



BIG IDEA

God can do miracles.

BIBLE

Elisha and the Sick Boy

2 Kings 4:8-37

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD." Psalm 95:1 (NirV)

SCHEDULE: WELCOME ACTIVITIES **15-20 minutes**

LARGE GROUP LESSON **20-25 minutes**

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES: **25-35 minutes** (15 minute rotations)

LARGE GROUP

WELCOME | **WORSHIP**

INSTRUCTIONS: As children enter the story time area, give them a high-energy welcome — smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you're glad to see them. Invite the kids to worship with you. There are instruments and ribbons under the desk for you to use anytime. Please remind them:

- **Worship is a way to show God how much you love Him and to thank Him for all He has done.**
- **Worship makes God happy. God loves it when we sing and pray to Him**
- **Please stand during worship and use inside walking feet only.**

Music: play worship songs and lead the kids in singing

After the songs, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:



Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. (Clap on each number.)

Digs a hole right under me. (Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.)

Slowly I start sinking down. (Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.)

Until I'm sitting on the ground. (Sit down on ground or chair.)

BIBLE STORY | Elisha and the Sick Boy, 2 Kings 4:8-37

INSTRUCTIONS: Pass out the fruit snacks during the Bible Story Rules video, **remind them to hold their trash till the end of the story.**

Say, before the Video:

- Hello everybody! I'm so glad you're here at church today. That silly little Topher the Gopher took our Bible story pictures and hid them around the room again. In just a little bit, we need to look for the missing pictures so we can tell the Bible story
- Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

STORY TIME RULES

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

BE KIND

BE SAFE.

HAVE FUN

Video: Play "Topher Time" video (Bible Story)

PRAYER

"Open shut them, open shut them, give your hands a clap. Open shut them, open shut them, place your hands in your lap"



PRAYER

- Let's say a prayer together and praise God for being so powerful. (Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)
- Dear God, You are so, so powerful. You can do miracles. You made Jesus come back to life. I love Jesus so much. Amen

SMALL GROUP 1

BIBLE BALANCE CHALLENGE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Tape line, 3D printed dogs

Today's Bible verse:

"Come (motion toward self with hands), let us sing for joy (cup hands around mouth) to the LORD (point up)." Psalm 95:1 (extend hands like you're holding a book).

Directions: Today is our Memory Verse Challenge! Today, each child will have an opportunity to share the memory verse with a leader and earn a special 3D printed dog!

1. Practice Together - gather the children and practice the memory verse several times using the hand motions. Encourage everyone to participate.
2. Memory Verse Challenge - have 2 leaders available to listen to the children individually. Give each child an opportunity to say the memory verse to a leader.

Children may:

- Recite the entire verse independently.
- Say part of the Verse on their own.



BIBLE BALANCE CHALLENGE CONTINUED

Children may:

- Use hand motions to help remember the words.
- Repeat the verse after a leader, one phrase at a time.

Every child receives a 3D printed dog, regardless of how much they can recite independently. Celebrate their participation and effort!

3. Bible Balance (While Children Wait) - Use the tape line balance beam on the floor. While children are waiting for their turn with a leader, allow them to practice walking along the tape line while reciting the verse together.

Encourage different ways of moving:

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

SMALL GROUP 2

RAISIN' UP THE BOY (Application Activity)

Supplies: Raisins (1 per child), carbonated soda water (1 bottle per group), clear drinking glass/cup (1 per group)

Say: God can do miracles — He even made a little boy come back to life. Let's do an activity that reminds us how God raised the little boy from the dead.

iDrections: Ask the children the question below. When a child answers, give them a raisin. Tell them not to eat the raisins, though.



SMALL GROUP 2

RAISIN' UP THE BOY CONTINUED

Directions: When every child has a raisin, tell them **to imagine that the raisin is the little boy in today's story.** Next, open the carbonated soda water and pour it into the clear drinking glass. Tell a few children at a time to **put their "little boy" (raisin) in the water.**

At first, the raisins will sink to the bottom. Watch as the bubbles in the water cause the raisins to float up, then sink back down again. Whenever a raisin sinks to the bottom, have the children say **"Achoo!"** until the raisin rises up again.

Question: **God can do anything. What do you think He can do for you?**

COLORING SHEET (Craft Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet, markers or pencil colors

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some pencil colors or markers. While the children are coloring, ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

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?**



EXTRA ACTIVITIES

MIXED-UP MIRACLES (Application Activity)

Supplies: “Mixed-Up Miracle” cards (1 set per group)

Directions: There are two sets of cards: verb cards and noun cards. Spread the verb cards in one pile and the noun cards in another pile. Allow the children to take turns drawing one card from each pile. Read aloud the verb and then the noun. The combination will (most likely) create a mixed-up miracle. (Example: Healed bread from the sky) Ask the children if that sounds like something God really did. Continue until all of the cards are gone.

Say: God can do miracles, but those miracles seemed like they were mixed up. Let’s try to match them so they tell us about real miracles that God did.

Directions: Hold up and read one verb card at a time, then allow the children to decide which noun card goes with it. (See below for the answer key.) After each card is successfully matched, count to three and have the group say, “**God can do miracles.**”

Verb	Noun
Healed (made better)	a sick person
Divided (split)	the Red Sea
Stopped	a roaring lion
Raised (made alive)	Jesus from the dead
Rained down	bread from the sky



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.