

February 25, 2001

2 Kings Chapters 1:1-8:15

Early Childhood

2KG01EC

God Took Elijah to Heaven in a Chariot of Fire.

Memory Verse:

Twos and Threes: 2 Kings 5:15: There is no God in all the world except in Israel.

Fours and Fives: 2 Kings 5:15: Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. Who gave Elijah and Elisha special power to separate the waters of the Jordan River? *(God.)*
2. Who went up to heaven in a chariot of fire? *(Elijah.)*
3. Who is always faithful to us when we love Him? *(God.)*

Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:

1. Did King Ahab's sons worship God or idols? *(They all worshiped Baal idols.)*
2. How did Elijah go up to heaven? *(A whirlwind took Elijah to heaven in a chariot of fire drawn by horses of fire.)*
3. What miracles did God do through Elisha to show that God was giving him the same power as He had given Elijah? *(God parted the Jordan River when Elisha slapped the water with his robe and kept the oil coming out of the poor widow's jar.)*
4. Why is it important to obey God and pray only to Him? *(Say the memory verse.)*

Key for symbols:

- This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.
- ② This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.
- ④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Hook:


Children's Books about Elijah and Elisha: There are simple children's books that tell the stories of Elijah and Elisha performing miracles that only God could do. Read one or more of these stories to one or more children. This could be an activity at the end of class time, too.


Egg Carton Kingdom: (2K01ECGF9) Use the First Kings divided egg cartons for reviewing the divided kingdom of Israel and Judah. Put small pictures of Jeroboam, Ahab and Jezebel in the ten plastic eggs of the Israel section. Put small pictures of Rehoboam and Asa in the two plastic eggs of the Judah section. Sing the following King Ahab Review Song.


King Ahab Review Song *(tune: "Polly Wolly Doodle")*
Ki-ing Ahab was a very bad king; (Jeroboam, Queen Jezebel)
A very bad king was he.
He led Is-ra-el to worship Baal.
A very bad king was he.
King Ahab, King Ahab, King Ahab was very bad.

King Ahab, King Ahab,
A very bad king was he.

E-E-li-jah was a very good man;
A very good man was he.
He-e told the king to worship God,
Then fi-re they did see.
E-li-jah, E-li-jah, E-E-li-jah prayed for rain.
E-li-jah, E-li-jah,
A very good man was he.

 **"What Is a Whirlwind?" Center:** Materials needed: Large, round bowl one-third full of water, tarp under the bowl, paddle or spatula to stir, and towels. A whirlwind is air moving very fast in a circle. What is another name for a whirlwind? (Tornado.) We can't make the air in our classroom move quickly but we can show what the air does in a whirlwind with the water in this bowl. Stir the water quickly and watch it come up the sides of the bowl while getting lower in the center of the bowl. Let the children have turns stirring the water quickly. In today's Bible Adventure, God uses a whirlwind to carry someone up to heaven.

 **Pouring Center:** Materials needed: Dishpan with water, cups, small pitchers, tarp, and towels. Allow the children to practice their pouring to fill all of the containers that you have made available to them. In today's Bible Adventure, a woman collected all the jars she could find and was able to fill every single one of them with oil!

 **Play Dough Chariots and Jars:** Place a picture of a chariot in the middle of the table and see if the children can duplicate it. Most children will be able to make wheels. Roll out the dough flat and draw a wheel with a pencil and then cut it out with a plastic knife. Talk about Elijah being taken to heaven in a chariot. Place a jar on the table and encourage the children to make jars with play dough, also. Prophet Elisha helped a woman fill her jars with oil so she could pay her bills.


④ **Ping Pong Ball Water Play:** Provide a dishpan full of water placed on a large towel on a table. The object of the game is to get the ping pong ball on the opponent's side of the pan by blowing. Time the children so they all get a chance to play. When Elijah and Elisha wanted to get across the Jordan River, they didn't have anyone to "blow" them across. God provided a special way for them to cross the water.


④ **Coin Rubbing:** Each child receives a piece of plain paper, a crayon, and a few coins. Place the coins under the paper and rub over the top with the crayon to reveal the coins. In the Bible Adventure, God's prophet, Elisha, helps someone who doesn't have money to pay her bills. Listen to find out what God does to earn money.




Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 Color and mount the **2KG01ECGF1**, **2KG01ECGF2**, and **2KG01ECGF3** pictures on construction paper. Show them as you tell the Bible Adventure. Save these pictures for review in the future lessons of 2 Kings.

 **A Riddle:** Say the riddle before the Bible Adventure and ask the children to listen for who was sent to help the sad family. (Elisha.) Who sent him? (God.) What did God do to help them? (Filled their jars with oil.)

The family was sad.	(Make sad faces.)
They could not pay.	(Shake head "no.")
God sent Elijah	(Walk feet in place.)
To help them one day.	(Make smiling faces.)

 **First Person Elisha:** Tell the story from the perspective of Elisha.

Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's-

(Show the review 1KG05ECGF5 picture.) God showed the Israelites that there was no God in heaven above or on earth below like Him. God was faithful to Elijah and sent fire from heaven that burned the altar and everything on it. The God of Israel was strong and powerful. The Baal idol that the people wanted to worship could do nothing.

(Show the 2KG01ECGF1 picture.) God chose a man named Elisha to be the next prophet for the people of Israel. *(Say "Elijah" and "Elisha" several times to emphasize the difference.)* Elisha became a helper for Elijah, and the two men walked everywhere together. Elisha learned from Elijah how to be a godly prophet.

Elijah grew old and weak and knew that it was time for him to die. One special day, he walked with Elisha to the Jordan River. Elijah rolled up his coat and slapped the water with it. The water divided so that Elijah and Elisha could walk across the river on dry land! After the two men crossed, the waters went back as they were before. God gave Elijah special powers because God is faithful to those who love Him.

