

LESSON 4

ELISHA AND THE ANGEL ARMY

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is Powerful

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 6

GOD'S BIG STORY: When the King of Aram sends troops to capture Elisha, Elisha's servant is afraid until God opens the servant's eyes. Then he can see hillsides covered with angels, horses, and chariots of fire.

WORD OF WONDER: Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go. —Joshua 1:9

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: Who do you think is the most powerful person in the world?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Joshua 1:9
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Makin' Medals



[Victory Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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Maybe it's one too many viewings of *It's a Wonderful Life*, featuring George Bailey and his bumbling spiritual sidekick, Angel Second Class Clarence Odbody. Or perhaps it's the alarming number of baby-faced Precious Moments angel figurines that filled our grandparents' china cabinets. Or maybe it's just because we humans are so dependent on our sense of sight. Whatever the case, our understanding of angels is often skewed.

That's why 2 Kings 6 is such an eye-opener ... literally.

When Elisha's servant despaired at the sight of a besieging Aramean army, Elisha prayed, "LORD, open my servant's eyes so that he can see." Suddenly, Elisha's servant could see beyond the physical veil, and he saw innumerable "horses and chariots made of fire" on the nearby hills (2 Kings 6:17). God's awesome power—both concealed and revealed—won a mighty victory for Israel that day.

Second Kings 6 gives us a tiny glimpse into an unseen spiritual realm that we struggle to comprehend. But it's very real, and it's entirely within God's sovereign control.

God is powerful, with countless legions of angels at His command (Matthew 26:53, Revelation 5:11–12). Yet this same infinitely powerful God loves you dearly, and His omnipotence will bring about His perfect plan for your life, sometimes in ways you can see and sometimes in ways you can't. That's an encouraging thought!

Lord, open our eyes that we might see. Help us perceive beyond the physical with greater clarity to understand what You're accomplishing in our lives and in Your kingdom.

—Josh Cooley

Children's Minister and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Elisha left the security of his wealthy farming family to serve Elijah the prophet. Elijah opposed the worship of the false god Baal in the northern kingdom of Israel. After Elijah was taken up to heaven, God equipped Elisha as Elijah's prophetic successor.

WHAT?

In order to stop Elisha the prophet, the army of Aram surrounded him and his servant at the city of Dothan. Elisha's servant was terrified, but God revealed His angel army to the servant and blinded the army of Aram. Elisha then led the enemy army to Samaria where they were outnumbered.

WHERE?

Dothan was a major city in the northern kingdom of Israel, a few miles north of the capital city of Samaria. Aram's presence there shows how vulnerable Israel had become to attack. Aram was centered on Damascus, to the north and east of Israel.

WHEN?

Second Kings 6 comes shortly after the Aramean commander Naaman went to Elisha for healing. Now Aram is back at war with Israel, highlighting the volatile nature of their relationship, which cycled between a fragile truce and all-out war.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The appearance of the angel army illustrates that things are not always as they seem. Though Elisha was surrounded, God was in control. Similarly, Jesus' death on the cross looked like a sure defeat, but through it, Jesus broke the power of sin and death.

Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: [Coloring Page](#), whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils
Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“What is a special talent or skill you have?” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **If you could be 10 times more powerful than you are, what might change in your life?**
- **If a friend asked you to point to an example of God’s power, where would you point? Why there?**

****NEW!!** Large Group leaders will now lead an opening game or activity 10 minutes before service begins. It is very important that you are with your groups and ready to participate with them!

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and help them find 2 Kings 6. Have volunteers help kids locate the book in the Table of Contents, then chapter and verse numbers.

Read 2 Kings 6:8–17 aloud in an NIV Bible. Then invite all the kids to reread verse 17 out loud as they make their best “I’m amazed!” faces. Younger kids can simply look around and show an “I’m amazed!” face as other kids read.

- Why was Elisha’s servant afraid when he woke up and saw soldiers outside?
- Why do you think Elisha wasn’t worried?
- How would you describe a chariot? Tell a friend what you think it is.
- How do you think you’d feel if, like Elisha’s servant, you could suddenly see the angels around you?
- When is a time you had to be brave and strong? What happened?
- How does knowing God is with you help when you’re afraid?
- If God is with us, why do you think we get scared anyway?

"Elisha and the Israelites saw God’s power when God sent an angel army, blinded an enemy army, and gave God’s people a total victory. God is still showing His power. Let’s ask God to help us see when He’s working in and through us."

Leader Tip: Consider showing kids the image of chariots from the Victory Lesson 1 Bible Story Pictures Sheets as a visual aid.

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Ask kids to circle up in their small groups and to share prayer requests and praise for answered prayers. Then invite kids to pray for one another and the requests they’ve shared. Wrap up your prayer time by thanking God for His great power and love.

Leader Tip: Create prayer “sentence starter sticks” for kids to hold and fall back on if they need help knowing what to pray. On craft sticks, write simple prompts like “Thank You, God, for ...,” “God, help me ...,” “God, I trust that You will ...,” “God, show me ...,” and so on. Keep the sticks in a jar and make them available every week. Consider adding prompts each week that are specific to that lesson.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture(optional)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and help them find 2 Kings 5.

