uzziel and the perfumer Hananiah
	3:9	Rephaiah, leader of half the district of Jerusalem
	3:12	Shallum, the leader of the other half of Jerusalem, as well as his daughters
Valley Gate	3:13	Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah
Refuse Gate	3:14	Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Hacerem
Fountain Gate	3:15	Shallun, one leader of the district of Mizpah; he brought the people of Mizpah along to work with him, too (3:7)
	3:17	Levites
Water Gate	3:26	The Nethinims
Horse Gate	3:28	Priests
East Gate	3:29	Shemaiah
Sheep Gate	3:32	Merchants

### Who Didn't Work?

The nobles of the Tekoites (3:5)

### Who Did Work?

- High Priest Eliashib (3:1)
- Priests (3:1, 22)
- Levites (3:17)
- The Nethinims (3:26)
- Goldsmiths (3:8, 32)
- Perfumers (3:8)
- Leaders (3:12, 15, 19)
- Daughters/Women (3:12)
- Merchants (3:32)
- Everyone!**

Attempt	Bible Passage	Enemy's Attack	Nehemiah's Action
1	(4:1-6)	They mocked and laughed at the Jews. Sanballat: "What are these feeble Jews doing?" Tobiah: "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prayed to God. (4:4-5) "God, we are despised! Do not forget their sins, because they have provoked you to anger before the builders"</li> <li>2. Kept the people's mind on the work (4:6)</li> </ol>
2	(4:6-23)	They planned to attack Jerusalem, cause confusion and kill the Jews while they worked on the wall. "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prayed to God (4:9)</li> <li>2. Set watch day and night (4:9)</li> <li>3. Set men at the openings of the wall to fight in case of an attack (4:13-14)</li> <li>4. Set half the men to work on the wall, half to stand watch to fight (4:16)</li> <li>5. Those who were building needed to hold weapons with one hand (4:17)</li> <li>6. The trumpet blower stood by Nehemiah as he watched for enemies (4:18-20)</li> <li>7. Everyone guarded by night, worked by day (4:22)</li> </ol>
3	(6:1-4)	They planned to hurt Nehemiah physically by calling him to come out of the city. Sanballat sent messengers to tell Nehemiah, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono" He sent this message FOUR times.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nehemiah focused on the work God had set for him and replied, "I am doing a great work, so I cannot come down. Why should I stop this work and go to you?"</li> <li>2. Nehemiah replied the same FOUR times.</li> </ol>
4	(6:5-9)	They led and tried to make Nehemiah and the people afraid. "It is reported among the nations that you and the Jews plan to rebel!" "They will be afraid, their hands will be weak and the work will not be done!"	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nehemiah confirmed this was a lie.</li> <li>2. Prayed to God to strengthen his hands (4:9)</li> </ol>
5	(6:10-14)	They sent the spy Shemaiah to prophesy falsely to make Nehemiah sin against God. "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you."	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nehemiah knew God's commandment, only priests and Levites could go into the temple. It was forbidden for him to go into the temple! (6:11)</li> <li>2. He was aware that God did not send Shemaiah to prophecy (6:12)</li> <li>3. He prayed to God to remember the evil ways of Tobiah and Sanballat and other prophets they hired to make Nehemiah afraid (6:14)</li> </ol>

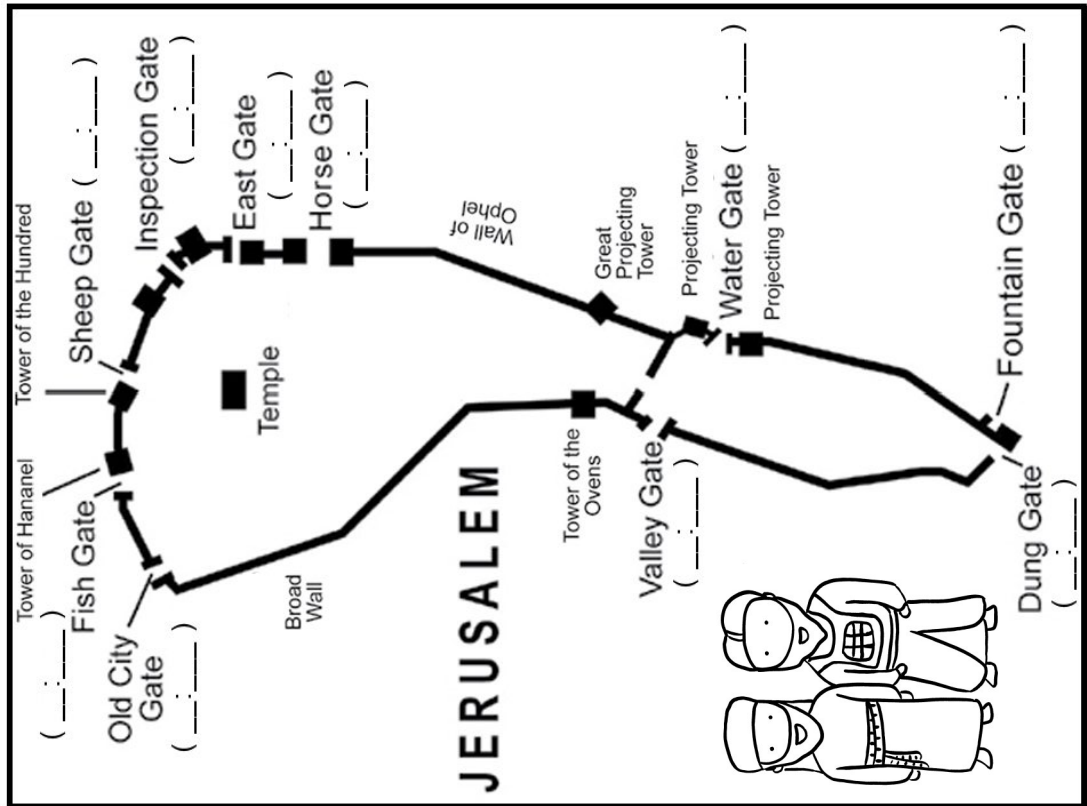
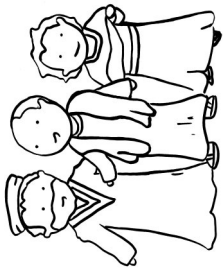
# Who Did the Work? (Nehemiah 3)



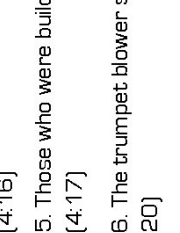
## Who Did Work?


