

## 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

- Play Stations:
  - Hidden Toy Soldiers Sensory Bin
  - Decorate Chariots
  - Elisha and the Angel Army Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: From Joshua 1:9
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Pass the Apple
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Chariot Mural
- Closing Game: Hidden Chariots



[Victory Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



**INVITATION**

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

**LESSON AT A GLANCE**

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Is Powerful  
**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Kings 6  
**WORD OF WONDER:** From Joshua 1:9

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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Is Powerful

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Kings 6

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Joshua 1:9

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** large bin, small toy soldiers (5), shredded paper, large cardboard boxes (1–3), scarves or ribbons (2 per box), markers, coloring utensils

**RESOURCES:** Chariot Picture(4 per SG), Elisha and the Angel Army Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"**

#### Play Station: Hidden Toy Soldiers Sensory Bin

**Set-up:** Fill a large, shallow bin with shredded paper. Hide five small toy soldiers in the bin for kids to find.

**Play:** Encourage kids to find the hidden toy soldiers and play in the bin. After a kid finds a toy soldier, ask him to hide it in the shredded paper again.

#### Play Station: Decorate Chariots

**Set-up:** Set out cardboard boxes, scarves (or ribbons), and markers. Print and display the Chariot Picture.

**Play:** Have kids create a chariot using a cardboard box, markers, and scarves. They can look at the Chariot Picture to see an example of a chariot. Encourage kids to pretend to be the driver and horse. If kids don't know what a chariot is, explain that it's a cart pulled by horses that was often used in battle.

#### Play Station: Elisha and the Angel Army Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a chariot (they can use the Chariot Picture as an example).



## Word of Wonder: Power Poses

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

"Our Word of Wonder is from Joshua 1:9. In it, God tells Joshua, who was a leader of the Israelites, how to respond because of God's great power. God was speaking to Joshua, but these instructions are also for us!

### WORD OF WONDER

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

—from Joshua 1:9

Tell kids you'll read the verse aloud four more times:

The first time, say it in a normal voice and encourage the kids to repeat. The second time, emphasize the phrase "Be strong and brave" by reading those words loudly and encourage kids to flex both arms. The third time, invite kids to put their hands on their hips to emphasize "Do not be afraid."

The fourth time, encourage kids to march as you emphasize "God will be with you wherever you go."

**"In our story today, we will learn about people who didn't need to be afraid because God's power was with them, even when they were surrounded by enemies. We may not be surrounded by enemies, but whatever we face in life, we can be courageous because God is powerful, and He is always with us."**

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

- **BE STRONG AND BRAVE.**—Flex both arms.
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID.**—Shake head.
- **GOD WILL BE WITH YOU**—Point up.
- **WHEREVER YOU GO.**—Walk in place.
- **FROM JOSHUA 1:9**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **We can only be in one place at a time. How can God be with us wherever we go?**
- **What are some places you go every week?** Allow the kids to respond. **God is with you in all those places!**

## God's Big Story / Snack

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

**Read 2 Kings 6:8–17 in an NIV Bible.**

## Circle Time: Pass the Apple

**SUPPLIES:** ball

**"We may not be able to see God's power at all times, but He is powerful, and He is always with us. In today's story, Elisha's servant couldn't see the angel army surrounding them at first, but it was there!"**

**Let's play a game called Pass the Apple!** Gather kids in a circle. **I'll say a number, and we'll count to that number together as we pass the ball that many times. Let's practice: three.** Have kids count out loud and pass the apple three times. **Whoever holds the ball at the end of the count can answer a question. Ready?"**

Choose a number from one to 10 and count with the kids as they pass the apple. At the end of each count, ask a discussion question of the kid who has the apple. Repeat until all the questions have been answered.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was telling the Israelites the plans of king of Aram?** (*God told Elisha*)
- **How do you think God knew the king of Aram's plans? What does this tell us about God?**
- **Why do you think Elisha's servant was afraid when he saw the enemy soldiers?**
- **Why do you think Elisha wasn't scared?** (*Elisha knew that God was more powerful!*)
- **How would you describe a chariot? Tell a friend sitting next to you what you think it is.**
- **What is something you're scared of? What's scary about it?**
- **Share about a time when you were brave or strong. Why do you think you were brave or strong?**
- **How does knowing God is always with you help when you're afraid?**

**Elisha and his servant saw God’s power when He sent an angel army to protect them. God is powerful, and He is with us now. Let’s ask God to help us remember His power. Let’s talk to God now in prayer!**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for being with us when we’re afraid.

## Head to Large Group!

### Responding in Worship: Chariot Mural

**SUPPLIES:** posterboard, red and orange tissue paper (enough for each kid to have a few small pieces), scissors, glue sticks, marker, tape

**RESOURCES:** songs from the [Victory Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, draw a simple chariot onto a posterboard. Tape it to a wall at the front of the room. Cut red and orange tissue paper into squares and set out glue sticks (or allow kids to cut or tear a few pieces of tissue paper themselves).

Gather kids together. **"In our part of God’s big story today, Elisha told his servant, “Don’t be afraid! There are more people with us than there are with them.” God is on our side! He is more powerful than the army attacking Elisha. He’s more powerful than anyone.**

**Let’s praise God by making a chariot mural as we think about how powerful He is. We’ll glue some pretend fire to the chariot and praise God. You can say, “God, You are powerful!” You can also thank Him for taking care of you."**

Play worship songs from the [Victory Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Have the kids get in a line and each take a few pieces of the red and orange tissue paper and glue them to the chariot on the posterboard. Encourage kids to praise God as they glue the “fire” onto the chariot.



## Closing Game: Hidden Chariots

**SUPPLIES:** chariots from the craft, medium or large bowls (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Chariot Picture \(from Playstations\)](#)

Before the activity, hide some of the kids' chariots from the craft around the room. Hide some under bowls around the room. If you don't have chariots from the crafts, print a few copies of the Chariot Sheet and hide them throughout the room.

**"Today we learned that God is powerful even if we can't always see Him working or see His power or presence with our eyes. In the story, Elisha's servant couldn't see the chariots of fire at first, but God allowed his eyes to be opened so he could see them. Let's play a game where we will find the hidden chariots around the room. Just like Elisha's servant in the story, we can't see them right now. But as we look, we'll see them! Even when we can't see everything, God always does!"**

Allow the kids to look for the chariots. Hide the chariots again as time allows.

