Kingdom Divided

“Elisha Takes Over for Elijah”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The Kingdom of Israel divided after Solomon’s death
* Elisha called the kings and people of Israel back to worship of God
* The story of the Prophet Isaiah and King Hezekiah

Series Theme Verse: “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” – Isaiah 6:8

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God used Prophets like Elisha to show God’s power and call the two kingdoms back to worship of God.

Lesson Passage: 2 Kings 2:11-14, 19-22

Materials Needed: Bibles, Water, A clear plastic bottle for each student with a cap, Hot Glue, Food Coloring, Glitter, Dish washing liquid, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: 2 Kings 2:11-14

* Explain to students that during the time of two kingdoms, God used Prophets to speak for God to the kings and the people of the kingdoms. One of the greatest prophets was Elijah. As Elijah was getting older, he chose a young man named Elisha to mentor and develop into his successor as God’s prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. Our story picks up with Elijah and Elisha walking together one day.
* What appeared out of the sky? (A chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire)
* What did the chariot do? (Separated Elijah and Elisha)
* What happened after they were separated? (Elijah was carried to heaven by a whirlwind)
* What was Elisha’s response at seeing Elijah carried off? (He cried out after Elijah, and then took Elijah’s cloak as a symbol of succeeding Elijah as the prophet to Israel)
* As Elisha went to cross the Jordan River, what happened? (It divided and he crossed over on dry ground)

Talking Points: 2 Kings 2:19-22

* Once Elisha succeeded Elijah, he came to a city. What did the people of the city say to Elisha? (Our town is in a great place, but the water is bad and the crops don’t grow because of the water)
* What did Elisha say in response to their concerns? (Bring me a new bowl with salt in it)
* What did the townspeople do? (They brought him a new bowl with salt in it)
* What did Elisha do with the bowl of salt? (He threw the salt into the water spring)
* When he threw it in, what did he say? (He spoke the words of God, saying, “This is what the Lord says: ‘I have healed the water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.’”)
* Was the water really changed and made drinkable and useful for farming? (Yes, the Bible says it was pure even to the day that the story was written)
* The first miracle that God did through Elisha was to bring healing to the land of the Kingdom of Israel.

The Story Retold:

* The Whirlwind
* Give each student a plastic bottle.
* Have them fill the plastic bottle with water until it reaches around three quarters full.
* Add a few drops of dish washing liquid and food coloring.
* Sprinkle in a few pinches of glitter (this will make your tornado easier to see).
* Put the cap on tightly (probably should hot glue the cap on).
* Turn the bottle upside down and hold it by the neck. Quickly spin the bottle in a circular motion for a few seconds, stop and look inside to see if you can see a mini tornado forming in the water. You might need to try it a few times before you get it working properly.
* Remind students that Elijah was taken to be with God by a Whirlwind. He became one of only two humans in the Bible that never died. Elisha succeeded Elijah as the prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Remind students that Elisha became the prophet who spoke for God to an entire kingdom! When God called him to serve, he was willing to speak to thousands of people for God.
* Have the students say the verse with each student saying the next word in line.