## Who Didn't Work?

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Attempt	Bible Passage	Enemy's Attack	Nehemiah's Action
1	(4:1-6)	<p>They mocked and laughed at the Jews.                      Sanballat: "What are these feeble Jews doing?"                      Tobiah: "Whatever they build, if even a _____ goes up on it, he will _____ down their stone wall."</p>	<p>1. Prayed to God. [ _____ ]                      "God, we are despised! Do not forget their sins, because they have provoked you to anger before the builders"                      2. Kept the people's mind on the work [ _____ ]                      1. P _____ (4:9)                      2. S _____ (4:9)                      3. Set men at the openings of the wall to fight in case of an attack (4:13-14)                      4. Set half the men to _____ half to _____ (4:16)                      5. Those who were building needed to hold _____ with one hand (4:17)                      6. The trumpet blower stood by Nehemiah as he watched for enemies (4:18-20)                      7. Everyone guarded by night, worked by day (4: _____ )</p>
2	(4:6-23)	<p>They planned to attack Jerusalem, cause confusion and kill the Jews while they worked on the wall.                      "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."  </p>	
3	[ _____ ]	<p>They planned to hurt Nehemiah physically by calling him to come out of the city. Sanballat sent messengers to tell Nehemiah,                      "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono"                      He sent this message _____ times.</p>	<p>1. Nehemiah focused on the work God had set for him and replied,                      "I am doing a _____, so I cannot come down. Why should I _____ this work and go to you?"                      2. Nehemiah replied the same _____ times.</p>
4	(6:5-9)	<p>They _____ and tried to make Nehemiah and the people afraid.                      "It is reported among the nations that you and the Jews plan to rebel!"                      "They will be afraid, their _____ will be _____ and the work will not be done!"</p>	<p>1. Nehemiah confirmed this was a lie.                      2. Prayed to God to s _____ his hands (4:9)</p>
5	[ _____ ]	<p>They sent the spy S _____ to prophesy falsely to make Nehemiah _____ against God.                      "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the _____ and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you."</p>	<p>1. Nehemiah knew God's commandment, only priests and Levites could go into the temple. It was forbidden for him to go into the temple! (6:11)                      2. He was aware that God did not send S _____ to prophesy (6:12)                      3. He prayed to God to remember the evil ways of Tobiah and Sanballat and other prophets they hired to make Nehemiah afraid (6: _____ )</p>



**How would YOU HANDLE IT?**

Read these difficult problems. Then, fill in one of your own problems in the empty box provided. Remember how Nehemiah prayed and then made plans to overcome the difficulties he faced. Write down what you can do about the problems listed.

Scenario/Problem	I will feel...	What <u>NOT</u> to do	What I <u>SHOULD</u> do: (step by step in order)
<p>Some of your classmates are laughing about the art project that you and your friends are doing for school.</p>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
<p>Your team is trying the best to get a good score. Then, a bully from another team comes and threatens to beat up one of your team members.</p>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> </ol>
<p>Your friends in school laugh at you when you say grace before meals at lunch time.</p>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>

## The Walls of Your Life

Examine the wall in your spiritual life.

- Is your wall built up tall and strong?
  - o Do we spend enough time every day to read the Bible so that we know what pleases God?
  - o Do we spend enough time in \_\_\_\_\_? (Jude 20)
  - o Are we \_\_\_\_\_ God’s word in actions? (James 1:22)
- Or, is your wall very weak, cracked, and even broken down in some places?
  - o Do you feel that the enemy is attacking you from every side and you fall easily into temptation?
  - o Do we sometimes lose our self-control and end up doing what doesn’t please God?
  - o Do we find it difficult to live by the spirit?

WHOEVER HAS NO  
**Rule**  
 OVER HIS OWN  
 SPIRIT  
 IS LIKE A CITY  
**BROKEN DOWN,**  
 WITHOUT WALLS.

Prov 25:28

**STRONG BRICKS:** Write the things you have done well or things you can do to fortify and make your wall stronger. (Color it in a “strong” color.)

**BROKEN WALL:** Write the things that have made your wall weak, and what you can do to build it up again. (Color it in a “weak” color.)

**REMEMBER:** When you are rebuilding your wall, your “enemies” will not be happy and will do everything to try and stop you! Don’t let them get the better of you and **DON’T** give up in prayer. Remember how Nehemiah overcame his enemies with God’s help, and how you can do it, too!

## E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 11—Nehemiah Stands Up for God Until the End

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Bible Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

### What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(2 Thessalonians 3:3)**

\_\_\_\_\_

#### True or False

1. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem opposed Nehemiah's work to rebuild the city wall. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Nehemiah did not have helpers when rebuilding the city wall. \_\_\_\_\_

