



wonder
inspire. equip. support.

Bible Passage: 2 Kings 6:8–23

(Elisha and the Heavenly Army)

REMEMBER VERSE

Jesus answered ... “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” John 14:9b

God’s Power Is Greater

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Explore::

Welcome & Engage

10–15 minutes

Discover & Respond::

Large Group

30–40 minutes

Respond & Bless::

Small Group

20–35 minutes

ENVIRONMENT: MODELING

Biblical content needs a practical living expression in order for it to be spiritually impacting. This environment serves as a hands-on example of what it means for children to put their faith into action. Modeling puts flesh on faith and reminds us that others are watching to see if we live what we believe.

Inspire


The car rolled to a stop. Every last ounce of gas was gone. It was after midnight and I was alone on a two-lane road in the middle of nowhere. I reached into my book bag and pulled out my mobile phone. *Power on! Power on!* Like my lifeless car, my phone was of no use to me just when I needed it most. Sitting in the dark, I was on the verge of hysteria.

Feeling like I was just waiting for something horrible to happen, I decided to act. I wrote a note, placed it on my windshield, and started to walk to a gas station. As I walked, I began to pray. *Lord, please protect me. I'm scared. Please send me an angel, my own personal bodyguard.*

Finally, I reached a gas station. The attendant looked at me, then to my left and right, and then back at me. Fear painted his face. His words were curt and nervous. He told me to step away from the door and he would slide the empty can through. Moments later, a man and his girlfriend walked past me. The man began to shout at me, as if taunting me to fight. As the girl pulled him away, fear and panic washed over her face. I tried not to smile; I realized what was happening.

The next morning, I recounted the events of the night to my mom. "Cristi, you know what happened, don't you?" she asked me. "Yeah, I do," I said. "God sent angels to take care of you," she replied. My mom was right. God opened the eyes of the people I encountered and they saw the heavenly guard at my side. God answered my prayer and allowed me to see His power in action, modeling His love and care for me in a tangible way. My mom was also able to see His love and power. He is God and there is no other. God's power truly is greater.

NOTES:



Cristi Thomas
TruWonder Team

Equip

God's power is greater. This power is evident in Scripture when God occasionally pulls back the curtain and gives us a peek at what goes on behind the scenes. In 2 Kings 6 and a few other passages, we get a glimpse into the unseen world of spiritual warfare.

When Elisha was surrounded by an army, his servant thought all was lost. But God opened the eyes of the servant to see that an entire angelic army, unseen to the naked eye, was ready to strike and poised to defend God's prophet. There's a reality beyond what we normally see where spiritual forces are at work.

We see another example of spiritual forces in Daniel chapter ten. Daniel prays for his people for three weeks before an angelic messenger arrives with an answer. The angel said for 21 days he was prevented from reaching Daniel by "the prince of Persia," some sort of demonic force sent to interfere with this angelic mission. The archangel Michael then came to help free him to complete his task. Beyond the pale of the visible world is a realm of spiritual activity that we normally are not privy to.

The New Testament describes a possible hierarchy of how demonic forces are organized. They're referred to as "angels ... demons ... powers" (Romans 8:38), "rulers and authorities" (Ephesians 3:10), and "thrones or powers or rulers or authorities" (Colossians 1:16). From the Daniel passage we learn these demonic forces can even be territorial in some respect. It seems the "power" that opposed this angel was specific to Persia.

The attitude Elisha models for us and the message he gives to his servant is "do not fear." We can rest in this message as well. God's power is greater and He is always working behind the scenes in ways we cannot imagine, to protect us and save us.

Further Resources

Wiersbe, Warren. 2007. *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary: The Complete Old Testament*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook.

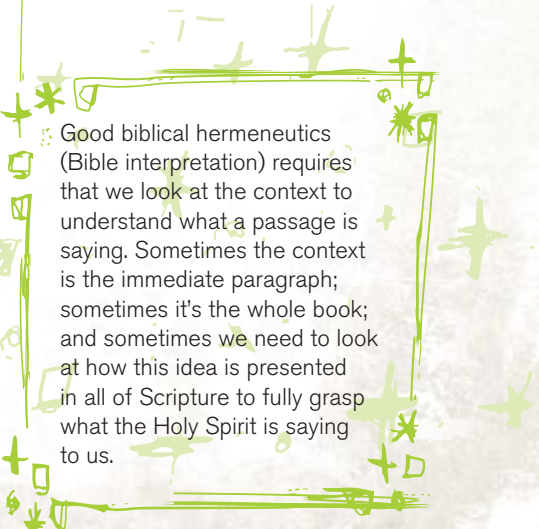
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Elisha.html

