

Elijah and Elisha - Loyalty Pays Off

Target:

Elisha was loyal to Elijah until he was taken up in a whirlwind and because he did not leave his side, God gave Elisha the double portion of God's power, like he asked.

Text: 1 Kings 19:16-21 and 2 Kings 2:1-15

Preface: (for the teacher)

Elisha was plowing with 12 yoke of oxen, a sign of his obvious prosperity, but he possessed spiritual wealth that far surpassed the temporal. When he sacrificed the yoke of oxen and boiled the wood of the yoke with it the message was clear that he was answering the call and did not intend to return to farming. He went immediately to Elijah, ministered to him and remained faithful until Elijah's catching away in the chariot of fire. Elisha exemplified unwavering loyalty from the moment Elijah brushed his mantle across him and The Lord, in turn, granted him his faith-filled heart's desire.

Activities and Materials:

| Story | Stick Together Relay | Got Your Back Race | Snack | Craft | Memory Verse |
|--|--|--------------------|--|---|--|
| Signs - To Bethel To Jericho To Jordan visual of Elijah ascending in the Chariot of Fire (Appendix) | scarves, headband, or thin towel duct tape blue ribbons (thick paper, glue stick crepe paper streamer | Inflated balloons | bread peanut butter jelly milk or water | sewn capes pens with side clips drawstring (thick yarn) OR pillow cases (super hero standby) | <u>2 Kings 2:2</u> posted on chalkboard |

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| Schoolmaster/ Janitor Joe Skit | Transition |
| School Master - cap, gown, pointer, Bible, Visual of Golden Retriever w/ Master | cell phone, ring tone ready, or other sound signal for children to face the Bible story wall |
| Janitor Joe - cap, cleaning rag, squirt bottle cleansers | |

Three-Legged Relay Kick Off:

As soon as children come into the classroom, help them find a suitable partner and tell them there's going to be a relay race. Everyone who sticks with his/her partner will win a ribbon.

Stick Together Relay/Object Lesson:

Stick Together Relay - (Scarves, a wide headband, or thin towels will work to bind middle legs)

Have children get in pairs, stand side by side and tie their middle legs together with scarves, or other material. Designate a starting line and an object on the opposite side of the room for pairs to pivot around and return to the starting line. The first pair tags the next pair, and so on until all have had a chance to participate. Demonstrate with two willing students. Give everyone a blue ribbon prize for sticking together to the end. Tell students that today's Bible story is about a man who stuck with the Man of God and God gave him just what he wanted for being so loyal.

Teacher script is written in bold type.

Prayer:

*Help children remove the binding on their legs and quickly tie the ends of the scarves together, making a large loop. Have children grab hold of the scarf loop and take a few steps back until a circle is formed. **Hold on to the circle and let's lift up our hands and ourselves to God and ask him to help us to stick together, stick with the Man of God, and stick with God no matter what happens. Pray a heartfelt prayer with children.***

Schoolmaster and Janitor Joe:

The Schoolmaster (dressed in graduation cap and gown, holding a Bible and visual in one hand and a pointer in the other) and Janitor Joe (wearing a cap, cleaning rag in hand, squirt bottle cleansers hanging on his belt loops) enter. Joe has his nose close to the Schoolmaster's neck as he follows spoon-style. Their strides are synchronized wherever they go.

Schoolmaster:

Very good, Bro./Sis. _____. I could hear prayer coming from your classroom in the hallway. **Here is your assignment for today, Sis./Bro. _____.** Please teach the children about Elisha today and how he stuck with Elijah and would not leave him. **Like a faithful dog, Sis./Bro. _____, like this.** *Schoolmaster holds up the visual of a golden retriever with master, (printable below) and hands it to teacher.* **If we stick with God, we will stick with the Man that God sent to us and we will be happy until we go to heaven. Very well, Sis./Bro. _____.** Carry on. *(Schoolmaster and Janitor Joe turn to leave the same way they came it.)*

Janitor Joe: **I want to be twice as smart as you, Schoolmaster.**

*Play the ring tone that prompts children to be seated facing the Bible story wall. Teacher posts the visual of the dog and its master. **Do you have a pet that follows you sometimes? The Bible story today is about a man that was loyal. He stuck with the Man of God until the very end. The Man of God was Elijah***

Story:

Elijah had the most important job in Israel. He was the prophet of God and it was about time for him to give the job to someone else but, it had to be someone who wanted it more than anything else. It had to be someone who would stick with him wherever God told Elijah to go and do whatever God told him to do. God picked Elisha and told Elijah to fetch him. Elijah found Elisha plowing a field. *Assign one student to be Elijah, who wears a cape and the rest can pretend to be plowing like Elisha.* **Ok, grab hold of the plow, children. Teacher demonstrates. Steer it steady and hold on tight because this plow is hooked up to 24 HUMONGOUS cows.** When Elijah showed up and passed by him, Elijah threw his mantle/cape over Elisha (*Student Elijah demonstrates*) and immediately Elisha left the cows and plow and followed after Elijah. He only went back to his family to say good-bye and let them know he wouldn't be a farmer ever again. He was going to have a new job.