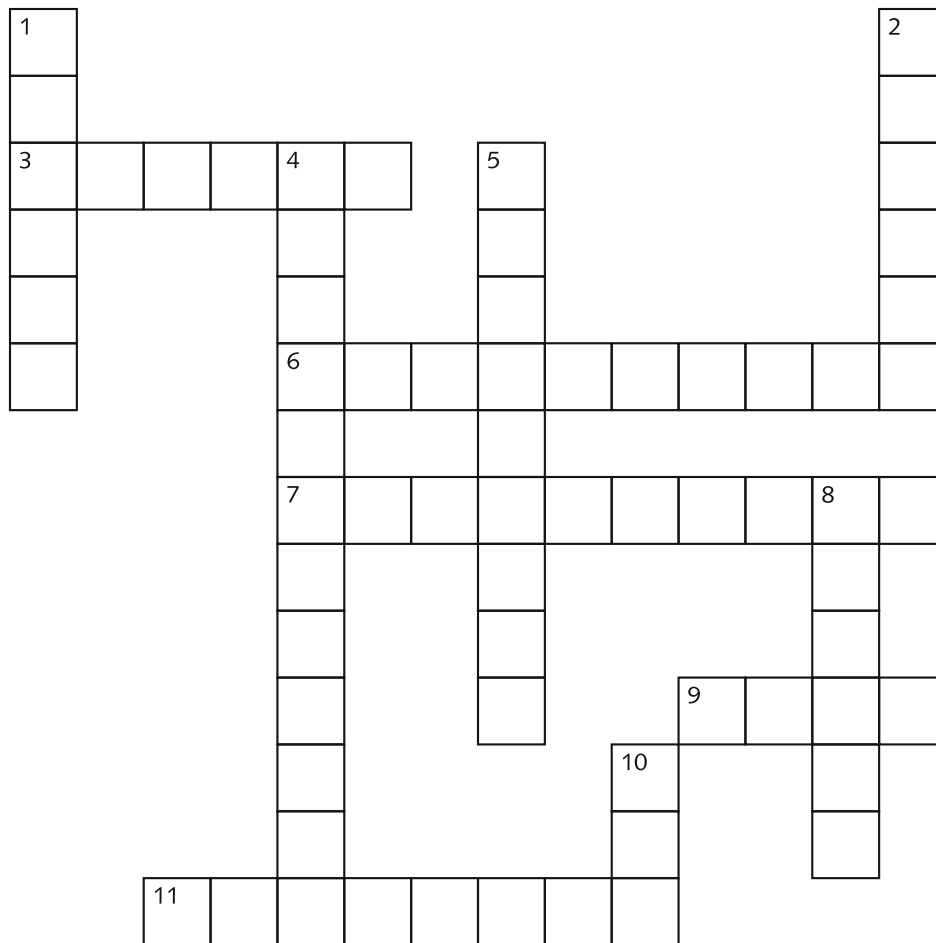
#### Fill In the Blank

3. "Those who were rebuilding the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a \_\_\_\_\_." (Neh 4:17)
4. "So the wall was \_\_\_\_\_ on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days." (Neh 6:15)

#### Short Answer

5. What did Nehemiah do when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem tried to disrupt his work by mocking the Jewish people and by spreading lies about them?
  
6. What does it mean to rebuild our spiritual wall? What are some ways you can build up your own spiritual wall?
  
7. What is the significance of the Jewish people working together in building the city walls? In what ways do your peers in church help you in building your spiritual wall?

### Nehemiah Stands Up for God Until the End



**Across**

- 3. Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and \_\_\_\_ Jerusalem and create confusion (Neh 4:7-8)
- 6. For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, \_\_\_\_ my hands (Neh 6:9)
- 7. But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were \_\_\_\_ the wall, that he was furious and very indignant and mocked the Jews (Neh 4:1)
- 9. So we built the \_\_\_\_, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work (Neh 4:6)
- 11. So the wall was \_\_\_\_ on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days (Neh 6:15)

**Down**

- 1. Nevertheless we made our \_\_\_\_ to God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night (Neh 4:9)
- 2. Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a \_\_\_\_ (Neh 4:17)
- 4. So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at \_\_\_\_, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah (Neh 4:16)
- 5. After him Baruch the son of Zabbai \_\_\_\_ repaired the other section (Neh 3:20)
- 8. Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their \_\_\_\_ did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord (Neh 3:5)
- 10. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our \_\_\_\_ will fight for us (Neh 4:20)

# LESSON 12

## NEHEMIAH DEDICATES THE WALL AND CONFRONTS THE JEWS



### OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage the students to dedicate their money, possessions, and lives to God.
2. To remember that, on this uphill journey to heaven, we need to put effort into our faith and spiritual cultivation.
3. To enable the students to encourage others to learn to honor and obey God.

### MEMORY VERSE

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

(Romans 12:1)

### PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for bringing us together to worship You on Your Sabbath day and to learn Your word together. We know that You are guiding and protecting us all the time. We also know that You have given us everything, and we are very thankful. So, we want to dedicate our money and our lives—our everything—to You with a willing heart. Please give us the strength to do what we promise to do and follow Your word. Please also help us to encourage those who are disobeying You to change their ways. Amen.



### Overview

#### 1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Dedication of the City Wall
- b. After the Dedication

#### 2. Link to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Sabbath Day

#### 3. Life Application

- a. My Personal Dedication: Testimony
- b. My Covenant with God
- c. Difficult Situations

#### 4. Activity—Our Own Celebration!



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

The dedication of the city wall was characterized by much joy and praise. However, when Nehemiah returned, he found that the people had broken their promises to God. God had commanded Israel not to work on the Sabbath, but to rest in remembrance of His creation and their exodus from Egypt. God also told His people not to marry Gentiles, but the Israelites broke their solemn covenant with Him. Nehemiah's severe treatment of the people shows the contrast between his great faithfulness to God and the people's disobedience. (See also Ezra 10:3.)



## Reaching Out to Your Students

The art of encouragement is not easily learned. At this age, your students are not very good at tactfully explaining rules or guidelines to others nor are they willing to listen to their peers. In part, this is due to their limited language skills and their strong desire to do things independently. You might want to explain that, in order to encourage others to honor and obey God, they must first honor and obey God in their own lives. Discuss what it means to honor and obey God. You can use Nehemiah or any other Bible character as an example. Also, you might want to go over the qualities a person must possess to give effective encouragement (e.g. humility, love). Be honest and open with your students. Share your personal failures, which they can relate to and learn from. Perhaps you can tell them about how you were not successful in encouraging a certain person because you lacked certain qualities.

It may also be difficult for students to speak up and encourage others to do the right thing by honoring and obeying God because "it's too hard." Nehemiah spent years as the governor in Jerusalem: setting good examples, teaching the people God's laws, even going as far as getting them to sign an agreement. If we put ourselves in his shoes, if we returned to Jerusalem and saw the Jewish people backslide in their faith, we probably would have said, "I give up! They will never change!" Nehemiah didn't give up. Instead, he tackled the problem with strong and firm actions. Today, when your students try to encourage others to honor and obey God, they may be laughed at or rejected by their peers. Their friends may think that they are a "goody two-shoes." Encourage them by reaffirming that it's never easy to do the right thing, especially when others don't listen, but that we should never give up on doing the right thing. We may feel like our words are falling on deaf ears. However, this does not mean that we can just let it slip. If we let it slip once, we will do it again, and gradually, we will tolerate it. Over time, we may no longer even think that it's wrong! Keep persisting! And just like Nehemiah did after taking action, let us put it in prayer (Neh 13:14, 22, 29, 31).

