

Syrians Attempt to Capture Elisha

2 KINGS 6:8-23



Old Testament 7
Part 2: The Divided Kingdom

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Kings 6:8-23; Matthew 5:38-48; Romans 12:20-21; Proverbs 25:21-22; Psalm 46

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:27b-28, ESV).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["God Is With Me"](#)
- ["Awesome God"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [The Divided Kingdom 1 Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- ["Map of the Divided Kingdom"](#) (provided in activity sheets)—show the children where Syria is, relative to Israel
- Elisha A Beka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
- Traffic lights to illustrate "STOP before you fight back" and "THINK: what would Jesus do?" and "GO ahead and be good" [You can find large traffic signals at teacher supply stores or make your own out of posterboard.]



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When someone hurts me, my first thought might be to hurt him back, but that's not what Jesus would do. He wants me to be kind instead, just as He would be.

LESSON STARTS HERE


INTRODUCTION:

Review last week's lesson.

Discuss with the children how they feel when someone is mean or hateful to them. Discuss how easy it is to strike back, or say something mean in return. God knows that it can be really hard to be nice to someone who is mean to us, but that's exactly what He wants us to do. Today, we're going to talk about how Elisha handled an entire army that came to hurt him.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. In spite of Elisha healing one of the **Syrian** (or Aramean) army's most important leaders (Naaman), the Syrian king sent his army against Israel. But each time the Syrian army tried to attack, the Israelite army had moved. The King of Syria was very angry and wanted to know who was continually warning the Israelites of his plans. He thought he might have a spy in his army. Not knowing for certain, a servant suggested that "Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel" was the one who was warning the Israelites, since he was a close advisor to the King of Israel (Jehoram or Joram).



HISTORICAL NOTE: Syria was located between the Tarsus Mountains, the Euphrates River, the Syrian Desert, the Arabian Desert, and the Mediterranean Sea. "Aram" is the Hebrew name for Syria; thus its people were called Arameans. It is important to keep in mind that biblical Syria does not correspond to the current country's borders, any more than Israel does.

2. So the King of Syria sent a huge army to capture Elisha and "shut him up." The army surrounded the town of Dothan where Elisha was living. His servant [apparently not Gehazi, since he had been struck with leprosy] saw the great army and became very, very frightened. Elisha calmly reassured the servant that "those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16). The servant must have looked at Elisha in disbelief, looking around to highlight the fact that nobody was with them. Elisha asked God to let the servant see the great heavenly forces protecting them. The servant saw that "the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (vs. 17)—apparently like the ones described in 2 Kings 2:11 which carried Elijah into the heavens.
3. When the Syrian army approached Elisha's house, he asked God not to destroy the Syrians but to make the entire army blind. And that's what happened! The entire army—representing one of the most powerful nations in the world—was struck blind and became completely helpless. Elisha came out and faced all those soldiers, leading them into Samaria, the capital city. Then he prayed again—this time that their sight might be restored. When King Jehoram saw that all these enemy soldiers were right there in his city, he wanted to kill them all. But Elisha told him not to harm them. Instead, he told the king to prepare a great feast and feed them all.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Did Elisha Lie?](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the charge that Elisha lied to the Syrians and sinned.

4. King Jehoram did as Elisha instructed. The Syrians ate and drank until they were full and then returned to their homeland and their king. The Israelites won a great victory over their enemies without firing a single arrow. They “killed them with kindness.”
5. There is a time for war and a time for peace. Elisha could have used this opportunity to destroy Israel’s enemies—and his enemies. After all, those soldiers had come to hunt him down and probably kill him, and would do a lot of harm to the Israelites in the future. But a much more powerful statement was made about the God whom Israel worshipped by Elisha’s actions. It was much more effective to use a miracle, proving the great power and control of Israel’s God, Jehovah. The Syrians were ancient enemies of Israel—and would continue to be their enemies. But this time kindness was a better weapon. No matter how many times other people hurt us, it is not right to try to “get back at them.” Jesus often taught, through words and His example, that hurting someone back will never solve the problem; it will only make things worse. When you get hurt, what should you do? **Stop** before you retaliate, **think** about what Jesus would do, and **go** ahead and be good anyway! “Return good for evil.”

