

Upper Elementary

The Chariot of Fire

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

- ☐ 2 rocks
- ☐ 2 paper cups
- ☐ liquid glue
- ☐ plastic wrap (see instructions for prep)
- ☐ pencils (at least one more than the number of children in the group)

Topic:	Elijah and the Chariot of Fire
Prep:	<i>At least one day before, take a cup and put plastic wrap across the bottom and insides. Place a small rock inside and completely cover it with liquid glue. Make sure it has dried completely before the lesson.</i>
Intro:	What is a mentor? (a person you look up to who guides you, encourages you and teaches you) What are some examples of people who can be mentors? (parents, teachers, coaches, other relatives) Who is someone (human) in your life that helps to guide and encourage you? Why do you look up to them?
1 Kings 19:19-21	So, he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. Elijah went over to him and put his mantle on him. Elisha left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me please kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." He said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" He returned from following him, and took the yoke of oxen, killed them, and boiled their meat with the oxen's equipment, and gave to the people; and they ate. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and served him.
	Remember Jonathan and David? Jonathan took off his coat to show that he was passing his role as heir to the throne of Israel to David. Elijah put his outer coat on Elisha. It was used as a blanket at night. When Elijah put his coat on Elisha, it showed that he would be his replacement, similar to when Saul and David had been anointed with oil by the prophet Samuel. Elisha became Elijah's assistant. Remember when Samuel was a little boy serving in the temple with the priest Eli? Samuel was Eli's assistant. He worked for him as Eli taught him about the duties of a priest. Elisha worked for Elijah, but he was also being trained by him.
*	<i>To help remember which is which, Elisha has an S for student.</i>



Elijah and the Chariot of Fire

I look up to _____

who is _____

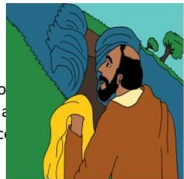


1 Kings 19:19-21

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The outer coat Elijah put on Elisha is also a mantle. A mantle was used as a blanket at night. Because of this, it was also a symbol of authority.



2 Kings 2:1-5

When Yahweh was about to take Elijah up by a whirlwind into heaven, Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Please wait here, for Yahweh has sent me as far as Bethel." Elisha said, "As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So, they went down to Bethel. The sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that Yahweh will take away your master from over you today?" He said, "Yes, I know it. Hold your peace." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please wait here, for Yahweh has sent me to Jericho." He said, "As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So, they came to Jericho. The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that Yahweh will take away your master from over you today?" He answered, "Yes, I know it. Hold your peace."



Mentor (noun)

1. A wise and trusted guide or teacher.
2. A powerful supporter or sponsor.



2



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I have had to say goodbye to _____

Have you ever had to say goodbye to a mentor who meant a lot to you? (a grandparent who died, a teacher or coach who changed schools, etc) How did you feel about it? There is a special relationship with a mentor and the person they guide. How does Elisha show that he cares for Elijah? (he doesn't want to leave him)

2 Kings 2:6-8	Elijah said to him, "Please wait here, for Yahweh has sent me to the Jordan." He said, "As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." Then they both went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood opposite them at a distance; and they both stood by the Jordan. Elijah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the waters; and they were divided here and there, so that they both went over on dry ground.
	What had happened to all the prophets because of Ahab & Jezebel? (they were killed or had to go into hiding) Where are the prophets now? (everywhere...in Bethel, Jericho, near the Jordan River) How do you think the other prophets viewed Elijah? (a hero...God used him to defeat the prophets of Baal) After what he did before, do you think the other prophets were very surprised to see Elijah part the river? Who else had parted a river? (Moses, Joshua)



2 Kings 2:6-8

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The Jordan River is a 156-mile long river which goes from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. It is also where Jesus was baptized.

Before Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal, God's prophets had to hide from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel in caves. Now, God's prophets were everywhere Elijah went.



2 Kings 2:9-10	When they had gone over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be on me." He said, "You have asked a hard thing. If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be so for you; but if not, it will not be so."
Pencils	<i>Hand one child the same number of pencils as there are children in the group.</i>
	Imagine you will not need these pencils anymore and are going to give them away. Give one pencil to everyone.
	<i>When they get to the last child, tell them to give them two pencils.</i>
	Was that hard to do? (no) The pencils were yours to give out. You could give twice as many pencils to X as you did to everyone else. What about your sense of humor? Or your skills in sports or math or writing? Could you give that to others? Elijah's power was not his to give. It came from God and only God could choose how it would be divided. Elijah knew if Elisha saw him being taken away, that would mean God was granting his request.
2 Kings 2:11-12	As they continued on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha saw it, and he cried, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" He saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.
	Imagine how incredible this was to see. First, there is a chariot on fire, pulled by horses on fire. Then, there is a whirlwind (like a little tornado) strong enough to pull them up into heaven. Did you notice that we did not read that Elijah died? There is one other person we read about in the Bible who did not die; his name was Enoch (see Genesis 5:24 & Hebrews 11:5). Only he and Elijah were considered so special by God, He rewarded them for their lives by letting them go to heaven without dying first.



2 Kings 2:9-10

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I can choose to give away my _____

Only God can choose to give away my _____

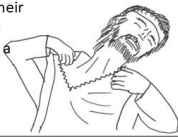


2 Kings 2:11-12

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In Bible times, a way to show you missed someone who had died was to tear your clothes. Elisha did this to show that he would miss his mentor. He had known it was coming, but he was still sorry to see him go. But Elisha had gotten his wish. He got to see Elijah taken up into heaven. This meant he now had great power as a prophet to perform miracles and tell others about God. Was Elisha really all on his own now? (no) Who was with him? (God)

Ancient Jewish people would tear their clothes to show sadness on losing a loved one. In Jewish funerals today, a small piece of clothing is cut with scissors to remember this tradition.



2 Kings 2:13-15

He also took up Elijah's mantle that fell from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. He took Elijah's mantle that fell from him, and struck the waters, and said, "Where is Yahweh, the God of Elijah?" When he also had struck the waters, they were divided apart, and Elisha went over. When the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho facing him saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." They came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.



The Bible only tells of one other person, Enoch, who was taken to heaven without dying. "Enoch had faith and did not die. He pleased God, and God took him up to heaven. That's why his body was never found." ~ Hebrews 11:5



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It's hard and can be very painful to say goodbye to a person who is very important to us. But at some point in our lives, it's bound to happen. It's important to know that someone who we feel we can't live without is still just a human. God is the only one we really can't live without. He is with us all the time once we ask Him into our hearts.

Take a cup with a rock and plastic wrap in it. Pour enough glue to cover the rock.

When we have God in our lives, He completely covers and protects us. We are surrounded by His presence.

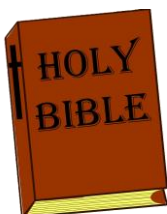
Show the dried version, pulling the glue-covered rock out by the plastic wrap.

We have His Holy Spirit wrapping us up. Elijah's coat was used to cover him and protect him from the cold. Many people think by putting it on Elisha, he was showing that the covering he had from God was now being transferred to Elijah. We can count on that same covering when we are missing a special person who is no longer in our lives.

Closing:

I look up to _____

who is _____.



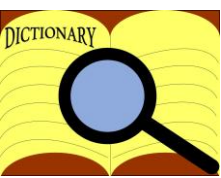
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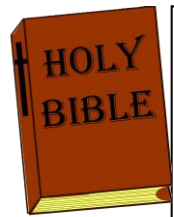
The outer coat Elijah put on Elisha is also called a mantle. A mantle was used as a blanket at night. Because of this, it was also a symbol of covering.





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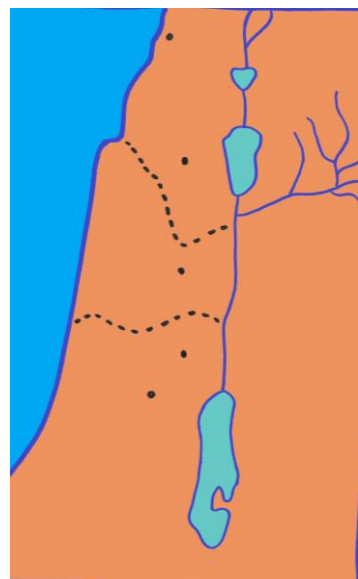


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The story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



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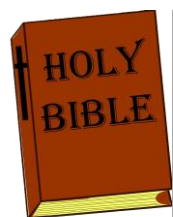


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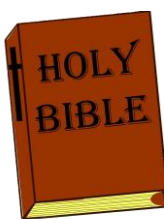


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Ancient Jewish people would tear their clothes to show sadness on losing a loved one. In Jewish funerals today, a small piece of clothing is cut with scissors to remember this tradition. This is done by the immediate family members and is called, *Kriah*, which means, “tearing.”



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Chariot of Fire



Name: _____

E	L	I	J	A	H	Q	W	E	R	T
P	L	O	I	T	O	I	R	A	H	C
L	E	I	U	E	R	I	F	I	Y	O
K	H	M	S	W	S	S	D	S	F	A
J	T	L	T	H	E	A	Q	R	G	T
H	E	K	R	I	A	E	W	A	H	J
G	B	J	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	K
F	N	H	O	L	Z	X	C	L	V	L
D	B	G	W	W	K	L	M	N	B	P
S	V	F	E	I	J	H	G	F	D	O
A	C	D	R	N	E	V	A	E	H	I
Z	X	S	Q	D	W	E	R	T	Y	U

ELIJAH

ELISHA

WHIRLWIND

CHARIOT

HORSE

FIRE

COAT

HEAVEN

PROPHET

ISRAEL

BETHEL

POWER