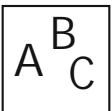


## Opener

5 Minutes

Have you ever promised to do something, but later changed your mind? For example, have you ever promised to practice in order to take violin lessons or be on a sports team, but then later decided you didn't like to practice after all? What are some other examples you can think of? Has someone encouraged you to keep your promises in those situations?

In our Bible story, we'll learn about a time when the Jews changed their minds after having made some promises.



## Vocabulary

**reform:** (n.) an improvement or change of what is wrong; (v.) to stop doing what is wrong and change for the better  
**covenant:** a very serious promise to do or not to do something specifically agreed to  
**contend:** to argue and insist; to struggle against



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### The Dedication (Neh 12:27-13:3)

With the help of God, the Jewish people overcame all the difficulties and their enemies' attacks to finish rebuilding the wall in fifty-two days! Now that the wall had been completed, Nehemiah and the people were going to dedicate the wall and all the work that went into it to God. This was to be a joyful time! A time to celebrate! Let's learn more about the dedication of the city wall.

#### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students now. Guide the students to complete the worksheet, by filling in the blank areas, as you go over this section. The answers are underlined.

### (12:27-28) Find the Levites and singers

For the dedication Nehemiah especially sought out the



Levites and brought them back to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication. The Levites were scattered all over the place, but the dedication could not be complete without the Levites because they were chosen by God to do special work in the temple and to lead the people in the dedication celebration. They were expected to help lead the people and guide them to worship God.

### (12:30) Purify themselves

The first thing the priests and the Levites did upon returning to Jerusalem was to purify themselves. Then, they went on to purify the people, the gates, and the wall! Everyone and anyone who desires to serve God must be cleansed from all sins. These could be sins in our thoughts, in our speech, in our actions, or in our hearts.

### (12:31) With thanksgiving

The dedication of the wall was not a time to praise Nehemiah but to praise and give thanks to God! The Levites led the people in this dedication of the wall “with thanksgiving and singing” and with various musical instruments! (12:27b).

Nehemiah organized two special “thanksgiving choirs” to walk in opposite directions on top of the wall until the two choirs met up at the temple. The Bible tells us that these choirs “sang loudly” (12:42)! When we are truly thankful to God in our hearts, we cannot hide it. We will naturally want to praise God loudly. This is how the Jewish people felt. They felt God’s protection and guidance through the wall-rebuilding process, so they used their voices to sing loudly to God!

### (12:43) With joy

God made them rejoice with great joy. Just count how many times “joy” or “rejoiced” was mentioned in this one verse! We can imagine what a happy occasion this was for the Jewish people. Everyone rejoiced: men, women and children! Even people far away could hear their joy! Serving God and dedicating the work of our hands to God is a joy. Let’s never forget this and serve God with joy.

### (12:47) Offer willingly

A heart of thanksgiving and joy naturally led to the people freely giving and offering to the house of God. They could see the importance of the work in the temple and were willing to give the necessary offerings to support the many priests, Levites, gatekeepers, and singers who served there. The people offered because they “rejoiced over the priests and Levites who ministered” (12:44). This was actually the way God had intended, so the priests and Levites could serve God wholeheartedly in the temple and not need to worry about working for food. This could have been the reason why the Levites were initially scattered and why Nehemiah needed to find them!

### (13:1-3) Read the Law of God

Worship and the word of God go hand in hand. The dedication ceremony was filled with songs of worship praising God. After that was over, the people listened to the reading of the word from the Book of Moses. They realized that God had told them that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God. After reading the Law, the people immediately put it into practice and separated themselves from the foreigners as God instructed! This shows that the Israelites had set a determination to obey God’s commandments.

### Ammonites and Moabites

As the people were being read the Law of God, they came to Deuteronomy 23:3-4. God strictly forbade the entry of the Ammonites and the Moabites into the assembly of God. Why? When the Israelites left Egypt and were in the wilderness, not only did the Ammonites and Moabites refuse to help the Israelites, they hired the prophet Balaam to curse Israel (Num 22-24). This made God very angry, and from then on, God would not allow any Ammonite or Moabite to enter the assembly of God.

#### FOR TEACHERS

After completing this section, go over the worksheet with the students to ensure that they have each filled out the worksheet correctly. Then, continue with the next section.

### After the Dedication (Neh 13:4-31)

After the dedication Nehemiah left Jerusalem and went back to his job as the king’s cupbearer (Neh 13:6). The Bible is not clear on how long he was back with the king, but it tells us that after “certain days,” he asked the king if he could leave again. This time when he returned to Jerusalem, what he found made him sad and angry.

They had read in the Book of Moses that God’s law strictly said that no Ammonites and Moabites were allowed in the temple of God. But the first thing Nehemiah found when he returned to Jerusalem was... let’s read Nehemiah 13:7. “And I came to Jerusalem and discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God.” Do we all still remember who Tobiah was? He was one of the enemies who opposed the building of the wall, and even worse, he was an Ammonite (Neh 4:3).

Eliashib the priest had done the unthinkable! He was in charge of the storerooms in the temple. He was also friends with Tobiah. So, he decided to clear out one of the large storerooms in the temple and let Tobiah stay there. Upon learning about Tobiah staying in the temple, do you think Nehemiah said, “OK, fine. Let Tobiah stay since Eliashib is a priest, and I don’t want to argue with the priest”? NO! He didn’t. His reaction was so strong. He



threw out ALL of Tobiah's belongings, cleansed the room, and brought back all the things that were supposed to be stored in that storeroom.

Sadly, letting Tobiah the Ammonite stay in the temple wasn't the only thing that Nehemiah discovered when he returned to Jerusalem.

Before the dedication of the wall, the leaders, Levites, priests, and the Jewish people in general all made a covenant. It was a very serious covenant. So serious that they wrote a document of what they promised to do in this covenant and signed it, or as the Bible records, "placed their seal on the document" (Neh 10:1a). Nehemiah came back to discover that the people broke the covenant and didn't keep their promise.

What did the people promise to do in the covenant? And what did Nehemiah do when he discovered the people were disobeying God?

#### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 and go over the worksheet with the students, guiding them to fill in the worksheet by reading the passages. The answers have been underlined.

