



Uh Oh Topher

Elisha and the Sick Boy

BIG IDEA: God can do miracles.

BIBLE BASIS: 2 Kings 4:8–37

KEY VERSE: “With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26 (Nlrv)

SCHEDULE

PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:00

LARGE GROUP LESSON

11:00-11:30

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:30-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

I grew up going to the beach every summer with my family. One year, our beach was close to the path of a hurricane. While we didn't have to evacuate, the area was going to be pummeled by strong storms. My dad pulled me aside and asked if I wanted to go walk on the beach with him — right as the storm was rolling in. Though I was slightly nervous, I was also thrilled that he singled me out!

So, we headed out. As we walked down the boardwalk, we were the only people walking towards the beach. Everyone else was frantically trying to leave the area. I started to get second thoughts! But, I was with my dad. I trusted him completely and knew that if he was with me, I was safe.

We walked the beach as the storm came in over the ocean. It was beautiful and magnificent and terrifying all at once! My dad's enthusiasm was infectious and it wasn't long until I was enjoying the adventure even more than he was. I was so glad that I had the courage to go with him.

I'm sure you know where I'm going with this. God invites us to go on adventures with Him, and they are more terrifying and magnificent than walking on a beach when a storm is rolling in. Just like a child feels safe in the presence of a parent, as God's children we can feel safe in the presence of our Heavenly Father. As Deuteronomy 31:6 says,

“Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them. Don't be terrified because of them. The Lord your God will go with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you.”

God singles us out to go on adventures designed specifically for us. As you prepare to lead the children this week in the story of Elisha, dare to ask God what adventure He has in store for you. May we always have the courage to go on them!

Rebecca Crews
GO! Team Member



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Using Kid-friendly Language

It may be true that we've been washed in the blood of Jesus for the atonement of our sins and the redemption of our souls, but you might want to pause before telling that to a kid. The Christian faith is rich with imagery and vocabulary! To a kid, though, some of it might be confusing, overwhelming, and even frightening at times. If you don't want your kids to look at you like you're speaking Klingon, consider the following advice:

Be mindful of your language. The biggest part of solving a problem is recognizing that it exists. For some of us, we don't even realize that the words we're using with kids are a little advanced.

Develop a kid-thesaurus. No — that's not a dinosaur! Begin developing kid-friendly language to replace some of the bigger words you might use. For example, instead of saying "redeemed," you might say "set free." Instead of saying "washed in the blood," you might say "forgiven of our sins."

Be intentional with new words. Not only is it okay to introduce new words to kids, it's instrumental. Part of developing kids into functioning members of the church is helping them understand the language, but be purposeful with your new words instead of just using them haphazardly.

Don't introduce too many new words too quickly. It can take kids a little bit of time to understand and absorb new words and concepts. If you throw too many new words at them too quickly, they may not remember any of them.

Use the word, define the word, use the word. When you introduce kids to a new word, first use it in its right context. Next, define the word using simple and clear language. Finally, use the word multiple times so kids can really digest it. You may even want to have the kids repeat the word after you so they can really familiarize themselves with it.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

ANIMAL DOCTOR

Supplies: Stuffed animals (5 or more), toy doctor kit (1), various other medical supplies like Band-Aids, ACE bandages, etc.

Directions: Tell the children to imagine that their friends (the stuffed animals) are sick and they need our help. Using the toy doctor kit and various medical supplies, help them role-play what they would do to help their sick friend.

Say: In today's true Bible story, there's a little boy who is very, very sick! In fact, he's so sick that he dies. **But God can do miracles.** In just a little bit, we'll hear what God does to help the boy.

Question: When you feel sick, what do you do to get better? Do you pray to God about it?

BIBLE BALANCE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Tape (1 roll)

Today's Bible verse:

*"With people (point to self with thumbs),
this is impossible (make big "X" with arms).
But with God (point up),
all things are possible (two thumbs up)."
Matthew 19:26 (extend hands like you're holding a book).*

Preparation: Using painters or masking tape, create a tape line on the floor approximately 10 feet long to make a "balance beam."

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. When ready, challenge the children to cross the tape-line balance beam while saying the verse and without stepping off. For each additional round have the children cross the balance beam using a different method from the list below.

Methods of Movement:

- Giant steps
- Tiny steps
- Backwards
- Hop on two feet
- Sideways
- Bear crawl
- Tippy-toes
- Hop on one foot
- Crab walk

Large Group: Room 207 at 11:00 AM



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the large group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and to respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

WHO ACHOOD (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, a little boy died, but then Elisha prayed to God. The little boy sneezed 7 times, then he came back to life. It was a miracle — something only God can do. Let's play a game that helps us remember that.

Directions: Have all of the children lie face down on the floor while covering their eyes. Quietly tap one of the children on the head or shoulder. When a child is tapped, they must say "Achoo" as if they sneezed. When the children hear someone say "Achoo!" they must all hop to their feet and shout, "**God can do miracles!**" Next, have the children guess who said "Achoo." Reveal who it was, have the children lie back down, then continue playing additional rounds until everyone has had a turn saying "Achoo."

Question: God can do anything. When you feel sick, what could you ask God to do for you?

UH OH TOPHER! (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: "Uh Oh Topher" story review page (1 per group), Topher the Gopher character cards (1 per child)

Say: I'm going to read you today's Bible story again, but there's a little problem. Topher the Gopher got into the story and chewed up some of the words, then he replaced them with the wrong words. Listen carefully to see if you can hear the wrong words. If you hear something that is wrong, hold up your "Topher the Gopher" card, then say, "Uh Oh, Topher. That's not right!" Then you can tell me what really happened in the story.

Directions: Use the "Uh Oh Topher" story review page to read today's story to the children. The page will indicate in bold which words are wrong, followed by the right words. If necessary, help the children remember what really happened in the story.

3.4 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



I'M SICK! (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), crayons.

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a picture of their face when they're sick or hurt. When finished, have the children show their drawings to the group.

Say: It's never very fun being sick or hurt, but today we learned that God takes care of us. When we're not feeling well, we can ask God to help us. Let's say a prayer and ask God to help us when we're sick or hurt.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, thank God for always being with the children. Ask Him to care for the children when they're not feeling well.

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

Question: God made a dead boy come back to life. What else do you think God could do?