As the two prophets walked along, talking to each other, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and went between the two men. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind! Elisha stood and looked up at the sky until he could no longer see the horses or the chariot.

Elisha picked up the coat that had fallen from Elijah when he went up to heaven. Elisha went to the Jordan River and slapped the water with Elijah's coat. The waters divided just like they had done for Elijah. Fifty prophets of God were watching and knew that God was giving Elisha the same power He had given to Elijah. The prophets were glad that God was showing His power through Elisha.

Prayer: Dear God, You are strong and powerful. You are faithful to those who love You. I want to learn to love and honor You with all my heart. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K-

(Show the review 1KG05ECGF5 picture.) God showed the Israelites that there was no God in heaven above or on earth below like Him by sending fire from heaven that burned the altar and everything on it. Even though God showed His power like that, the kings of Israel were foolish and wanted to serve and worship the Baal idol instead of the true God.

(Show the 2KG01ECGF1 picture.) When Elijah, the prophet, grew old and it was time for him to die, God had a very special plan for him. God had chosen a man named Elisha *(point to Elisha)* to be the next prophet of Israel after Elijah was gone. *(Have the children say "Elijah" and "Elisha" several times.)* Elijah and Elisha walked everywhere together. Elisha was learning from Elijah how to be a godly prophet.

Fifty prophets of God were following Elijah, too. They came up to Elisha and said, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take Elijah to heaven today?" Elisha said, "Yes, I know, but I don't want to talk about it now."

Elijah knew that this would be his last day on earth. He walked with Elisha to the Jordan River. Elijah rolled up his coat and slapped the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left so that Elijah and Elisha could walk across the river on dry land. After the two men crossed, the waters went back as they were before. God gave Elijah special powers that other prophets didn't have.

Elijah said to Elisha, "What can I do for you before I go to heaven?" Elisha said, "I would like to have God's power like you have as a prophet." Elijah said, "You have asked a hard thing. I cannot give you God's power. Only God can decide what kind of power He will give you, but if you see me go up to heaven, then God will give you what you have asked."

(Show the 2KG01ECGF2 picture.) As the two prophets were walking along talking, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire came swooping down from heaven in a whirlwind. Just as suddenly, Elijah was in the chariot going back up toward heaven. Elisha was amazed to see such a thing.

Elisha cried out, "My father! I see the chariots and horsemen of Israel." He stood there looking up at the sky until he could no longer see the chariots. Elisha took hold of his clothes and tore them apart. He knew that God had a special purpose for him as a prophet because he had seen Elijah go to heaven.

Elisha picked up Elijah's coat that had fallen when he went up to heaven. Elisha went to the Jordan River and slapped the water with the coat. The waters divided just like they had done for Elijah. The fifty prophets who were watching knew that God was giving Elisha the same power He had given Elijah.

(Show the 2KG01ECGF3 picture.) A woman whose husband had died came to Elisha and said, "My husband was a prophet who honored the true God. He died, and now I don't have money to pay my bills. The bill collector wants to take away my two sons to work as his slaves because I can't pay him.

Elisha said to the woman, "What do you have in your house that you could sell to pay the bills?"

The woman said, "I have nothing in my house except a little cooking oil."

Elisha said, "Send your sons around to all your neighbors and ask them if you can borrow as many empty jars as they have. Take the jars to your house, close the door, and begin pouring oil into the jars." The woman obeyed Elisha, gathered all the empty jars the neighbors had, and started pouring oil. As each jar was filled, her sons would set them aside. The oil kept coming and coming, filling up jar after jar. As the last jar was filled, the oil ran out. What a miracle! Only God could fill all the jars from one little jar of cooking oil.

When the widow told Elisha what had happened, he said, "Go, sell the jars of oil, and pay your bills. You and your sons will have enough money left over to buy food for yourselves." The woman and her sons knew that there was no God in all the world as powerful as the God in Israel.

Many amazing things happened through Elisha the prophet. They are all written in the Bible in the book of 2 Kings. God was showing His power in Israel, and God is telling us about it in the Bible.

Prayer: Dear God, You are powerful and can do anything You want. There is no God like You in all the world. I want to honor and obey You. In Jesus' name, amen.



Look:

- Aim Questions:** Have each child reach into a jar and pull out a question. The questions can be asked in any order.
- Snack:** Dip torn pieces of loaf bread into seasoned oil.
- Elijah's Whirlwind: (2KG01ECGF4)** Provide an 8 1/2" x 11" white tag board for each child. Starting on the long edge, cut a large circle using as much of the paper as possible. Continue to cut in one continuous circle, coming inside the previous circle by 1-inch until reaching the center of the paper. This creates a spiral that is wider at the top and narrower at the bottom. Tape the GF4 picture of Elijah going up to heaven at the top, wide part of the spiral. Put the child's name on the "whirlwind" and clip it to the ceiling or to a high, stretched string so it looks like it is coming down from heaven.
- Cup Chariot: (2KG01ECGF5)** Make this to remember that Elijah was taken to heaven in a chariot while prophet Elisha was watching. Each child will receive three four-inch paper or styrofoam cups, two brads paper fasteners, scissors, and markers. Assist children in cutting 1/2" to 3/4" off the bottom of two cups to use for wheels. Attach the cup bottoms to the sides of the third cup (the chariot) with brad paper fasteners. When the chariot cup lays on its side, the two attached cup bottoms look like wheels. Cut out a section of the top of the chariot cup (about a 2" by 2" piece with rounded edges). This is where the imaginary chariot driver would sit. Let the children use markers to decorate their chariots with flames. Tape the GF5 memory verse pennant to the top of a coffee stirring straw. Stick the other end of the straw in the styrofoam chariot. Review the Bible Adventure as the children are working.
- Bible Adventure Review Wheel: (2KG01ECGF6 and 2KG01ECGF5)** Color GF6 pictures of the Bible Adventure story and glue them in chronological order around the outside of a 9-inch paper plate. Cut a wedge out of a second paper plate (and trim the fluted outside edge) and use a brad paper fastener to attach it to the center of the first plate so that it covers the pictures. As the children spin the review wheel, they can review today's story. Glue the memory verse on the top plate. Review with each child.
- Take Elijah to Heaven: (2KG01ECGF2)** Copy the GF2 picture of horses and chariot of fire and let the children color their pictures. Let them glue shiny red or orange bits of ribbon around the chariot. Have one teacher pin a GF2 picture to his chest. Group all the children onto one side of the room and tell them they will all be little "Elijahs." The teacher with the picture is the horse and chariot of fire that swooped down and took Elijah straight to heaven. Designate the other side of the room as heaven by taping a yellow starburst in that section, roping it off, or draping cotton batting or netting. Have fun swooping down and twirling each child to the heaven side. Sing the following song, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" as the chariot comes swooping.
- Song: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot** (As sung by Elijah)
Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, Com-ing for to car-ry me home; (*Swing arms low, then to heaven.*)
Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, Com-ing for to car-ry me home.