### The Covenant

The Jewish people made the following promises to keep God's word:

#### 1. We will not marry Gentiles (Neh 10:30)

- Nehemiah came back to discover that the Jewish people had married gentiles of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab (Neh 13:23-24).
- So, Nehemiah dealt with it. Let's read Nehemiah 13:25-28. Nehemiah contended with them, cursed them, hit some of them, pulled out their hair, and made them promise not to marry Gentiles or to let their children marry Gentiles.

#### 2. We will not work or trade on Sabbath day (Neh 10:31)

- The people also worked and traded on the Sabbath day. Let's read Nehemiah 10:15-16.
- So, Nehemiah 13:17-22 tells us, again Nehemiah contended with them saying, "What evil thing is this that you do on the Sabbath day?" He shut the gates and put his servants at the gates to guard it. Later on, he told the Levites to cleanse themselves and go to guard the gates. This way, they made sure the people were keeping the Sabbath day.

#### 3. We will offer tithes and firstfruits, so the house of God will not be neglected (Neh 10:35-39)

- They neglected the house of God, as recorded in Nehemiah 13:10, because they didn't offer tithes and firstfruits. The tithes and firstfruits that the people offered were what the Levites and the workers in the temple survived on. .
- In Nehemiah 13:11-13, Nehemiah contended with them saying, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" Then he gathered the Levites together again.

It doesn't matter how difficult the situation was, when Nehemiah saw that the people were disobeying God, he was determined to do whatever he could to make the people turn back to God. He even went to the extent of pulling their hair out and shutting the gates to the city, putting people there so that they couldn't physically trade anymore. From today's lesson, we can see two distinctly different types of people. On one hand, there are people like Nehemiah, who was so faithful to God. On the other hand, there are people like the Israelites, who repeatedly disobeyed God and broke their promises to God.

What can we learn from Nehemiah? If we see our friends do something wrong to disobey God, we should encourage them to stop doing the wrong thing. Have we been doing what we can to turn people back to God?



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### Sabbath Day

The Sabbath day, the seventh day of the week (Saturday), is a Holy Day blessed and sanctified by God. It is to be observed under grace for the commemoration of God's creation and salvation and with the hope of eternal rest in the future.

The people made a covenant and promised to keep the Sabbath holy. So, they were not supposed to do any work and not supposed to trade, buy, or sell anything on the Sabbath. Nehemiah called what they were doing on the Sabbath an "evil thing." The people were reminded that not keeping the Sabbath was one of the reasons that God punished them.

Today, we don't keep the Sabbath with the same strict restrictions as in Nehemiah's days. Rather, we keep the Sabbath under grace. However, we must still keep it holy, as it is our hearts that truly matter. This means putting aside worldly

things and worldly thoughts, to come focus on God to remember God's creation, salvation, and our home in heaven.

Do you enjoy coming to church on the Sabbath? What is your favorite part about the Sabbath?



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What did Nehemiah do in preparation for the city wall dedication?** He went to find the Levites and singers.
2. **What did the Levites and singers need to do before the dedication?** They needed to purify themselves.
3. **What happened during the dedication?** The thanksgiving choir sang loudly; God filled the people with joy; the people offered willingly for the house of God; and they read the Law of God and separated themselves from foreigners.
4. **Who did God say would never be allowed into the assembly of God and why?** The Ammonites and Moabites, because they refused to help the Israelites when they journeyed in the wilderness and even plotted to make the Israelites sin against God.
5. **When Nehemiah returned after serving as cupbearer, what was the first thing he saw?** The priest Eliashib had given one of the temple storerooms to Tobiah the Ammonite, an enemy of the Jewish people who tried to disrupt the building of the wall.
6. **How did Nehemiah react to Tobiah's room in the temple?** He threw out all of Tobiah's things, cleansed the room, and brought back the things of the temple.
7. **What else did he find the Jewish people doing wrong?** They had married Gentiles; they hadn't kept the Sabbath day holy; they hadn't offered tithes or firstfruits; and they had left the house of God neglected.
8. **What did Nehemiah do when he saw the people disobeying God?** He contended with them each time, hit them, pulled their hair out, shut the city gates, and put his servants to guard the gates.
9. **What can you learn from Nehemiah?** Answers may vary.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. My Personal Dedication

#### What can I dedicate to God?

Think about what we can dedicate to God and write it in the box.

(Time, pocket money, caring for others, helping others, cleaning the church, helping out around the church, etc.)

#### What attitude should I have?

Read the Bible verse relating to the attitude.

Then write in your own words what the verse means to you, and how you can apply it to what you would like to dedicate to God.

#### Testimony

Sister Elizabeth who specializes and is gifted in flower arranging was asked by the church to do a few special flower arrangements for the church dedication. Sis. Elizabeth wanted the flower arrangement to be as nice and fresh as possible for the dedication, so as per her usual practice to ensure fresh flowers for the day, she started the flower arrangements the night before. She spent lots of time on one particular arrangement because it was the largest one and it was going to be at the main entrance. She worked really hard and even stayed past midnight to finish all the flower arrangements allocated to her. This was a big church, and there were many things to be done in the chapel as well as outside, so many members stayed to help clean and organize the church for the dedication. Finally, she finished for the night and went home to rest. She planned to come an hour early the next morning to do one final check, and perhaps give the flowers a quick mist spray before everyone arrived for the dedication.

To other people, this may just have been another pot of flowers. But to Sister Elizabeth, this was what she felt God had gifted her with, so she was especially dedicated to ensuring that it was done to the best of her abilities.

However, early next morning, she arrived an hour beforehand, only to find that the main flower arrangement for the entrance was no longer there. After asking around, she found out that sometime between last night after she left and this morning before she arrived, a church member felt the floor needed another cleaning and vacuuming. Unfortunately the member who did the vacuuming accidentally knocked over the flower arrangement, and it was completely ruined.

Sister Elizabeth was devastated. It was too late to do anything about it. She didn't have the time, the equipment, or the flowers to make a replacement. After spending hours last night on the arrangement and sacrificing her sleep, in the end, she couldn't present the nice arrangement the church had asked her to make.

So, in the prayer during dedication, she asked God, "Why did you let this happen? I did that work for you, God. That arrangement was done for this dedication to glorify You. Why did this accident have to happen?"