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Elisha and the Syrian Army Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Memory verse chain: Make or buy three heart cutouts per child. On each heart write one word of the memory verse. Punch two holes in the top edge of each heart and help the children string the hearts together with pre-cut lengths of yarn or ribbon. (“[Memory Verse Heart Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Memory verse search: Make or buy 15 small heart cutouts. On each heart, write one letter of the memory verse. Tape the small hearts all over the classroom. Show the children one word of the verse at a time (for example, the word “love”), and ask them to find the letters to spell that word. As they find the letters, ask them to put the letters together in the correct order to spell out the verse. (“[Heart Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Play hangman and/or Tic Tac Toe with key words from this and previous lessons. (“[Tic-Tac-Toe Instructions](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Trace an octagon shape on red construction paper or cardstock, and an octagon shape on yellow construction paper or cardstock, for each child in the class. The red octagon should say “____ before you fight back.” Ask the kids to fill in the blank with the word “STOP.” The yellow octagon should say “_____! What would Jesus do?” Ask the kids to fill in the blank with the word “THINK.” Let the kids glue the two octagons together, back-to-back, and then punch a hole in the top. They can put a pre-cut piece of yarn through the hole to hang their “stop and think” signs in

their rooms at home.

- Behavior Traffic Signals: Cut sheets of black construction paper in half, length-wise. You will need enough half-sheets to provide one per child. On another sheet of paper, draw three circles, one above the other. In the top circle write “STOP before you fight back.” In the middle circle write “THINK.” On the bottom circle write “GO ahead and be good.” Let the kids color the circles (red, yellow, green). They can cut out the circles and glue them to the black paper to make their own “behavior traffic signals.” (“[Behavior Traffic Circle Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- “Love your enemies” review: Make or buy heart cutouts, at least one per child. Cut them in half down the middle. On one half, write a review question from any lesson on Elisha, and on the other write the corresponding answer. Put the answers on the board (with Scotch tape), and give the questions to the children. Let them put their questions on the board next to the correct answers. (“[Heart Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Play hangman and/or Tic Tac Toe with key words from this and previous lessons. (“[Tic-Tac-Toe Instructions](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- “Love your enemies” review: Make or buy heart cutouts, at least one per child. Cut them in half down the middle. On one half, write a review question from any lesson on Elisha, and on the other write the corresponding answer. Put the answers on the board (with Scotch tape), and give the questions to the children. Let them put their questions on the board next to the correct answers. (“[Heart Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Memory verse review: Write Luke 6:27b-28 on the board and go over it several times with the class. Ask them to put their heads down on the table while you erase one or two words. When they raise their heads, ask them to fill in the spaces you have erased. Continue this activity until the students can say the entire memory verse.
- Have the children read the following:
 - 2 Kings 6; Psalm 46
 - *How Enemies Became Friends* Arch book, by Larry Burgdorf (DISCLAIMER: p. 6—change “his whole” to “a great”)
 - *The Berenstain Bears: Kindness Counts*, by Jan and Mike Berenstain

SONGS:

“GOD IS WITH ME” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “London Bridge”)

God is with me all the time,
All the time, all the time.
God is with me all the time,
He is with me.

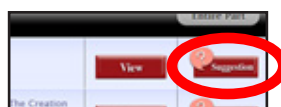
“AWESOME GOD”

Author: Rich Mullins

(Tune: See Internet for tune and lyrics)

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Syrians Attempt to Capture Elisha

2 KINGS 6:8-23



Old Testament 7
Part 2: The Divided Kingdom

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Kings 6:8-23; Matthew 5:38-48; Romans 12:20-21; Proverbs 25:21-22; Psalm 46;

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:27b-28, ESV).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["God Is With Me"](#)
- ["Awesome God"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [The Divided Kingdom 1 Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- ["Map of the Divided Kingdom"](#) (provided in activity sheets)—show the children where Syria is, relative to Israel
- Elisha A Beka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
- Traffic lights to illustrate "STOP before you fight back" and "THINK: what would Jesus do?" and "GO ahead and be good" [You can find large traffic signals at teacher supply stores or make your own out of posterboard.]



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When someone hurts me, my first thought might be to hurt him back, but that's not what Jesus would do. He wants me to be kind instead, just as He would be.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 7 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 7 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site).

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday's lesson. (See [O.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions.)

Review and discuss memory verse more.

After many years of serving God as a special prophet, performing miracles, and giving advice and counsel to several kings of Israel, Elisha died. He finished much of the work begun by his friend and teacher Elijah, such as destroying much of Baal worship and being a witness to the final destruction of evil Ahab and Jezebel.

When it was time for Elisha to die, he was buried in an unmarked grave [it may have been a cave instead of a hole in the ground that would be used again]. Sometime later, Moabite invaders (one group of many groups who were like bandits/robbers) threw the body of one of their companions into the grave of Elisha. When the man's body touched the old bones of Elisha, the dead man immediately came back to life (2 Kings 13:21)! This was another miracle to show to unbelievers (non-Jews) that the words of God's prophets are true. The miracle also showed the great power of God—and how God's power had worked through a man like Elisha.

The Bible tells us more about the miracles attributed to Elisha than those of Elijah. As far as we know, he did not retreat to lonely places like Elijah did. And, as far as we know, he did not lose his focus, feeling sorry for himself like Elijah did. Elisha was a great teacher and preacher who glorified God in everything he did.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning's lesson.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.

