

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 32
Elisha and the Syrians (II Kings 5, 6)

Please note: This lesson has been adapted for use on the Vineyard website.

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

A. BLINDED SYRIANS CAPTURED

1. Our spiritual understanding of the Lord's Word and true doctrine derived from the Word are a defense against all spiritual dangers and temptations.
2. Our natural worldly understanding is rendered ignorant and false when it sets itself against the Lord and His Word.
3. If we allow our understanding to be led by the Word, it will be enlightened.
4. When our natural faculties are instructed by the Word, they are not destroyed, but rather they are strengthened and then take their right place in relation to our spiritual life.

B. Basic correspondences:

Israel = the mind or understanding

Judah = the heart or will

Syria = knowledges of good and truth

Horses and chariots = spiritual understanding of the Word and doctrine from It

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

1. We have been hearing stories about the two greatest prophets whom the Lord sent to help Israel. Can you remember their names? (Elijah and Elisha)
2. Today we will hear about an amazing thing that Elisha saw.

B. Tell/Read the Story: II Kings 5:1– 16 and II Kings 6:8– 23. (Strongly recommended that the teacher tell the stories in her own words in order to shorten the amount of time spent in the story circle.)

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Literal Sense

- a. In the story of the blinded Syrian army, why did the king of Syria send men to take Elisha? (Because Elisha could predict their every move)
- b. Where did they find him? (in Dothan)

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- c. The Syrians surrounded Dothan, but when Elisha's servant was afraid, what did Elisha do? (He prayed, and the servant's spiritual eyes were opened so he could see the whole mountain full of horses and chariots of fire from heaven.)
- d. What suddenly happened to the Syrians? (They were struck blind.)
- e. Where did Elisha lead them? (to Samaria, in the land of Israel)
- f. How were they treated? (Given eat and drink and sent home)

2. Further Ideas

a. BLINDED SYRIANS

(1) In the story of the blinded Syrians, Elisha's servant was afraid until his spiritual eyes were opened so that he could see the horses and chariots of fire. Sometimes we are afraid or upset when we feel surrounded by evil. But if our spiritual eyes were opened then, we would see that angels are with us, protecting and helping us, just as the servant could see the horses and chariots of fire waiting to protect him and Elisha. We don't ever have to be afraid because we know that all heaven is on our side.

(2) Just as the Syrians were treated nicely, we, too, can be nice to people who don't know true things from the Word by telling them what is true instead of being mean to them or ignoring them because they are ignorant.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

"Wait on the Lord," LORI'S SONGS I, Side B, 2nd song. (Suggestion: just review the words as printed on the sheet of lyrics and listen to the song rather than trying to teach it to the children.)

B. Project: PROTECTING ANGELS – A Mobile

1. Materials Needed

- a. Circular tops from large oatmeal containers, or other stiff circles (cut from Styrofoam meat trays, cardboard, or plastic coffee, yogurt, or cottage cheese containers)
- b. string or thread
- c. white and yellow construction paper
- d. felt tip markers
- e. hole puncher
- f. text slips (2 for each student)
- g. stapler

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2. Ahead of Time

- a. Put a hole in the very center of the oatmeal top. Pass string through the hole and knot it so the top is suspended. This is the top of the mobile.
- b. Cut out yellow horse-and-chariot forms from attached template and suspend them with string from the edges of the top. Make four for each mobile.
- c. Prepare text slips: "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." (II Kings 6:16)

3. In Class

- a. Talk about the protection that the angels give us at all times, even when it seems that evil is all around us or we are in some kind of trouble. If our spiritual eyes were opened, we would see the multitude of angels on our side and recognize how powerless the hells are in comparison. Read the text slip aloud a couple of times.
- b. Children cut out and color two-sided pictures of themselves from white construction paper. Encourage them to cut them about 5" tall or a little taller. (Or provide a pre-cut figure for each child to color to look like himself.)
- c. Staple text slips to the feet of these self-portraits.
- d. Suspend the self-portraits from the knotted string in the center of the mobile top. Make them hang below the horses and chariots.
- e. Urge children to make the horses and chariots fiery by drawing red and orange flames on them with markers.

IV. Teaching Aids

Illustration(s) of the protection of Elisha and/or the blinded Syrians.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 3, "Elisha and Naaman" (II Kings 5), pp. 281– 293.
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. II, "Naaman Healed" (II Kings 5), pp. 385– 396, and "Elisha Defended" (II Kings 6:1– 23), pp. 396– 400.