Praise God that, during the dedication, God opened her heart and comforted her. She felt God's comfort, but more importantly she felt God teaching her. God let her understand that the flower arrangement was her offering to God, not to the people attending the dedication. Whether or not other people saw it wasn't important. God had seen it. God had accepted her offering. When she came to realize this thought, she felt peace and joy fill her heart.

The most important aspect of our dedication to God is what God sees, and not what other people see. If we dedicate our work to God with a pure, willing, joyful, and thankful heart, God will see it, even if other people do not see it.

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## 2. My Covenant with God

Think about the covenant that the people made during the time of Nehemiah and how it relates to your life today.

What can you pledge to God today?

In the box, draw something that will remind you of your pledge. Then, write the actual pledge.

Finally, put your signature on it and seal it!

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## 3. Difficult Situations

When Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem, he discovered the people breaking their covenant and doing the wrong things in the eyes of God. In the face of this difficult situation, Nehemiah didn't just give up. He did what he could to turn the people back to God.

*What would you say in these difficult situations?*

1. You see your sister hide a secret and lie to your parents about something bad she's doing.
2. Your friend keeps telling you about how much he wants a video game.
3. You haven't seen your friend come to church for Sabbath for a long time. One day you see him in the shopping mall.



## Activity

### Our Own Celebration

10-15 Minutes

With the help of Ezra and Nehemiah, the people made a covenant to keep God's word. Then, they dedicated the wall, a super joyous occasion! Let's try to reproduce a smaller version today!

#### 1. Firstly, write down the covenant.

Ask everyone to write down one pledge they want to make to God. It can be an improvement on a current aspect of their life or a pledge for the future. The only rule is that it must be shortened to 3-4 words (3-5 syllables). A few examples are listed.

2. Now, make some shakers with the students—to accompany the lyrics!

*Materials*

- Small drink bottles
- Dried rice, beans or pasta
- Decorative stickers

*Instructions*

1. Dry the bottles thoroughly.
2. Fill one-third of the bottle with rice, beans, or pasta.
3. Glue the lid shut.
4. Decorate it.

3. Finally, time for the celebration!

Ask all the students to bring their shaker and form a circle.

Sing the song “My Desire” together as a class, using the shakers.

When the class gets to the blank underlined part of the lyrics (underlined orange in the example below), everyone will take turns to sing their pledge, starting with the teacher. Continue singing until everyone has had a chance to sing their pledge.

**My Desire**

My desire, my desire, my desire,  
My desire is to keep God's word!  
My desire! My desire!  
My desire is to keep God's word!

## MY DESIRE

MY DE-SI-RE, MY DE-SI-RE, MY DE-SI-RE, MY DE-SI-RE IS TO \_\_\_\_\_ MY DE-

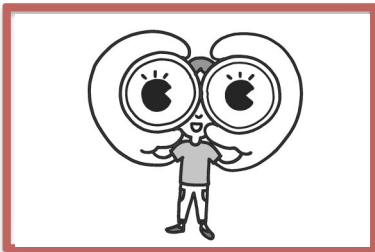
6 SI-RE, MY DE-SI-RE, MY DE-SI-RE, MY DE-SI-RE IS TO \_\_\_\_\_ MY DE-

10 SI-RE, MY DE-SI-RE, MY DE-SI-RE IS TO \_\_\_\_\_

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

Check that they have completed the homework accordingly.

THE DEDICATION

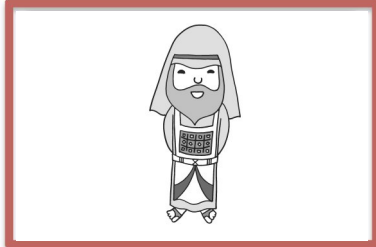


**(12:27-28) Find the Levites and singers**

- 
- 

**(12:30)**

- Priests and Levites
- The people, the gates, and the wall

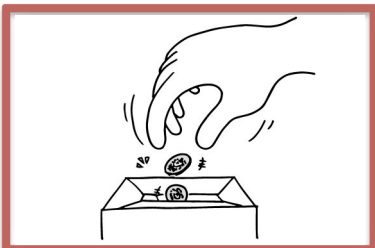
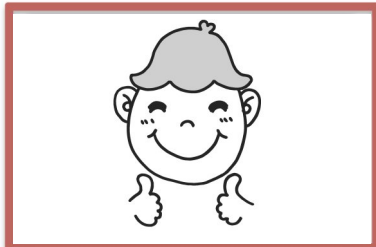


**(12:31) With thanksgiving**

- 
- 

**( \_\_\_\_\_ ) With joy**

- God made them rejoice with great joy
- Everyone rejoiced: men, women, and children



**(12:47) \_\_\_\_\_**

- For the singers and gatekeepers
- For the house of God

**(13:1-3) Read the Law of God**

- 
- 





THE COVENANT

**The Covenant  
(what they  
promised)**

We will not marry  
Gentiles  
(10:30)

We will not work or  
trade on Sabbath day  
(10: \_\_\_\_\_)

We will offer tithes and  
firstfruits, not neglect the  
house of God  
(10:35-39)

**What  
happened?**

They married Gentiles  
of \_\_\_\_\_  
(13:23-24)

They worked and  
\_\_\_\_\_ on the  
Sabbath  
( \_\_\_\_\_ )

They neglected the  
house of God  
( \_\_\_\_\_ )

**What did Nehemiah do  
when he saw this?**

He \_\_\_\_\_ with them, cursed them,  
hit them, pulled out their hair and made  
them promise not to \_\_\_\_\_  
(13:25-28)

He \_\_\_\_\_ with them,  
"What evil thing is this that you do  
on the \_\_\_\_\_?" He  
shut the gates and put his servants  
at the gates to guard it (13:17-22)

He \_\_\_\_\_ with them, "Why is the  
house of God \_\_\_\_\_?" He  
gathered the Levites together again  
(13:11-13)

# My Personal Dedication

What can I dedicate to God?

What attitudes should I have?

Write these verses in your own words. How can you apply these attitudes to what you want to dedicate to God?