Select 2 volunteers to read 2 Kings 6:8–17 ahead of time.

Read the story summary found on the following page aloud, then discuss the questions below:

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

- Elisha’s servant was afraid when he woke and saw soldiers. Why? What do you think he expected to happen?
- What explains Elisha’s calm confidence when he saw so many enemy soldiers?
- An angel army stood ready to battle. Do you think angel armies are real today? Why or why not?
- Where do you see God’s power on display today?
- Describe a time you had to be brave and courageous. What way—if any—did God’s power help you in that moment?
- If you could see God’s power at work in one specific situation in our life, where would that be?
- How do you think you’d feel if, like Elisha’s servant, you could suddenly see the angels around you?
- What do you think it says about God that He doesn’t show us everything He’s up to in our world?

Elisha and the Israelites saw that God is powerful in a spectacular way—flaming chariots, a blinded enemy army, and a total victory. We can see God’s power in our lives too, though usually in a less dazzling way. Let’s ask God to help us experience His power working in and through us now.

Leader Tip: It’s less important to get to every question than it is to engage deeply with one or two questions. When you see kids making connections, allow time to cement those truths in their hearts and minds.

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Encourage each kid to share a prayer request with another child. This can be for themselves or for someone else who needs God to work in their lives. Invite them to pray together, and then close the time by praying aloud for God to work in their lives, doing what no one else can.

Leader Tip: Create prayer “sentence starter sticks” for kids to hold and fall back on if they need help knowing what to pray. On craft sticks, write simple prompts like “Thank You, God, for ...,” “God, help me ...,” “God, I trust that You will ...,” “God, show me ...,” and so on. Keep the sticks in a jar and make them available every week. Consider adding prompts each week that are specific to that lesson.

WORD OF WONDER

Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.

—Joshua 1:9 (NirV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

"Our Word of Wonder today is from Joshua 1:9. In it God encouraged Joshua to act courageously because of God's great power and presence. God was speaking to Joshua, but His instructions also apply to us. Let's remind ourselves of what they are."

Help kids open their Bibles to Joshua 1:9. Ask any kids who are named Joshua to stand; then ask kids who have a "J" in their names to stand. Then lead the remaining kids in reading the passage aloud to the standing kids. Remind kids that the words just read were said to Joshua, the man who led God's people into the land He had promised, but they apply to all of us too.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **We can only be in one place at a time. How is it possible for God to be with you everywhere you go? What does that show us about Him?**
- **What are some places you go in a typical week? Remember, God is with you in all those places!**

Word of Wonder Activity

Tell kids you'll read the verse aloud together a few more times:

The first time, read it straight through.

The second time, if reading the NirV, tell kids to emphasize the phrase

"Be strong and brave" by reading those words *loudly* as they strike a heroic or strongman/strongwoman pose. If reading the NIV, tell them to emphasize "Be strong and courageous" in the same way.

The third time, invite them to strike different heroic poses as they emphasize "Do not be afraid" (NirV and NIV).

The fourth time, encourage kids to strike a new heroic pose as they emphasize "Do not lose hope" (NirV) or "Do not be discouraged" (NIV).

Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Makin' Medals

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), kid-safe scissors (several for all the kids to share), markers, chair or table, Bible, various round objects such as plastic bowls and lids (optional)

RESOURCES: [Victory Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Gather kids together. Set out paper, markers, and scissors where kids can easily get them. Consider setting out various round objects (like plastic bowls and lids) that kids can use to trace circles on their papers. Ask kids to get a sheet of paper and a marker; they'll come back to use scissors later if they want to do so.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Younger children might not know what a medal is. Consider creating a sample medal ahead of time and pairing younger and older children for this activity.

"Many powerful people—the strongest weightlifters, fastest runners, swiftest swimmers, flippie t gymnasts—are awarded medals to show that they're the most powerful.

You'll take a few minutes now to create medals that someone powerful might wear. Draw your medal and then, if you'd like, come back to get a pair of scissors and cut it out in the shape you think is best. Point out the circular objects kids can trace around, if available, but remind them their medals don't have to be round. Play music from the [Victory Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids work.

Allow time for kids to draw their medals, giving a two-minute warning so kids who want to cut out their medals have time to do so. As they work, place an open Bible on a chair or table at the front of the room. Slowly fade out the music at the end of the two minutes.

Maybe your medal could go to the world's best weightlifter. Or fastest sprinter. Or the person who has the most money. There are lots of ways to be powerful in this world—but none compares with God's power. He's not only able to create planets and stars but also to craft delicate fl wers. He not only knows the answer to every question that keeps scientists up at night but also your name ... the swirl of your fingerprints ... the number of hairs on your head."

When it comes to being powerful, nobody deserves our medals more than God!

Explain that you'll play another worship song, and during that time kids can decide whether they'd like to bring their medals to lay them before God by placing those medals on the open Bible. Kids don't need to come up all at once or even come at all. Encourage each kid to take his time and come if and when he's ready.

When the worship song ends, close this time with a prayer praising God for His mighty power.

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Angel Army Blessing Slide

Display the Angel Army Blessing Slide. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May our all-powerful God guide and protect you as you give Him your heart and walk with Him today and all the days of your life.