I looked o-ver Jor-dan, and what did I see,
Com-ing for to car-ry me home?
A fiery chariot com-ing af-ter me,
Com-ing for to car-ry me home.

(Look to the distance with hand over eyes.)

(Swing arms low from the ceiling.)

(Swing arms up to the ceiling.)

- ☐ **Divide the River:** Give each child a 9" x 11" piece of blue construction paper. This paper will be the Jordan River. Cut each picture down the middle about two inches from the top and bottom so that the picture will tear easily. Bring in a cloak (robe). Have the children line up and take turns dividing the Jordan River with the prophet Elijah's cloak. Ask, "Who else divided the river with Elijah's cloak?" (Elisha.) Continue to review the story. Make sure every student gets a turn to divide the water.

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- ☐ **Elijah--Elisha Chant:** Divide the class into two teams (the Elijahs and Elishas) standing on opposite sides of the room. After chanting their own name back and forth to get used to the two names, add the following: "I am Elijah. I am going to die." "I am Elisha. I want God's power." Chant that a few times. Then the Elijahs will say several times, "I am Elijah. If you see me go to heaven, God will give you the power." Following this, the Elishas say several times, "I am Elisha. I see the chariot and horseman. There goes Elijah." At this point all the Elijahs fall to the ground and hide their faces. The Elishas pretend to pick up a coat and part the waters.

- ☐ **"Huckle Buckle Beanstalk" Game:** Show your class a small vase or jar and tell them it could have looked similar to the ones the widow and her sons collected. Tell your children to close their eyes so you can hide the jar in the room. Then, have one half of your class look for the jar. As soon as they see the jar, they should say, "I see the jar," and sit down, but they shouldn't tell anyone where the jar is. The game is over when everyone is sitting down. It will be difficult for them not to tell or show others where the jar is, so encourage them to stay silent after they say, "I see the jar." Repeat with the second half of the class.

- ☐ **"Won't You Come Along With Me?" Game:** God sent a chariot and horses to take Elijah to heaven to be with Him. We'll play a game and catch people to come with us. Teach the children the following words to the tune of "Mulberry Bush."

Won't you come along with me?

Come along, come along.

Won't you come along with me?

Come and be my friend (go to heaven).

Have the children stand in a circle. Choose one child to hold your hand and walk around the circle singing the song. Have the child you chose join hands with the child he is near when the song ends.

Continue walking around the circle and singing. Add children to the line until all are included. This can be played with two circles going at the same time if the class is large.

- ☐ **Chariot of Fire Fingerplay:** Retell today's story using your thumbs and fingers:
Eli-jah was a very old man. *(Hold up one thumb and bend up and down.)*

Eli-sha was his helper and friend. *(Repeat movement with other thumb.)*

One day they went on a long, long walk, *(Have thumbs "walk" forward, side by side.)*

So they could have a long, long talk. *(Turn thumbs toward each other to "talk.")*

Eli-jah hit the river with his coat, *(Slap one hand on the other.)*

And the two walked over, without a boat! *(Thumbs "walk" forward.)*

Eli-jah went to heaven that day *(Raise the Elijah thumb heavenward.)*


In a chariot of fire that came his way! *(Wiggle fingers on Elijah hand and move to side.)*


Eli-sha watched and saw him go. *(Hold up Elisha thumb.)*

Now he had power like Elijah, THAT'S SO! *(Clap hands together; wag finger.)*

- ☐ **Jumping Across the River:** Using two ropes or masking tape lines on the floor about two feet apart, form a river with children standing along one side. Ask them to jump the "Jordan River" without touching the lines. Allow them to take a short run. Change the width of the lines according to the

skill level of your class. Continue until it gets too hard and the children “get wet” in the middle of the river. Ask a teacher to come with a coat and slap the water. Change the ropes so the children can walk across to the other side. This is what happened first to whom in our Bible Adventure? Ask children to say “Elijah.” Then it happened to whom? (Elisha.) Who was the prophet of God who died? (Elijah.) Who was the new prophet with God’s powers? (Elisha.)

 **The Oil Keeps Coming!** Ask someone you know who does magic tricks for help with this. They may have a pitcher that keeps pouring!


 **Action Song:** (tune: “Frere Jacques”)

Where is Elijah? Where is Elijah?
Here he is. Here he is.
He went up to heaven! He went up to heaven!
There he goes! There he goes!

(Point one thumb up.)
 (“Walk” your thumb along.)
 (Raise your thumb high in the air.)
 (Put hand over eyes, gazing to the sky.)

Where is Elisha? Where is Elisha?
Here he is. Here he is.
Go-od gave him power. Go-od gave him power.
He could do—mir-a-cles.

(Point your other thumb up.)
 (“Walk” your thumb along.)
 (Make muscles in your arm with your thumb up.)
 (Pretend to pour oil into a jar.)