## PURE HEART

• 2 TIM 2:21-22



## THANKSGIVING

• EPH 5:19-20



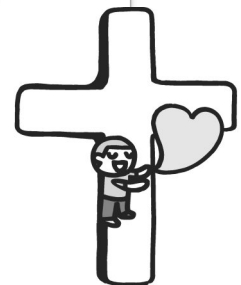
## JOY

• PS 100:2



## WILLINGNESS

• 2 COR 8:12





## Testimony

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However, early next morning, she arrived an hour beforehand, only to find that the main flower arrangement for the entrance was no longer there. After asking around, she found out that sometime between last night after she left and this morning before she arrived, a church member felt the floor needed another cleaning and vacuuming. Unfortunately the member who did the vacuuming accidentally knocked over the flower arrangement, and it was completely ruined.

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So, in the prayer during dedication, she asked God, "Why did you let this happen? I did that work for you, God. That arrangement was done for this dedication to glorify You. Why did this accident have to happen?"

Praise God that, during the dedication, God opened her heart and comforted her. She felt God's comfort, but more importantly she felt God teaching her. God let her understand that the flower arrangement was her offering to God, not to the people attending the dedication. Whether or not other people saw it wasn't important. God had seen it. God had accepted her offering. When she came to realize this thought, she felt peace and joy fill her heart.

The most important aspect of our dedication to God is what God sees, and not what other people see. If we dedicate our work to God with a pure, willing, joyful, and thankful heart, God will see it, even if other people do not see it.

## My Covenant with God

Think about the covenant that the people made during the time of Nehemiah and how it relates to your life today. What can you pledge to God today?

In the box, draw something that will remind you of your pledge. Then, write the actual pledge.

Finally, put your signature on it and seal it!

Dear God,



I pledge to



I pledge to



I pledge to

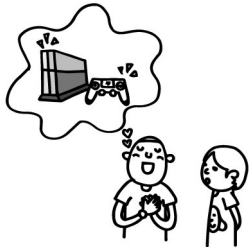
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

When Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem, he discovered the people breaking their covenant and doing the wrong things in the eyes of God. In the face of this difficult situation, Nehemiah didn't just give up. He did what he could to turn the people back to God.

What would you say in these difficult situations?

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Your friend keeps telling you about how much he wants a video game.

You haven't seen your friend come to church for Sabbath for a long time. One day you see him in the shopping mall.



# E2 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 12—Nehemiah Dedicates the Wall and Confronts the Jews

## Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Bible Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

### What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_




### Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Romans 12:1)**

---

### What Do We Need to Do?

Nehemiah confronted and rebuked the people regarding intermarriage, the Sabbath, and taking care of the temple through offerings. For each point, write down:

 <p><b>In Marriage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God wants us to...</li> <li>• How did the Jewish people disobey God?</li> <li>• What I can do now is...</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Sabbath Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God wants us to...</li> <li>• How did the Jewish people disobey God?</li> <li>• What I can do now is...</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Offering &amp; Tithes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God wants us to...</li> <li>• How did the Jewish people disobey God?</li> <li>• What I can do now is...</li> </ul>
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# REVIEW

Teachers can reference this lesson to give them some ideas about questions to ask during a review lesson. The review can be in any format: a standard written quiz, a Jeopardy-style game, a board game, etc. The important thing is to give the students a chance to review all the things they have learned in the past quarter. You can draw your review questions from the **Check for Understanding** sections in each lesson, as well as the **homework assignments**. Remember to include some **life application questions** to allow the students to apply what they have learned to their lives.

## ANSWER KEY

### I. Memory Verse Fill In the Blank

1. instruction, wise
2. blessings, obey
3. Lord, power
4. far, hears
5. boldly, fear
6. given, opened
7. love, truth
8. help, heaven
9. good, defend
10. eyes, see
11. faithful, guard
12. bodies, holy

### II. Standing Up for God

1. D
2. B
3. E
4. A
5. C

### III. Elijah and Nehemiah: Courageous Workers of God

*Elijah Works for God Faithfully*

7, 5, 3, 6, 8, 1, 4, 10, 2, 9

*Nehemiah and the Jews Rebuild the City Wall*

8, 3, 5, 10, 1, 4, 6, 2, 7, 9

### IV. Short Answer and Life Application

1. It is important to make wise choices that are in accordance with God's will because the wrong choices may pull us away from God and tempt us to sin. If people around us are telling us to do something that we know is wrong, we must not listen to them, even if they are our best friends or our family. We must only do things that we know will please God or glorify God. We can do this in our daily lives by asking ourselves if God would want us to make this choice, based on what we have learned, on what our conscience tells us, and on how the Holy Spirit guides us in our lives.
2. When God told Elijah to go to the Brook Cherith, to the widow Zarephath, and to speak to King Ahab, he obeyed without question. Elijah always willingly obeyed God and served God wholeheartedly. Today, we can walk in obedience by following what we have learned from the Bible and by memorizing verses that can help keep us on the right path. We can also obey our parents without complaining or asking questions when they ask us to do things that are good for us, such as reading the Bible or praying instead of watching TV.
3. At first, the Shunammite woman and her husband would invite Elisha to come in and eat dinner with them each time he passed by. Later, they built a room for Elisha to stay in whenever he came to Shunem. For their kindness, God blessed them with a child, even though the woman could not have children before. We can show kindness to those around us by helping out wherever we can. We must be observant and find ways to show kindness, whether it is helping flip the Bible, helping a fallen person up, helping to wash dishes, or helping with homework. We can show kindness wherever and whenever we are and to anyone who is around us.
4. When the people realized they had sinned, they wept and promised to turn back to God. Those who had married foreign wives promised to put away those wives because it was against the word of God to have them. It is important for us to read the word of God regularly because when we read the word of God regularly, His words and teachings will be fresh in our mind and will be with us in our hearts. Then, when we are making choices, we will remember the word of God and know which choice to make.
5. Before Nehemiah asked the king for permission to return to Judah, he prayed silently to God in his heart. Afterward, Nehemiah always prayed to God for strength each time his enemies tried to stop his good work by threatening him and mocking the Jews. We can pray to God for help at all times. He is always there and will always hear our earnest and fervent prayers.

