

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# APPLY the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Elisha and the Army

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 6

**STORY POINT:** God protected Elisha with an invisible army.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 42:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- blindfolds (optional)

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 42:8 together.

Use blindfolds or let kids cover their eyes with their hands so they can't see, like the Aramean army couldn't see. Challenge kids to recite the key passage from memory. Encourage them to memorize Scripture as a way to remember what is true about God and about themselves.

**SAY** • In difficult situations, we may feel blinded and not know what to do. When we memorize these verses, God can bring them to mind and give us the direction we need.

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- "Kings of Israel and Judah" printable

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 6. Direct kids' attention to the lists of kings from the "Kings of Israel and Judah" printable. Keep the lists in view for the remainder of the volume.

Remind kids that Joram was the king of Israel when Elijah was taken up to heaven and Elisha continued his work as a prophet. King Joram was a bad king, and he was on the throne for 12 years. Point out that not long after

today's story, Elisha anointed Jehu to be Israel's next king. Move the arrow to Jehu's name.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 6:16-17.

**SAY** • The king of Aram was at war with Israel. [*Point to Aram (B9) on the Old Testament Kingdoms map.*] When Elisha revealed his secret plan to the king of Israel, the king of Aram sent an army to capture Elisha. [*Point out the approximate location of Dothan, between Samaria and Jezreel (E5).*] Elisha's servant was afraid, but Elisha knew God was with him. **God protected Elisha with an invisible army.** Elisha prayed for God to shut the eyes of the army, and Elisha led his enemies to Israel's king in Samaria. [*Point to Samaria (F4).*] The king wanted to kill the army, but Elisha told him to send them home.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why was Elisha's servant afraid? Why was Elisha not afraid? *Lead kids to recall that the servant saw the enemy army, but he did not see God's army ready to defend Elisha. Elisha saw both armies, and he trusted in God's protection.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 43:1.)

2. How did God show Himself to the world? *Guide kids to discuss how God, who is invisible, made Himself visible by sending His Son into the world as a human. Jesus showed us what God is like and told us about God's invisible kingdom. God also reveals Himself through His Word.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 1:15.)

3. What can you do when you feel afraid? *Prompt kids to discuss their own ideas. Emphasize that when we feel afraid, we can pray for God to "open our eyes" so that—*

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

by faith—we would believe what He says is true.  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 4:6-7.)

## LOW PREP

- poster board, 3 pieces
- markers
- music (optional)

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



**OPTION 1:** Pray, give, go

Write *Pray*, *Give*, and *Go* at the top of three separate pieces of poster board. Hang the posters around the room. Form three groups of kids. Assign each group to a poster.

**SAY** • We can help share the gospel around the world, even if we don't travel thousands of miles. We can pray for missionaries. We can give money to help support missionaries. We can also go on short-term trips to visit and serve with missionaries.

Consider sharing about specific missions efforts in your church, such as a long-term missionary your church supports or a missions team preparing for a short-term trip. Provide markers and challenge groups to list things to pray for (*Pray* poster), how offerings could be used to spread the gospel (*Give* poster), and how they could help missionaries like the Peppers if they went to visit them (*Go* poster).

Play music. After a minute or two, stop the music. Guide groups to rotate to the next poster. When kids have been to each poster, ask the groups to share what is written.

**OPTION 2:** Story illustrations

Form up to six small groups. Assign each group a different scene from the story to illustrate. Consider the following scenes: 1. Elisha warned the king (2 Kings 6:9); 2. The Aramean army was accused of sharing their plans (2 Kings 6:11); 3. The army surrounded the city of Dothan (2 Kings 6:15); 4. God's army surrounded the

- Bibles
- paper
- colored pencils or markers

Aramean army (2 Kings 6:17); 5. The Aramean army blindly followed Elisha to another city (2 Kings 6:19); 6. The Aramean army opening their eyes in Samaria (2 Kings 6:20).

When kids finish, instruct the groups to line up in order of the story and share their illustrations, explaining what happened during each part of the story.

**SAY • God protected Elisha with an invisible army.** When we can see an illustration, we remember a story even better. But God often does not show us what He is doing in our lives. During those times, we can trust Him completely. He loves us and has a plan for us.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, asking God to open kids' eyes by faith to the reality of His invisible Kingdom. Pray that kids would trust Him and feel at peace under His protection.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Action and Response" on the activity page.

• pencils  
• Journal Page  
• "Action and Response" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.