 **Action Song:** (tune: “Ring Around the Rosie”)

Ring around the Bible. Ring around the Bible.
Worship God. Worship God.
We all bow down.
Repeat the game as time and interest allows.


(Place a Bible on a chair in the middle of the circle.)
(Ask for a prayer request and pray at this time.)

② **Parting the Jordan River: (2KG01ECGF1)** Give each child a GF1 page and blue shiny tinsel (or blue construction paper bits) to glue on the Jordan River. Let each child glue a piece of cloth to Elijah’s robe that is hitting the water. Talk about the miracle God did with the water.

Songs:

 **Kings of Israel** (tune: “King of Kings”)


E-li-sha, a prophet of Israel, glory (Clap), hallelujah! (Repeat.)
E-li-sha, a prophet, glory (Clap), hallelujah! (Repeat.)

 **2 Kings 5:15, Memory Verse Song** (tune: “It’s a Small World” chorus)


Now I know that there’s no God
In all the world except in Israel.
In all the world except in Israel.
Second Kings, five fifteen.




Took:

 **Potpourri Gift:** Materials needed: Large selections of wilted or dried flowers, chunks of citrus peel (orange, lemon, lime), 1" cinnamon sticks, 7" x 7" breathable fabric pieces (like nylon netting), scissors, colorful ribbon cut in 10" lengths, large bowl, spoon. Let the children mix the flower parts, citrus peels, and cinnamon sticks in the bowl, taking turns stirring the mixture. Be careful the children do not put any in their mouths. Divide the potpourri among the children by placing a handful in the center of the lace square. Have your helpers gather the edges together and tie the ribbon into a bow near the top. When the crafts are finished, show the children how to gently wave the lace bag to release the potpourri scent. In today’s Bible Adventure, God had Elisha help a widow and her two sons. Sometimes God has us help others, too. We’ll make a gift for someone to let them know that we are thinking of them. Talk with the children about how much someone will enjoy getting this to

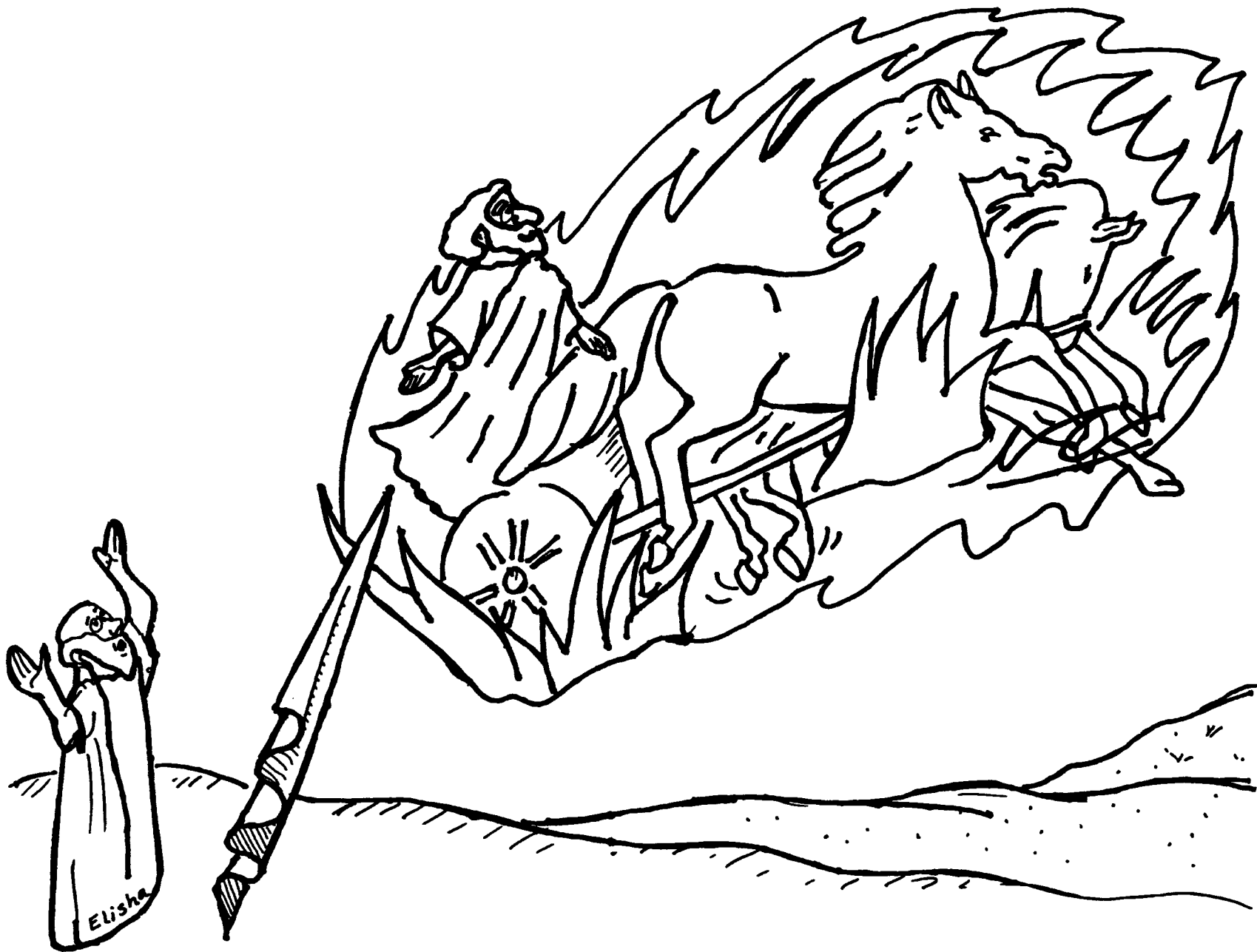
make their rooms smell good. Offer a prayer of thanks to God for the people we can help. The teacher can be responsible for getting the projects to people who are not well or don't often get out.