### I. Memory Verse Fill In the Blank

**Instructions:** Complete the memory verses by filling the blanks in with the missing words.

opened	faithful	holy	power	instruction	heaven
defend	blessings	truth	given	bodies	Lord
wise	fear	eyes	far	help	obey
hears	good	love	see	guard	boldly

1. "Listen to counsel and receive \_\_\_\_\_, that you may be \_\_\_\_\_ in your latter days." (Proverbs 19:20)
2. "And all these \_\_\_\_\_ shall come upon you and overtake you, because you \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of the LORD your God." (Deuteronomy 28:2)
3. "And God both raised up the \_\_\_\_\_ and will also raise us up by His \_\_\_\_\_." (1 Corinthians 6:14)
4. "The LORD is \_\_\_\_\_ from the wicked, but He \_\_\_\_\_ the prayer of the righteous." (Proverbs 15:29)
5. "So we may \_\_\_\_\_ say: 'The LORD is my helper; I will not \_\_\_\_\_. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:6)
6. "Ask, and it will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you." (Matthew 7:7)
7. "My little children, let us not \_\_\_\_\_ in word or in tongue, but in deed and in \_\_\_\_\_." (1 John 3:18)
8. "My \_\_\_\_\_ comes from the LORD, who made \_\_\_\_\_ and earth." (Psalm 121:2)
9. "Learn to do \_\_\_\_\_; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; \_\_\_\_\_ the fatherless, plead for the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)
10. "Open my \_\_\_\_\_, that I may \_\_\_\_\_ wondrous things from Your law." (Psalm 119:18)
11. "But the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_, who will establish you and \_\_\_\_\_ you from the evil one." (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
12. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your \_\_\_\_\_ a living sacrifice, \_\_\_\_\_, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)



## II. Standing Up for God

Each time Sanballat, Tobiah, and the others tried to do something to stop Nehemiah and the Jews from working, Nehemiah boldly stood up for God and refused to let them hinder the great work they were doing.

**Instructions:** Draw a line to connect each action with its correct response from Nehemiah.

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| 1. Sanballat and Tobiah mocked the Jews, calling them feeble and incompetent.  | A. Nehemiah boldly proclaimed this to be a lie and prayed to God to strengthen his hands.  |
| 2. Sanballat and the others made a plan to attack Jerusalem, cause confusion, and kill the Jews.                                       | B. Nehemiah prayed to God, armed the workers, and set the men to work by day and watch by night.   |
| 3. Sanballat sent messengers to Nehemiah four times, asking him to meet in the plain of Ono.   | C. Nehemiah refused to go because he knew God's commandments and that he was lying, and then he prayed to God to remember the evil ways of Tobiah and Sanballat and the others who tried to do evil. |
| 4. Sanballat and the others sent out letters falsely accusing the Jews of rebellion and of blasphemy against the king.                 | D. Nehemiah prayed to God and the people kept their mind to the work.  |
| 5. Sanballat and the others sent the spy Shemaiah to lure Nehemiah into the temple of God by speaking a false prophesy concerning him. | E. Nehemiah replied each time that he had a great work to do, so he had no reason to go meet him.  |

When people try to stop you from doing God's work, or when people make fun of you for standing up for God, what will you do to be courageous and strong like Nehemiah was?

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### III. Elijah and Nehemiah: Courageous Workers of God

**Both Elijah and Nehemiah worked courageously for God, even when others tried to stop them or threatened to harm them. Below are some events that occurred in their lives. Put them back in the correct order by numbering them from 1-10.**

#### Elijah Works for God Faithfully

- \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah throws his mantel onto Elisha, appointing him as his successor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah travels to Zarephath where he lives with a widow whose jar of oil and flour do not run out until the drought is over.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah goes to Mt. Carmel and challenges the false prophets of Baal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A chariot of fire and horses of fire appear between Elijah and Elisha, and a whirlwind takes Elijah up into heaven.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah tells King Ahab that there will be no rain on the land until he says so.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah resurrects the son of the widow, who had died from a severe illness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The drought ends, and Elijah flees for his life, afraid that Jezebel wants to kill him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God commands Elijah to go to the Brook Cherith and sends ravens to feed him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God speaks to Elijah, who is hiding on a mountain, in a still small voice and reassures him that there are still 7,000 people who worship God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah and Elisha travel to Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and cross the river Jordan.

#### Nehemiah and the Jews Rebuild the City Wall

- \_\_\_\_\_ Nehemiah and the Jews arm themselves and work day and night.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nehemiah and the Jews start to work on the wall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The king provides soldiers and allows Nehemiah to take wood from his forest for the rebuilding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sanballat and Tobiah mock the Jews and threaten to attack them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sanballat and Tobiah write letters falsely accusing Nehemiah of rebellion and blasphemy against the king.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nehemiah hears that the wall of Jerusalem is broken down.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nehemiah goes out alone with some men to see how much of the wall is damaged.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fifty-two days after starting the rebuilding, Nehemiah and the Jews finish rebuilding the wall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nehemiah prays to God, and then asks the king for permission to return to Judah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sanballat and Tobiah try to trick Nehemiah into going into the temple of God.

## IV. Short Answer and Life Application

**Instructions:** Answer the questions.

### **Making Wise Choices**

1. Rehoboam made a bad choice and followed the advice of the young men, which caused the kingdom to be divided. Why is it important to make wise choices, and how can we do that in our daily lives?

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### **Walk in Obedience**

2. Whenever God commanded Elijah to do something or go somewhere, Elijah obeyed without question. Name one way Elijah obeyed God in all that he did. Today, how can you walk in obedience to God and to your parents?

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### **Showing Kindness**

3. During Elisha's travels, he passed by the town of Shunem often. There, a kind woman and her husband treated Elisha with kindness. How did they treat him with kindness, and how were they blessed? Name some ways you can show kindness to those around you.

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### **The Word of God**

4. When Ezra found out that the people had been disobeying God's laws by marrying foreign wives, he prayed and repented for them. Then he worked hard to teach them the word of God. What did the people do when they realized they had sinned? Why is it important for us to read the word of God regularly?

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### **5. The Power of Prayer**

Nehemiah faced the difficult task of leading the Jews to rebuild the city wall, but he didn't work alone. God constantly abided with Nehemiah, who always prayed to Him when he needed help. Name one instance when Nehemiah prayed to God for help. When can you pray to God for help?

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"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

**Josh 1:9**



*God's Courageous Workers*

**Elementary 2**

Year 3 Book 2

**General Assembly of True Jesus Church**

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