After that he stuck with Elijah. Wherever Elijah went, Elisha was right there with him. Who wants to follow the prophet of God like Elisha did? *Teacher speaks to a volunteer. Get up there behind him. Student gets behind "Elijah."* **No, you need to be closer. Student moves closer. No, move even closer. Put your nose right on the back of his neck. Student demonstrates. That's right. You are going to stick with him. One time Elijah turned and said to Elisha, "You wait here. The Lord told me to go to Bethel." *Student Elijah stands by teacher and either repeats words after teacher or dramatizes with gestures.* **Elisha said, "As The Lord lives and your soul lives, I WILL NOT leave you."****

Ask a volunteer to hold the sign that reads, "Bethel" and have him/her stand on the far side of the room. Who else wants to follow the prophet of God? Children respond. Get a partner, one of you be Elijah and one of you be Elisha. Let's go to Bethel. Pairs of children go to Bethel. Once they were in Bethel, Elijah turned to Elisha and said, "You wait here. The Lord told me to go to Jericho." What do you think Elisha said? Give students a chance to respond. They have probably caught on that Elisha will not leave Elijah's side. Yes, he said, "As The Lord lives and as your soul lives, (say the rest with me everybody) I WILL NOT leave you." Ask another volunteer to hold the sign that reads, "Jericho" and stand at the opposite side of the room. Away we go to Jericho, everybody. Class moves to Jericho.

Can you believe once they got to Jericho, Elijah asked Elisha to stay there because God told him to go to Jordan? *Ask another volunteer to hold the sign that reads, "Jordan" and stand in the middle of the room. Do you STILL want to follow the prophet of God? Class responds. Let's go to Jordan. Class follows. Whew! Once they were at the river Jordan, Elijah wrapped his mantle/cape together (Demonstrate, like holding the ends of a towel, ready to snap something with the end of it.) and slapped it on the water. When the mantle/cape hit the water, the water separated and Elijah and Elisha walked through on dry ground. Elijah saw that Elisha was not going to give up. He was going to stick with him and stick with God. Once they were on the other side of Jordan, Elijah turned to Elisha and said, "What do you want me to do for you before I go away?" That's when Elisha said, "Please, let me have a double portion of your spirit." Elijah told him, "If you see me when I am taken away, you will have what you really want."*

They walked on a little further and it happened. *Bring chariot visual out and float it between Elijah and Elisha.* A chariot and horses blazing with fire, swished between Elijah and Elisha and Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. Did you see it children? Elisha did too. Now, what did Elijah promise Elisha? *Repeat Elijah's promise.* Look children, *(point to Elijah's mantle)* Elisha picked it up. *(Elisha does so)* What would YOU do with Elijah's mantle/cape? Elisha tried it out. He went back to the bank of the river, slapped it on the water, and said, "Where is the God of Elijah?" Children, what do think happened next? *Allow response.* The water parted, just like it did when Elijah slapped it with the mantle/cape. Elisha was the prophet now and God was with him.

Worship:

Everyone pretend like you have Elijah's mantle and let's slap it on the ground and say, "Glory to God, HERE is the God of Elijah." *Have children echo.* "I am here to serve Him and I will not leave Him." *Pretend to slap the mantle down again.* Now, let's say it to God, everyone. *Look upward and children echo.* "I will not leave thee." Repeat with everyone and encourage children to worship more and tell God you do not want to leave him because you love Him. When genuine worship breaks out, continue to verbalize your worship and entertain the presence of God by clapping, raising your hands, lifting up your voice in worship.

Lead an appropriate song:

Here I am, Lord, here I am,
I give all myself to you, here I am
Here I am, Lord, here I am
Let your Spirit move through me
Here I am

Snack:

Serve peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Some children may prefer jelly only. Encourage children to stick with God and His people just like peanut butter and jelly stick with bread. Serve milk or water to drink.

Janitor Joe:

Enters with the Schoolmaster's cap on and Bible in hand. **Look everybody!** *Holds up Bible.* **If I keep reading my Bible and stick with Jesus I can be twice as smart as the Schoolmaster. Who do you want to stick beside?** *Janitor Joe listens to children's responses, encourages appropriately, and exits.*

Craft:

Make Elijah's Mantle/Cape

Elijah's mantle was like a coat for him, but was likely used as a blanket at night. His mantle was representative of his office and power with God. The story ends today with Elisha taking up Elijah's mantle, assuming the role of prophet, fulfilling Elisha's greatest desire and the promise from Elijah. Prepare some small capes from inexpensive fabric. See directions below. Tie a drawstring (your choice of material) around a pen on one end and have children push the pen through the casing on their capes. Once it is through help them tie it loosely around their necks.

