Kingdom Divided

“Elisha and The Army of God”

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 6:15-23

Materials Needed: Bibles, Blindfolds, Series Theme Verse cut into pieces

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: 2 Kings 6:15-23

* Explain to students that the King of Aram wanted to destroy the kingdom of Israel. He would set up traps to attack the armies of Israel, but Elisha would tell the King of Israel and every time, the plans of Aram’s King were foiled and Israel was saved. The King of Aram was furious and asked who was leaking information to the King of Israel, and he was told that it was Elisha. So the King of Aram sent his troops to capture Elisha and this is where our story picks up today.
* When Elisha’s servant went outside the next morning, what did he see? (The Army of the Arameans surrounding the city where they were staying)
* What did the servant say to Elisha? (What are we going to do?!)
* What did Elisha say to the servant? (Don’t be afraid we have an army more powerful than the Aramean army)
* Knowing his servant was confused, what did Elisha pray? (“Open his (the servant’s) eyes so that he may see”)
* Once Elisha prayed, what did the servant see? (The army of the Lord all around them throughout the hills and town)
* When the enemy army charged towards Elisha, what did Elisha ask God to do? (Bind the army of the Arameans)
* Did God do that? (Yes, and the army was not able to move around because of the blindness)
* What did Elisha do? (He spoke to the army and led them as if he were helping them capture himself)
* Instead of helping them capture himself, what did Elisha do? (Led them to the king of Israel and once inside, he prayed for the army to be able to see again)
* When the army could see again, what did they realize? (They were captured by the army of Israel which they had been trying to capture)
* Did the king of Israel kill the army of the Arameans? (No, Elisha told him not to, instead to feed them and send them home)
* By treating them with this kindness, how did the King of Aram respond? (All raids on Israel and attacks by Aram stopped)

The Story Retold:

* Leading the Blind
  + Give every student a blindfold, except one.
  + Have the one non blindfolded student lead the “army” of other students throughout the classroom, around obstacles from one side of the room to the other.
  + Give different students the opportunity to lead the army around the room.
  + Use the activity to reinforce the story of Elisha capturing the Aramean army with the miraculous help of God.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Divide students into pairs.
* Blindfold one student in each pair.
* Then place cut up pieces of the Series Theme Verse throughout the room.
* Have the non blindfolded students lead the blindfolded students to collect each piece of the verse.
* Once all pieces are collected, have them put the verse together and say the verse together.
* Remind students that sometimes following God seems like an impossible task, but we learn from Elisha that our God is bigger than anything we come up against.