 **Filling Up the Jars Memory Verse Review: (2KG01ECGF7 and 2KG01ECGF8)** As the children glue or tape the GF8 jars to their GF7 pages, review the memory verse together. Let the children touch a little bit of oil in a dish and spread it on their jars. Talk about the miracle God did for the widow who had no money.

 **Preschool Page for Parents: (2KG01ECPPP)** Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the song and memory verse.



Elijah slapped the Jordan River, and the water parted.



Elisha watched Elijah go to heaven in a chariot of fire.

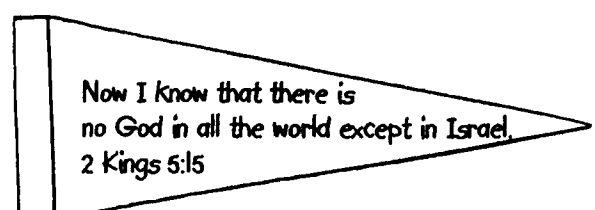
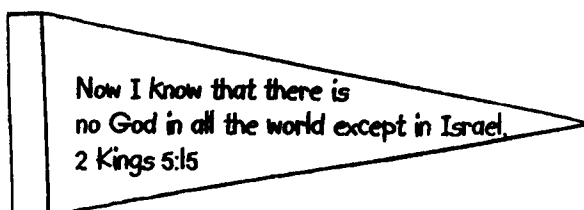
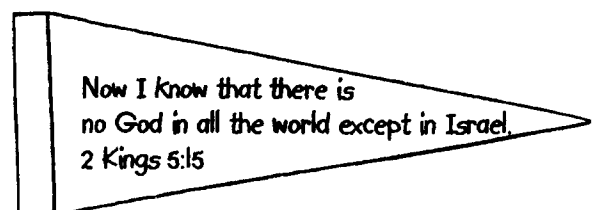
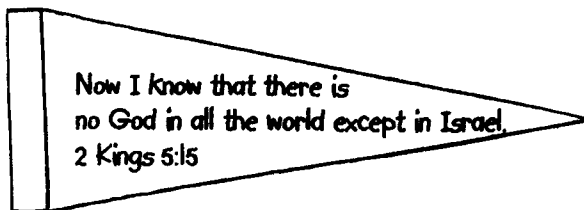
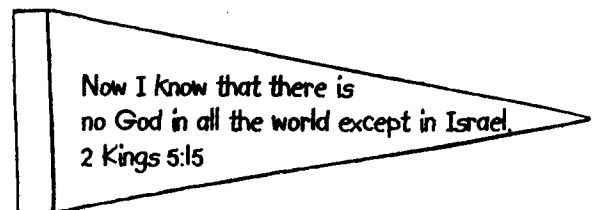
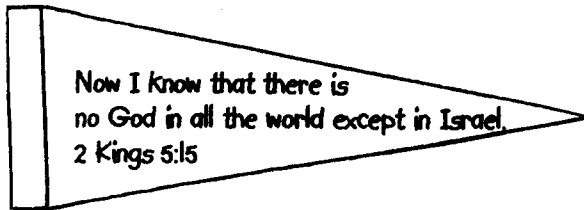
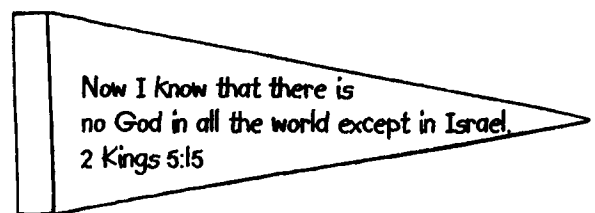
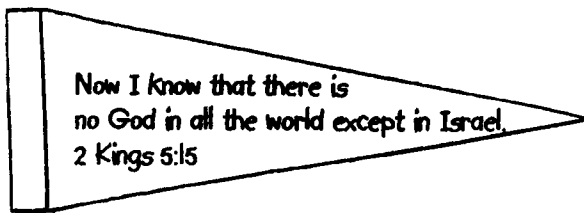
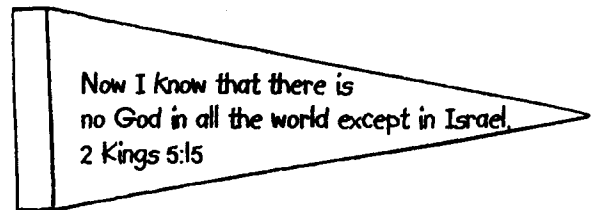
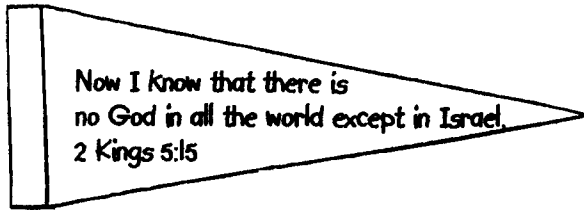
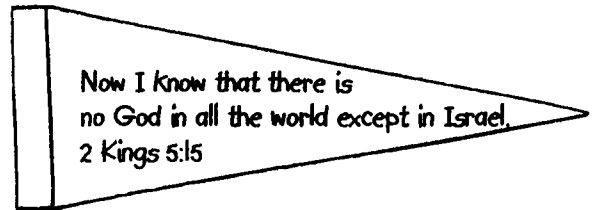
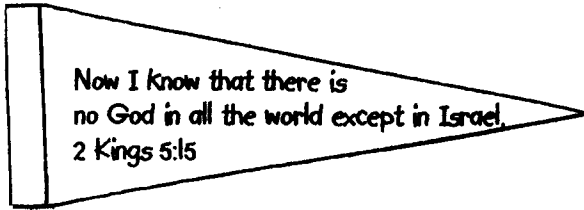


God helped the widow keep her sons by making more oil come from her jar.

Elijah's Spiral Whirlwind

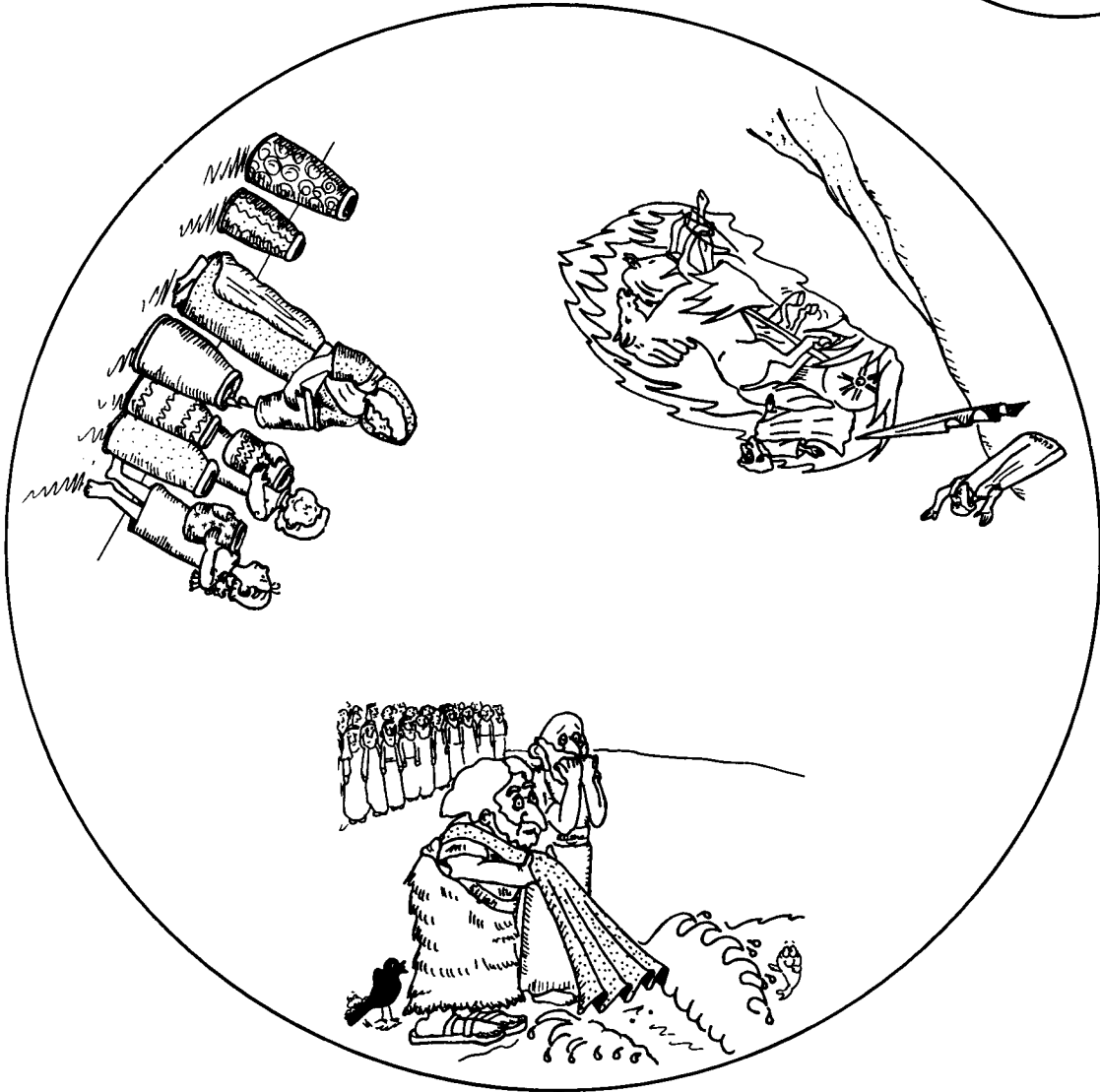
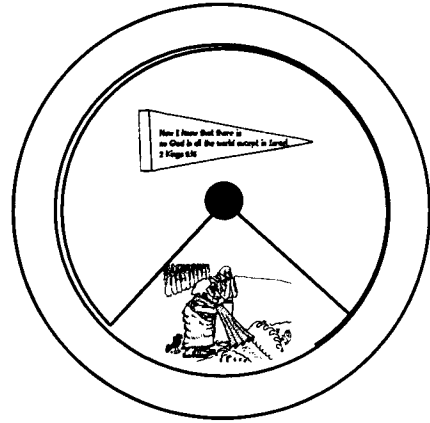


Pennant for Styrofoam Cup "Chariot"