Got Your Back Race/Memory Verse:

Children get in pairs back to back with arms locked and each pair gets one balloon to hold between their backs and walk from the starting line, around the same object used for the Three-legged Relay and back to the starting line. Have children repeat as they are walking back to back, "I will not leave thee. 2 Kings 2:2." Give all pairs a blue ribbon with the verse, "*I will not leave thee. 2 Kings 2:2*" written on it.

Dismissal:

After balloons are collected, have children stay in pairs, arm in arm and form a line. Ask children to pray for their partners to stick with Jesus as teacher prays for all students before they are dismissed. Make sure students have their mantles and blue ribbons and remind them to be respectful going to their destinations.

Appendix:

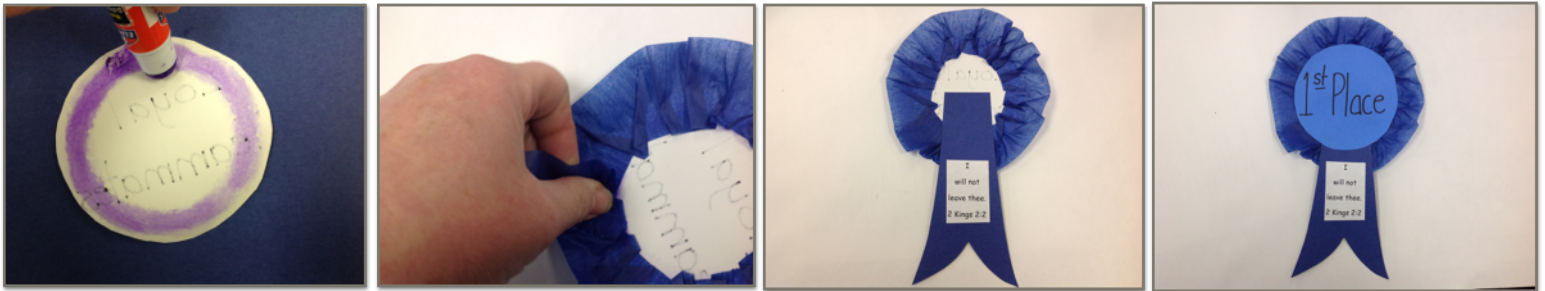
Blue Ribbons:

1. Trace a wide mouth cup or jar onto thick paper to create circle pattern. If many blue ribbons are needed, place circle pattern over three sheets of thick paper and cut around circle. Three circles can be quickly cut at a time. Make some circles for the front of the blue ribbon and some for the back. Label fronts "1st Place" (or "Winners") and label backs "Loyal Teammates."

2. Once circles are made, glue inside edge of circle back and place edge of blue crepe paper length (12-18 inches) on glued edge. Form gathered ribbon edge by pressing crepe paper edge onto gluey circle edge and pushing slightly, sliding crepe paper, gathering and turning circle until the entire edge is covered with blue crepe paper.

3. Glue wide ribbon with memory verse in center. "I will not leave thee." 2 Kings 2:2

4. Glue circle front over top of ribbon-edged back with wide ribbon and rough inside blue crepe paper edges glued in center.



Golden Retriever Visual:



Mantle (Cape) Directions: (Knit fabric that does not fray easily will work well with no hem)

1. Place a sauce pan in center of fabric at fold line.
2. Make two-inch wide strip of newspaper to match student's average length between neck and back of calf.
3. Place strip of newspaper on edge of collar and extend outward.
4. Mark fabric at extended end of newspaper strip.
5. Maintain a pivot point at collar edge of strip and move strip a few inches at opposite end and mark fabric. Continue to move one end of strip and mark fabric, creating a half circle shape to cut.
6. Cut half circle shape.
7. Cut on fold line, creating two half circles.
8. Snip half inch cuts along collar so fabric will ease when attaching casing.
9. Allow overlap of casing and fold onto collar. Sew casing, beginning at overlapped edge, sew casing to collar, remembering to overlap other end when it is reached.
10. Turn casing to inside, pushing out corners where casing was overlapped and sew inside of casing over clipped collar edge.
11. Let students thread thick yarn through collar casing with a pen. Pens must have clips on sides to work like an eye of a needle to thread yarn through casing.

If you do not have enough time and/or material, make capes from pillow cases. Cut them at seams to create two and let students thread yarn through casing open ends.

Elijah's ascension in the Chariot of Fire:

