

Lesson A2.3 - Saying Goodbye



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: 2 Kings 2:1-14

► Bible Characters: Prophets Elijah and Elisha

The Prophet Elijah had served the Lord throughout a long life of ministry. God accomplished many signs and wonders through him. As he came to the end of his life, Elijah determined to pass his authority on to his student Elisha. As Elijah was carried up into heaven, Elisha took on the mantle of his master.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Division

Because of disputes in the royal house, God's people were split into a Northern Kingdom (Israel) and a Southern Kingdom (Judah). It was a bad time, with much false worship and idolatry.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O" ("There was a farmer had a dog..."). No accompaniment is needed.

*Thank you, Jesus, for today
and for your loving-kindness.*

*Open up our hearts; open up our minds;
grow our faith in you, and help us learn about you.*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

The way we let someone know we are leaving a place is by **saying goodbye**. Sometimes, **saying goodbye** to someone is hard to do because we know we might not see that person again for a long time.

- What are some words people use to say goodbye? [Prompt some responses: "so long," "see you later," "have a nice trip," "I will miss you," or "stay safe."]
- Why is it important to let people know that you will be thinking about them when they are gone? [It helps us remember the people we love.]

Elijah and Elisha had been friends for a long time. But Elijah was about to go away. Even though Elisha knew God would be with him, **saying goodbye** was not easy.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Long ago, there was a prophet named Elijah. God gave Elijah the power to do amazing things, and Elijah was able to help many people in need.

Read the caption: Elijah was a servant of God. He had friend named Elisha, who was his helper. Elijah and Elisha went everywhere together.

- *Elijah is the man dressed in green. What good thing do you think he is doing for the poor young boy? [Giving the boy something to eat.]*
- *Now look at Elisha, the man dressed in blue. Why do you think he is watching Elijah? What is he learning? [Elisha is learning how to help people.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: Elijah taught his friend Elisha how to be a good servant of God. The two traveled from place to place for many years, spreading the message of God.

Read the caption: When Elijah was getting old, everyone knew that God would soon take him away. But Elisha said, "I will never leave you!"

- *Look at the picture. Who is leading? [Elijah] Who is following? [Elisha] How did these two men travel from place to place? [They walked.]*
- *What did Elisha promise his friend Elijah? [Elisha promised to stay with Elijah.] Why is it nice to do things with other people?*



Picture 3

Tell the children: Elisha followed Elijah wherever his master went. He watched and learned; he saw all the great things God allowed Elijah to do. Even though everyone else went their own way, Elisha stayed with his master to the end.

Read the caption: Old Elijah asked what he could do for his friend. Elisha said, "I would like to have the power to do good things like you do."

- *Look at the picture. How do you think the two men were feeling, knowing they would soon be saying goodbye? [Sad, afraid]*
- *What did Elisha want from his master? [The power to do good and be like Elijah.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Just then, they saw fiery horses flying over their heads in the sky, sent down by God. Elijah knew it was time to say goodbye to his friend.

Read the caption: Elijah promised, "When I am gone, God will give you power." Then suddenly, fiery horses came and lifted Elijah up into heaven.

- *Who is riding away in the sky? [Elijah] Why are the horses colored orange? [They are surrounded by fire.]*
- *Can you tell what Elisha is holding on to as he says goodbye? [It is Elijah's cloak; he gave it to Elijah as a present before he left.]*
- *Even though Elisha knew God would be with him, saying goodbye was not easy.*

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

Old Elijah served the LORD.

To everyone he preached God's Word.

Elisha was his loyal helper.

They went everywhere together.

Elijah knew his end was near.

He didn't want his friend to fear.

He gave Elisha his own cloak

to be a prophet to God's folk.

A fiery chariot from the Lord

took the older man aboard.

Elisha watched his old friend fly

Heaven-bound, into the sky!

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

"Elijah and Elisha's Traveling Treats"**Materials:**

- Small, snack-sized plastic bags
- Trail mix ingredients of choice: M&M's, raisins or dried cranberries, cereal, pretzels, sunflower seeds, puffed corn, etc.
- Spoons and bowls

**Instructions:**

Give each student two snack-sized baggies and a spoon. Explain that Elijah and Elisha were friends who traveled together and probably ate together while they were on the road. In honor of them, kids are going to make trail mix traveling treats — one for themselves, and another to give to a friend or family member.

Open the ingredients and pour each one into a separate bowl. Put the bowls on a table. Invite kids to travel around, taking a couple of spoonfuls of each ingredient and dropping this into one of their snack bags. Then, have them repeat the process with their second bag.

Kids can eat their treat in class or take it home to eat later with their friend/family member.

h. Song (optional)

This children's song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites.

I've Got Peace Like a River

Verse 1: hands in wave motion

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in my soul. (Repeat)



Verse 2: hands in spout motion

I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. (Repeat)



Verse 3: hands spreading wide

I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean in my soul. (Repeat)



i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: Elisha knew that his master Elijah was about to be taken by God. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*Thank you, thank you, Jesus Lord, for loving me today.
Help me see all that you do
and learn the things you say.*

*I ask that you be with me as I learn and laugh and play.
Please grow my faith and bring me back
to learn again, I pray. Amen.*