Douglas, J. D., Merrill C. Tenney, and Moises Silva, eds. 2011. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

The Message (paraphrase of the Bible)

Remember Verse Motions

Inspired by American Sign Language; demonstrated at www.signingsavvy.com and <http://www.commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm>



Good biblical hermeneutics (Bible interpretation) requires that we look at the context to understand what a passage is saying. Sometimes the context is the immediate paragraph; sometimes it's the whole book; and sometimes we need to look at how this idea is presented in all of Scripture to fully grasp what the Holy Spirit is saying to us.

Support

“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (2 Kings 6:16).

Elisha prayed that his servant could see the great power of the Lord. Through His Word and His Son, God has modeled for us that His power is greater. Greater than anything we might face.

Pause for a moment. Ask God to help you see the circumstances of your life from His perspective. Are there people He has placed in your life to stand with you in this time? What are the tangible and intangible ways God is showing you that He is present—in the midst of all things?

“Personally, it was a perfect lesson for me to teach. I have had so much anxiety about things in my life. I needed to be reminded that God is bigger and more powerful than any of my fears!”

—The Beacon

Lesson Overview

Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply List under Resource Tab)
Explore:: Welcome & Engage	10–15 min.	Exploration stations create space intended to transition children—to lead them from the external world into an environment where they can commune with God, just as they are with all that they are.	Focus Station: A Soldier's Scene (per table) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brown butcher paper or wrapping paper • construction paper • masking tape • pieces of net or rope • wooden or soft blocks • plastic army men and horses • Explore bin (Optional) Station 2: What We Can't See (per table) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scratch design paper (see p. 8 for purchase option) • wooden craft sticks (packaged with the paper) • optional: Instead of purchasing scratch design paper, create your own: card stock, assortment of crayons, black crayons, and wooden craft sticks. • Explore bin
Discover:: Large Group	20–25 min.	Facilitate interactive games, songs, and storytelling, allowing children to participate in discovering God's Word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chloe (puppet or person) • Chloe's Rules videos or scripts (see Resource Tab) • preschool program theme song • 2 upbeat worship songs (suggestions: "Jesus by My Side," TruWorship <i>Songs from the Playhouse</i> or "This Is the Day," TruWorship <i>Your Love</i>) • optional: countdown video • Mail Time intro clip and image (see Resource Tab) • Remember Verse image and cards (see Resource Folder) • Mail Time envelope art printed and attached to a large envelope (see Resource Tab) • Bibles (your personal and large children's) • mailbox • Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip and image (see Resource Tab) • Wardrobe of Wonder • Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect (see Resource Tab) • optional: silly hats for prop/hat box • 2 small stools or chairs • What'sIt: Pair of Eyes (see image in Resource Folder) • The Big God Story intro clip and image (see Resource Tab) • Storyboard Pages (images 1–4 and figures of king of Aram and Elisha; see Resource Folder) • optional: craft sticks, Velcro tabs, flannel storyboard

Lesson Overview

Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply List under Resource Tab)
Respond:: Large Group	10-15 min.	Create space for children to respond to the Holy Spirit in worship and community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • title image (see Resource Tab) or worshipful video loop • instrumental music
Respond:: Small Group	15-30 min.	Further process the story through discussion and interaction with others, and respond to God in worship through creative expression.	<p>Connect: Act It Out (per small group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storyboard Pages from The Big God Story (see Resource Folder) • box, hat, or bag • optional: dress-up clothes to use as costumes <p>Create: My God Is Greater (per table/small group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11" x 17" sheets of construction paper • God's Power Is Greater Template (see Resource Folder) • paper • markers, crayons, or colored pencils • glue sticks or clear tape • Create bin <p>Wonder Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing/Remember Verse • HomeFront Weekly
Bless:: Small Group	5 min.	Bless the children that they may experience God fully and be a blessing to others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing/Remember Verse • HomeFront Weekly



Explore::

10–15 min.

Host/Small Group Leaders



Exploration stations create space intended for wonder—to pique children’s curiosity and allow them to engage in hands-on experiences as they begin their time in worship.



