

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: Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. God will be with you wherever you go.

—from Joshua 1:9

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: My Help, Praise
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





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. The army of 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.

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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Welcome**Slide: Series Welcome Loop****As kids arrive...**

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Welcome, Tac! (to the group) Let's wave hello to him.

Tac the Cat: Hey, friends! I'm so happy to see you today!

Leader: Normally you have questions for us, Tac, but today, we have a question for you. Who is the most powerful person you know?

Tac the Cat: Hmmm. Let me think. Maybe my dad? He's the boss at the tuna factory.

Leader: A boss makes sure everyone does their job. A boss could be powerful.

Tac the Cat: But I think someone who can lift heavy things might be more powerful than my dad.

Leader: Why do you think that?

Tac the Cat: Lifting heavy things is hard. You have to be strong. I don't think small cats can lift something heavy. Someone who can lift heavy things is more powerful than my dad. Kids, who is the most powerful person you know?
(Allow the kids to respond.)

Leader: It takes lots of strength and training to lift really heavy weights. Let's see if I can lift this ...
(Choose a piece of furniture in your room and pretend to try and lift it.) It's too heavy!

Tac the Cat: So does that mean you and I are not very powerful if we aren't very strong?

Leader: Not necessarily. Power isn't just about physical strength. The most powerful One of all is God. This reminds me of our story today and how we'll learn about God's power.

Tac the Cat: I'm so curious to know more about that! But my dad is calling me for a tuna snack. It's my favorite! See you next time!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: who is the most powerful person you know? Allow the kids to respond. Who is the strongest person you know? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God is powerful?"

Today's Wonder Truth is GOD IS POWERFUL. Today, we'll discover how God is powerful!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

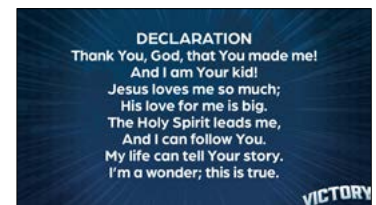
March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, Your power is big enough to create the sun, moon, and stars. You're powerful, and You love and know each one of us. You even know how many hairs are on our heads! Draw us closer to You today through Your Holy Spirit. Help us hear from You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how God is powerful. Let's sing and praise our powerful God together!"

WORSHIP SONGS: My Help, Praise

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 2 Kings in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where to find the story.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 2 Kings in the Bible."

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

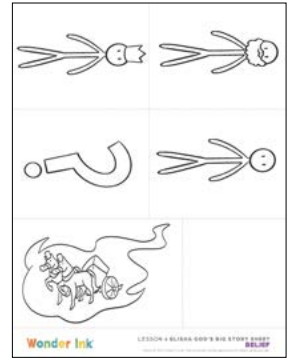
GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only)

RESOURCES: [Elisha God's Big Story Sheet](#)

Ahead of time, print the Elisha God's Big Story Sheet and cut apart the pictures.

"Elisha was a prophet who spoke God's messages to the Israelites. The Israelites were fighting Aram in a war! The king of Aram planned an attack on Israel. The king told his army officers what to do—where to send troops and set up camp. Hold up the picture of the stick figure with the crown (the king of Aram).



But the king didn't know that God heard his plans! God is everywhere and hears everything. God told Elisha where Aram's army would be. Then Elisha warned the king of Israel. Hold up the picture of the stick figure with a beard (Elisha).

This made the king of Aram upset! How did the king of Israel always know what he was doing? Maybe an officer told their secrets to their enemy, the Israelites! Hold up the question mark.

But an officer told the king how Elisha talked with God. That's how Israel knew their plans! The king of Aram made a new plan. He sent an army to capture Elisha! Do you think God heard this plan? Let kids answer. Yes! God heard. So the enemy army went to where Elisha was and prepared to capture him.

Elisha's servant saw the enemy army with soldiers and horses outside and got scared.

"Oh no!" the servant cried. "What can we do?"

"Don't be afraid!" Elisha said. "There are more people with us than there are with them." What did that mean? They didn't have anyone else with them ... (Fold your hands as if praying and encourage the kids to do the same.)

Elisha prayed for God to open his servant's eyes. The servant looked up and was surprised! The hills were covered with troops of angels, horses, and chariots of fire! The angel army was huge! Aram's army looked small now! Hold up the picture of the chariot of fire.

Elisha prayed for God to make the soldiers of Aram blind. And God did it. He can do anything! The soldiers were surprised and confused!

Elisha led the soldiers away from the city, and God opened their eyes. Elisha fed the soldiers a meal, and they returned back to Aram. The king of Aram stopped attacking Israel. Perhaps he figured out what Elisha's servant realized when he saw the angel army: God is powerful."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD IS POWERFUL**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

The angel army in God's big story shows that things are not always what we think they are at first. Though Elisha was surrounded by enemies, God was in control. It's kind of like how Jesus' death on the cross looked like a defeat. It seemed like the enemy had won, but again, things were not as they seemed. Through His death on the cross, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. And the final victory is His!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His power and for always being with us.

Great God, thank You for always being strong! When we're afraid, help us remember You are with us. You are more powerful than the strongest person we know, and You know and love us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

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