Bible Adventure Review Wheel

Sample



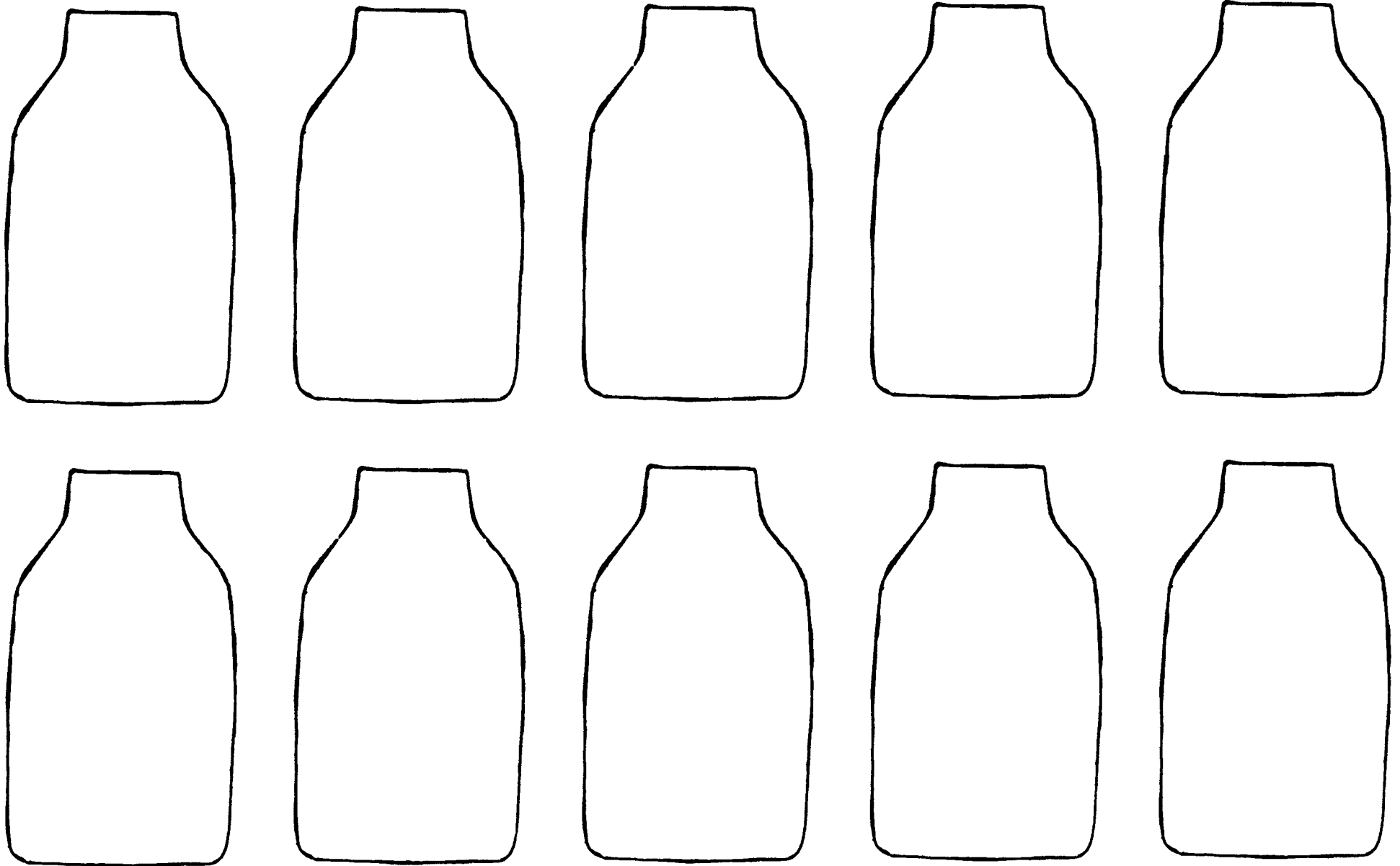
Now I know that there is
no God in all the world except in Israel.
2 Kings 5:15

God gave Elisha power to fill the jars!

Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. 2 Kings 5:15



Jars for Widow's Oil

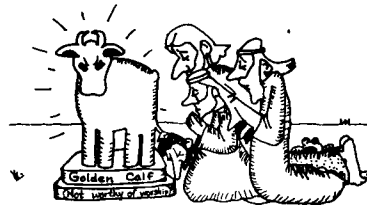


Egg Carton Divided Kingdom Review Pictures

Two Sets of Northern Kingdom Pictures



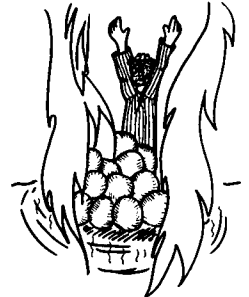
King Ahab and Queen Jezebel



Jeroboam worshiped golden calves.



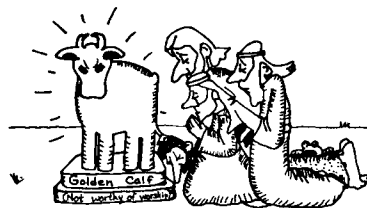
Baal worshippers



Elijah prayed for fire from heaven.



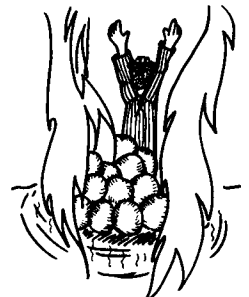
King Ahab and Queen Jezebel



Jeroboam worshiped golden calves.



Baal worshippers

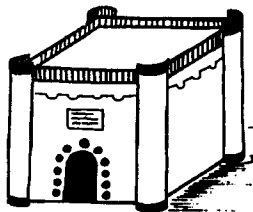


Elijah prayed for fire from heaven.

Two Sets of Southern Kingdom Pictures



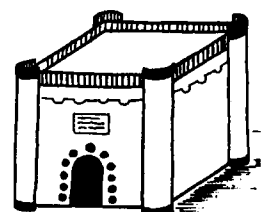
King Asa did not worship idols.



Temple at Jerusalem



King Asa did not worship idols.

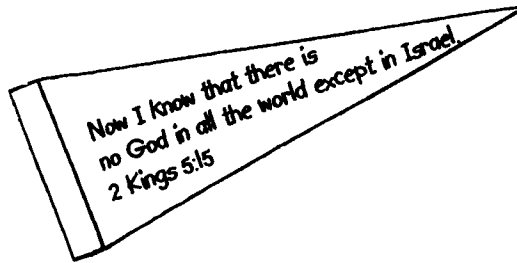


Temple at Jerusalem

P P P

Preschool Page for Parents
Extended Bible School Training in the Home

February 25, 2001
2 Kings Chapters 1:1-8:15



This is what I learned today!

Today, we learned that when Elijah became old, God sent a chariot of fire with horses of fire to take Elijah up to heaven to be with Him. Elijah was swooped up to heaven in a whirlwind! God gave His Spirit to another man named Elisha to be His prophet and say His words. The first thing Elisha did was to slap the Jordan River with Elijah's coat and the waters parted so he could walk across on dry land. Later, Elisha helped a poor widow and her sons by filling many jars with oil so that she could sell the oil to pay her bills. Elisha showed them that there was no God in all the world as powerful as the God in Israel.