“The soldier activity was perfect for our busy little boys. They liked building and knocking down the walls with their soldiers.”

—Good Shepherd Church

“The kids loved this! Even the girls! They had so much fun building their scene, setting their men, and playing with their eyes closed!”

—Impact Christian Church

NOTES:

Invite children to participate at the Focus Station (or optional stations, if available). Explore the materials with the children and engage them in open-ended questions about their observations. This will encourage them to explore and form questions on their own throughout the lesson.

Station 1: A Soldier’s Scene

God’s prophet Elisha and his servant found themselves surrounded by a hostile army with chariots and horses. It seemed an overwhelming situation until God stepped in with His own heavenly army!

SUPPLIES (per table)

- brown butcher paper or wrapping paper
- construction paper
- masking tape
- pieces of net or rope
- wooden or soft blocks
- plastic army men and horses
- Explore bin

PREPARE AHEAD

Trim butcher paper or wrapping paper to the size of your table. Cut pieces of construction paper and net (or rope) into rectangles. (Children will be able to use these pieces to build barricades.) Gather remaining materials and place in an Explore bin.

SET UP

Tape butcher paper to the table. Set all the materials in the middle of the table. Consider setting up a scene to provide a starting point for the children.

ENGAGE

Welcome children to the Explore Station. Invite them to add to the scene you’ve created, or to create a scene of their own. Encourage children to play. You may find some children to be more interested in building the scene, while others will engage in dramatic play with the army men and horses. As you interact with the children, build walls or barriers around their army men. Ask: **What do you think the army men can see with the wall in front of them?** Knock the wall down and ask: **Now what can they see?** Ask the kids to interact with the materials while closing their eyes. Repeat this again with their eyes open. **Is it easier to build and play with your eyes open, or with your eyes closed? Why?**

“The Explore Stations were both fun and engaging. The kids loved using the scratch design paper. (We purchased the pack and only used part of it. We cut it into fourths so we can use it again for another lesson.)”

—Good Shepherd Church

NOTES :



Straight Talk

Separating from Mom and Dad can be tough for a little one. To help lessen the stress a child may feel, invite parents to stay long enough to lead their child into worship at a station. Small Group Leaders will also be involved, engaging in the activity alongside the child and parent. As parents say good-bye, acknowledge their departure while remaining focused on the activity with the child for the smoothest transition possible.

(Optional) Station 2: What We Can't See

Elisha's servant was afraid when he saw the earthly army of their enemy surrounding them. But Elisha prayed, and the Lord opened the servant's eyes in a new way so he could see the army of heaven that had been there protecting them all along.

SUPPLIES (per table)

- scratch design paper (purchase option: discountschoolsupply.com, 50 sheets for \$20. Each sheet can be cut in quarters for this activity.)
- wooden craft sticks (packaged with the paper)
- optional: Instead of purchasing scratch design paper, create your own: card stock, assortment of crayons, black crayons, and wooden craft sticks.
- Explore bin

PREPARE AHEAD

Gather materials and place in an Explore bin. To create your own scratch design paper, begin by cutting card stock into quarters. Then use a variety of crayon colors to color each sheet. Use a black crayon to color a final heavy layer over the other colors. Place all materials in your bin.

SET UP

Arrange the wooden craft sticks in the center of the table. Set a piece of scratch design paper at each child's place.

ENGAGE

Welcome children to the Explore Station. Invite them to begin using the wooden craft sticks to scratch the surface of the paper and reveal the vibrant colors underneath.

There's something on your paper that you can't see. Do you know what it is?

Encourage the children to begin drawing. **What happens when you draw on your paper? Are you surprised to see the bright colors come through the black color? What color do you think you'll see next? Why were you surprised, or not surprised, to see the colors underneath? Tell me about your drawing.**


 Large
 Group
 SECTION

Discover::

20–25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller



Children move into a large group setting and participate in discovering God's Word through storytelling, worship, and interactive experiences.

NOTES:

The following instructions have been condensed, but if you'd like more information about any of the components of the large group program, please see Putting It Together under the Resource Tab.

Ponder Point

God's Power Is Greater

Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

Begin large group by using Chloe (a puppet or person) to review the rules of your program. It's a great time to remind children how we can all be part of a loving community through the words we speak, sitting with our small group, and sharing. Add a theme song to your program for a fun way to help give identity to your large group program. Also choose two upbeat worship songs from a worship album that fits. The supplies you'll want to gather for this section are the Chloe's Rules videos or scripts (see Resource Tab), Chloe (a puppet or person), your preschool program theme song, worship music (suggestion: **"Jesus by My Side,"** *TruWorship Songs from the Playhouse* and **"This Is the Day,"** *TruWorship Your Love*; available on the Extras Tab for Premium, Unlimited, and Combo users; or iTunes), and a countdown video (optional).



Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

Have children retrieve mail (the current Remember Verse from the Bible) from their mailbox. Review the meaning of the verse and any unfamiliar words with the children as they prepare to memorize it. Supplies to gather include the Mail Time intro clip and image, Remember Verse image (for projection and Mail Time envelope), Remember Verse cards (print and distribute along with HomeFront Weekly), Mail Time envelope art printed and attached to a large envelope, a Bible, a large children's Bible, and a mailbox.

REMEMBER VERSE

Jesus answered ... "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9b

Remember Verse Motions

Jesus answered: Point to sky with both index fingers.

Anyone: Open arms across chest until extended at sides.

who has seen: Use index fingers to point to eyes.

me: Point to sky with both index fingers.

has seen: Use index fingers to point to eyes.

the Father: Point to sky with both fingers.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

Hide the What'sIt connected to The Big God Story in the wardrobe. Together as a community, the children will discover the identity of this object as they begin to ask questions from their observations and experiences. You'll need to have ready a Wardrobe of Wonder, Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip, image, and sound effect (see Resource Tab), silly hats for the prop/hat box (optional), and two small stools or chairs. For this What'sIt you'll need a pair of eyes (photo cut from a magazine or large eye images on glasses; see optional image to show or print in Resource Folder).

What'sIt: Pair of Eyes

Our eyes help us to see the world around us. Elisha's servant walked outside to see an enemy army surrounding their camp. It wasn't until Elisha prayed and asked God to open the eyes of his servant that the servant saw those God had sent to fight on behalf of His people. When the servant's eyes were opened, he saw the heavenly army and their chariots of fire—ready for battle. A pair of eyes helps us remember to look for God's greater power. Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world!

ASK

What did you find in the Wardrobe of Wonder today? Children will answer. **A pair of eyes! That's right. What do we do with our eyes?** Wait for children to respond. **Our eyes help us to see things. How do you think the What'sIt fits into the part of The Big God Story we'll hear today?** Allow children to respond; interact with their answers. **Well, it's time to find out because ...**

“We used big google eyes for the wardrobe and it was great. The Storyteller used them when she said the servant's eyes were opened, and it made a wonderful visual.”

—Good Shepherd Church

“Our kids loved the pair of eyes in the wardrobe! So funny to them!”

—Mt. Paran North Church of God

Prayer of Release

A **Prayer of Release** is a prayer asking God to remove any distractions that would get in the way of hearing from and responding to Him. As we pray, we dedicate this time to the Lord and quiet ourselves, so that we might hear specifically from Him. In this way, we are consciously laying aside our worries, successes, and requests for the moment. We ask to be filled with knowledge and understanding from Him, giving God His rightful role as teacher. Then as we move into Respond, we can better create space to interact with His Holy Spirit.

Teaching Tools

PREPARE AHEAD: Print a copy of the Storyboard Pages. Cut and laminate (optional). Place a Velcro tab on the back of each image. Attach the two figures to craft sticks to function as stick puppets. Then attach the four images and two people to the storyboard located onstage.

Consider using the stick puppets as you're telling this portion of The Big God Story. This will help children differentiate who's who throughout the narrative.

The Big God Story

2 Kings 6:8–23
Storyteller

SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story intro clip and image (see Resource Tab)
- Bible (adult or children's to use during teaching)
- Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect (see Resource Tab)
- What'sIt: Pair of Eyes (see image in Resource Folder)
- Storyboard Pages (images 1–4 and figures of king of Aram and Elisha; see Resource Folder)
- optional: craft sticks, Velcro tabs, flannel storyboard

Hello, friends. I'm so glad to see you today. The last time we were together we heard several ways that God used the prophet Elisha to show the people the goodness of God! Before we go any further in The Big God Story, let's stop and ask God to teach us today. (Lead children in a Prayer of Release.)

Elisha was God's prophet who followed God in everything he said and did. When God's kings and people stopped following Him, God sent Elisha to remind them to listen, obey, and follow His Word. People knew Elisha as a man who loved and followed God. When they saw Elisha's life, they could see God in him.

One day the king of Aram made a plan to attack the king of Israel and his army. (Show storyboard #1.) God told Elisha of this plan. Elisha sent a message to the king of Israel warning, "Watch out when you're traveling, because the king of Aram has set a trap for you and your army." So the king of Israel changed his plans. He and his soldiers remained safe and out of danger. This happened again and again. The king of Aram planned against Israel, God told Elisha, and he warned the king of Israel.

This made the king of Aram very angry. He couldn't understand how the king of Israel knew his plans to attack. "Tell me, who is giving information to the king of Israel? Who is the spy?" King Aram asked. One of his men said, "No, my master, it's not any of us. It's Elisha, the prophet in Israel. He tells the king of Israel everything you say." How did Elisha know everything the king of Aram said? (Allow children to answer.) That's right. God knows everything, and He told Elisha. The king said, "Go and find out where he is. I'll send someone and capture him."

The soldiers of Aram rode on their chariots through the night. They surrounded the city where Elisha was staying. Early in the morning, Elisha's servant went outside. He was surprised to see horses and chariots surrounding the city! Can

“The images did a great job of keeping the kids interested in The Big God Story. The Holy Spirit definitely took over because all the children sat still and listened to every word.”

—The Beacon

“For The Big God Story, we made a good-guy crown and a bad-guy crown and had volunteers wear them, to help distinguish between the two kings we were talking about.”

—Impact Christian Church

NOTES:

you imagine? There were horses and chariots with big soldiers everywhere! How do you think you would feel seeing this great army after you? (Give children time to respond; interact with their answers.) **The servant cried out, “Oh, master! What shall we do?” What do you think Elisha said? (Children respond.) He said, “Don’t worry about it. There are more on our side than on their side.” Elisha knew that God’s power is greater than the plans of the king, and he wasn’t afraid. He showed his servant how to trust in God with the things he said and the things he did!**

Elisha prayed, **“O God, open his eyes and let him see.”** (*Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.*) **What was that sound? (Children answer.) It was the Wardrobe of Wonder. That means we’ve found our What’sIt in The Big God Story.** (Either show What’sIt image on screen or remove What’sIt from wardrobe to show children.) **It’s a pair of eyes! What do our eyes do? What do you think happened after Elisha prayed? (Allow children to answer. Show storyboard #2.) The eyes of the young man were opened and he saw things he couldn’t see before. The entire mountainside was full of horses and chariots ... of ... fire! This was not just any army. This was a heavenly army! God’s heavenly army was ready to fight for His people! Wow! God’s power is greater!**

When the army from the king of Aram attacked, Elisha prayed to God. He asked the Lord to strike the people blind. God answered his prayer and with His power took away their sight. Then Elisha called out to them, **“Don’t go that way! Follow me and I’ll lead you to the man you’re looking for.”** (Show storyboard #3.) **Wait a minute. What was Elisha doing? (Children answer.) He led them away from the place he was staying to a completely different city. As they entered the city, Elisha prayed, “O God, open their eyes so they can see where they are.” God opened their eyes. They looked around and saw they were trapped in the city of Samaria! When the king of Israel saw the soldiers, he asked Elisha what he should do with them. Elisha said, “Make a feast for them and send them back to their master.”** (Show storyboard #4.) **Did the army do anything to deserve such kindness? (Children answer.) No. In fact, their plan was to attack Elisha’s camp and capture him. Were those kind plans, or unkind plans? (Kids answer.) That’s right, unkind. Even though the army wasn’t planning on showing kindness to Elisha and his friends, Elisha showed kindness. Why? (Interact with children’s responses.) God showed Elisha kindness, and now he was showing the king of Israel how to be kind, even when the army of the enemy king didn’t deserve it. So the king of Israel prepared a huge feast for them. After they ate and drank their fill, he set them free. They returned home to the king of Aram, and these men didn’t bother Israel anymore.**

Friends, God’s power is greater. He made everyone and everything. There is nothing or no one greater than God and His power. Elisha trusted in God and His power. When we know that God’s power is greater, we can trust in Him too. He will give us His peace and courage. As we trust in God, others will see our trust in Him and see God in us! We can trust in God and know His power is greater!



Respond::

10–15 min.

Worship Leader



Children have the opportunity to respond to God and to what they have heard and experienced through His Word. Special attention should be given to create space for the Holy Spirit to minister to each child.

“Kids liked having the opportunity to move during Respond.”

—Good Shepherd Church

NOTES:

The worship response time in large group varies from week to week. Some weeks the children will respond in worship through music, while other weeks are designed for more specific interactive expressions of response. This time is intended for children to freely express their worship as God's Spirit leads them.

SUPPLIES

- title image (see Resource Tab) or worshipful video loop
- instrumental music

Worship-through-Response

Friends, God's power is greater. There is no one or nothing greater or more powerful than God. What happened in **The Big God Story** when Elisha prayed to God for his servant? Children will answer; interact with their responses. **God answered him, that's right. God opened the servant's eyes to see things that everyone else's eyes couldn't see—God's heavenly army of angels in chariots of fire!**

When we give praise to God, we're giving honor to Him. There is no one like God. Sometimes we use our bodies in postures, or the way we hold them, of worship to God. What are some of the different postures of worship our bodies use for God? Encourage kids to share; interact with their answers. **Sometimes we dance or clap in celebration to Him, or we lift our arms, kneel, and even close our eyes. As we respond to God together today, let's take some time to be quiet. While we're quiet, let's close our eyes and pray to God. You may choose to say thank You to God for His power. Or you may choose to ask God to open your eyes to see His power, just as Elisha prayed for his servant. It's up to you. This is time for you to talk to God from your heart. You may choose to sit, kneel, or bow down before God as you pray. It's completely up to you.**

Lead kids in a time of worship response through prayer. Open this time by praying over the kids and this time, then encourage children to begin to pray on their own. Be sure to model for them through your own posture of worship. After a minute or two, close with a prayer of blessing over the children and leaders.

To streamline large group dismissal, try dismissing one age group at a time. Give the children and leaders cheerful reminders of exit doors as they're preparing to leave. This could be a fun time to bring Chloe back to help with moving into small groups. Use her to remind little ones to stay with their Small Group Leaders, wait patiently for their friends as they walk out together, etc.



Respond::

15-30 min.

Small Group Leaders



Children have an opportunity to reflect (within the faith community) on what they have heard, and to respond to God individually or corporately. This time is focused on the wonder of God and the foundational Truth of His Word.

NOTES:



Your small group time is designed to encourage conversations between you and your children about what God is doing in them. Some children will be more responsive when they're engaged in something artistic. Others will be more open once their bodies get moving. Choose from the options given here or use your own ideas. The Wonder Questions may be used to start conversations during any of these activities or in a quieter, more contemplative time.

Connect: Act It Out

(Optional Game: 5-10 min.)

After a time of responding to God on a personal level, increase the energy by allowing time and space for children and leaders to connect with each other in a lively large-motor-skills activity. Fun challenges foster unique opportunities for conversation and help to develop your faith community.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Storyboard Pages from The Big God Story (see Resource Folder)
- box, hat, or bag
- optional: dress-up clothes to use as costumes

PREPARE AHEAD

Print another set of the pages if necessary, and fold in half so the picture is hidden. Place pictures in a box, hat, or bag to draw from.

ENGAGE

Invite children to join you in a circle on the floor. **Today in The Big God Story, we heard about a time when God showed Elisha and the people of Israel His power. We're going to have some fun acting out the different parts of The Big God Story together. We'll go around the circle and someone will choose a picture out of our box. She'll act out the picture she sees. It's okay if it's silly! When we've all acted out our parts, we'll put the four pictures in the order they appeared in The Big God Story, and then we'll act out the whole story together. Are you ready?**

“The children really liked drawing things that made them afraid, and then giving those fears to God. This might be a great way for parents to help their children at night, or when fears do come up, having them draw them and then put them in their Bibles and pray.”

—Good Shepherd Church

“The kids loved drawing pictures, and our poster we ended up with was great!”

—The Beacon

NOTES:



“The kids really enjoyed drawing pictures of things that are powerful. I just let them draw on the God poster. We skipped the steps of drawing on construction paper and cutting it out for the sake of time. I liked this response because it allowed the kids to be creative in their drawings and it helped them to think about the truth that God is more powerful.”

—Mt. Paran North Church of God

Create: My God Is Greater

Create is more than just a time to make a craft. It's a hands-on opportunity for children to give artistic expression to what God is doing within them. What is created can then become a physical reminder of time spent responding to God.