Today's Memory Verse:

**2's & 3's: There is no God
except in Israel.
2 Kings 5:15**

**4's & 5's: Now I know that there is no God
in all the world except in Israel.
2 Kings 5:15**

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot



Make a chariot of fire by coloring orange flame shapes on white paper and taping them to the sides of any box. Let a family member swoop the box down from "heaven" as you sing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." As the "chariot" goes back toward heaven, sing the memory verse song below.

Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, Com-ing for to car-ry me home;
(Swing arms low, then to heaven.)

Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, Com-ing for to car-ry me home.

I looked o-ver Jor-dan, and what did I see,
(Look to the distance with hand over eyes.)

Com-ing for to car-ry me home?

A fiery chariot com-ing af-ter me, (Swing arms low from the ceiling.)

Com-ing for to car-ry me home. (Swing arms up to the ceiling.)

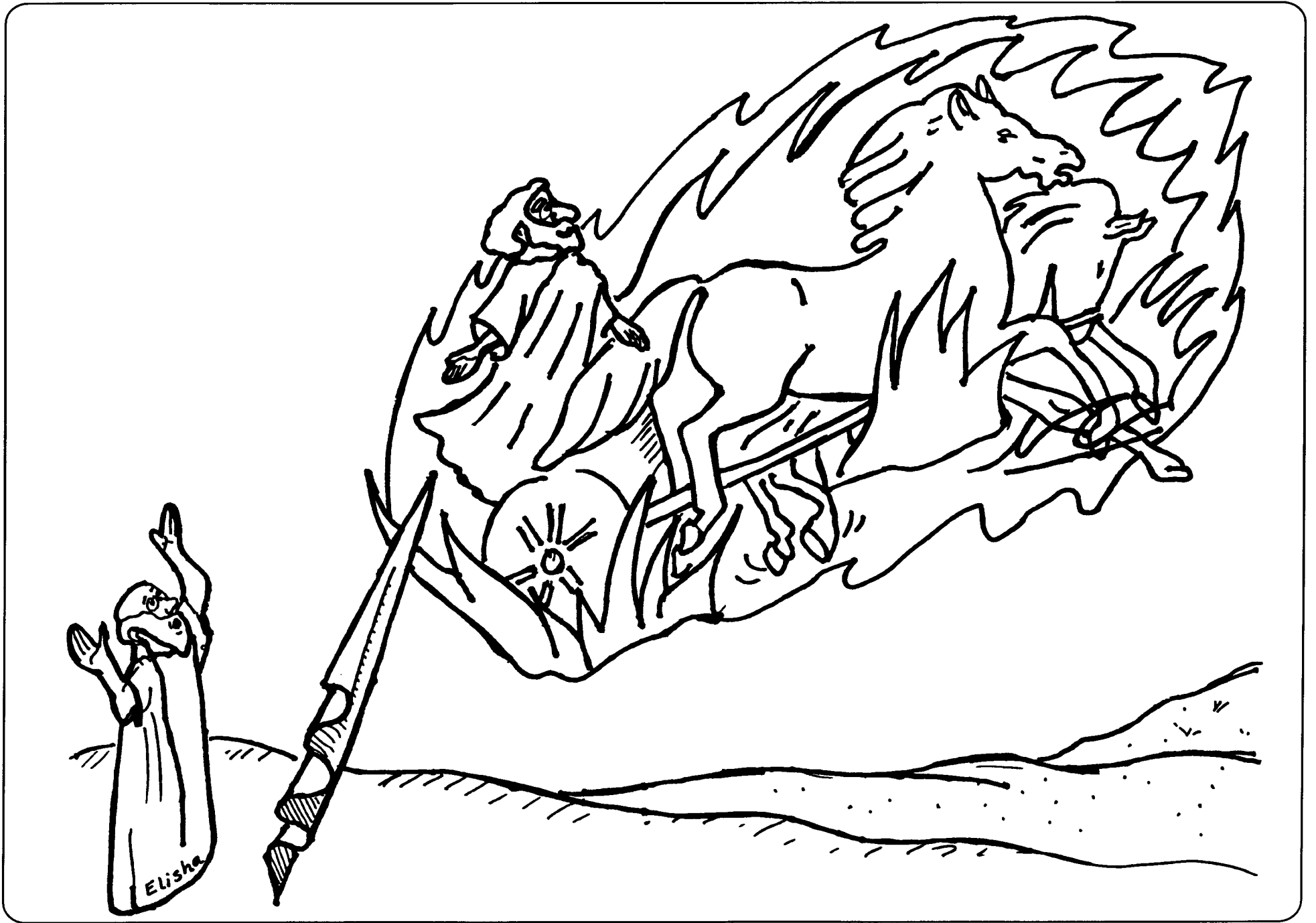
Second Kings 5:15, Memory Verse Song for 2's & 3's (tune: "Frere Jacques")

There's no God in, all the world ex-cept in Israel, Is-ra-el.
Second Kings five fif-teen; Second Kings five fif-teen,
In the Bible, in the Bible.

Second Kings 5:15, Memory Verse Song for 4's & 5's (tune: "It's a Small World")

Verse:
Now I know there's no God in all the world
E-ex-cept in Israel. Is-ra-el.
Now I know there's no God i-in all the-e world.
E-ex-cept in Is-ra-el.
Chorus:

Second Kings five fi-if-teen (It's a small world after all.)
Second Kings five fi-if-teen (It's a small world after all.)
Second Kings five fi-if-teen (It's a small world after all.)
Second Kings in the Bible! (It's a small, small world.)



Elisha watched His powerful God take Elijah to heaven in a chariot of fire.