SUPPLIES (per table/small group)

- 11" x 17" sheets of construction paper
- God's Power Is Greater Template (see Resource Folder)
- paper
- markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- glue sticks or clear tape
- Create bin

PREPARE AHEAD

Print God's Power Is Greater Template onto 11" x 17" paper. Cut the regular paper in quarters. Gather materials and place in your Create bin.

SET UP

Set the printed pages facedown in the center of the table. Place the smaller paper squares and markers on the table.

ENGAGE

Invite children to join you at the Create table. Ask the children: **What are some things that are powerful?** (examples: rockets, trains, tornadoes, waves, lions, whales) **What are some things that make you afraid?** Interact with the children's responses. **Today we'll have a chance to draw these things. On the table you'll find some blank squares of paper and markers. Take some time to think about the answers we just heard, and draw one on a piece of paper. If you have more than one, go ahead and draw as many as you like.** As the children finish up their responses, begin to reinforce the Ponder Point. **Friends, God's power is greater. He is greater than any of these things that we drew on our papers. God is greater than the things that frighten us.** Turn over the printed page.

On this large page we can see God's name printed really big. Let's take a minute to put our drawings on this page. As you glue your picture under God's name, tell Him that you trust that He is greater than all of the things in the pictures. God's power is greater than everyone and everything, and we can trust in Him. When you're finished, we'll hang the big picture on the wall. Each time we see it, we can remember that God's power is greater ... greater than things we think are powerful and things that frighten us. Let's pray and ask God to show us that His power is greater. Close this time by leading the children in prayer.

Small Group Enhancements

Premium, Unlimited, and Combo users can find a quarterly TruWonder Timeline and images of people corresponding to each week's lesson on the My Lessons page under Extras > Small Group Enhancements. As you place the weekly people squares on the timeline, invite children to help you storytell. The provided questions will prompt further conversation about what children have been experiencing. They'll enjoy watching as the timeline fills week to week and their knowledge of The Big God Story grows.

NOTES:



Wonder Questions

Discuss the following questions with the children. Wonder Questions are meant to prompt further conversation about what children have been experiencing. They also invite children to ponder this truth and dwell with the wonder of God. Be sure to pause long enough after each question to allow the children time to wonder. Encourage them to share their unique perspectives with the group.

In this part of The Big God Story, God worked through His prophet Elisha so Israel's army would win. When the losing army went after Elisha, God placed His heavenly army around Elisha and his servant to protect them. God's power is greater!

- I wonder ... How did Elisha's servant feel when his eyes were opened to see the heavenly army?**
- I wonder ... What would it be like to see a heavenly army, with horses and chariots of fire?**
- I wonder ... What did the losing army think when the king of Israel served them a feast and then let them go?**
- I wonder ... How do I feel to know that God is bigger than everyone and everything everywhere?**
- I wonder ... How have I seen God's power?**


 Small
 Group
 SECTION

Bless::

5 min.

Small Group Leaders



A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance. A blessing can be offered in order to ask God's Spirit to overflow from the child's life in such a way that blesses others, while it can also be prayed over a child for the purpose of declaring God's protection, joy, or wisdom.

The Power of Blessing

Use this time to allow both volunteer leaders and parents to participate in blessing each child before they conclude their time together. Invite parents into the time of blessing at the end of the service, and encourage them to continue to bless their children throughout the week.

Today, send your little ones out with a blessing by praying Scripture over them. The time of blessing is an opportunity for children to practice another physical posture of worship. Have children place their hands out in front of themselves, palms up as if cupping them together to hold water. This is a posture that demonstrates our expectancy in receiving what God has for each of us. Read the Remember Verse over the children and then close your time with a prayer of blessing. (You may choose to read through the Scripture more than once as God's Spirit leads you.)

Children, God's power is greater. He will always be with you. You can find your strength in Him. May you always share with others about the great power of our God. (reference Psalm 68:34)

Jesus answered ... "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9b

home|front

HomeFront Weekly: Be sure to send home the HomeFront Weekly for next week's lesson! This preteaching tool for parents encourages families to spend time in God's Word together before children arrive at church.

HomeFront Monthly: Every four weeks we highlight one of the 10 environments. For each new environment, parents should receive HomeFront Monthly. This resource gives families ideas for how to create fun, spiritually forming times in their home—setting aside a sacred space for family in the midst of their active, everyday lives!

