

# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2009

# Through the Old Testament in Two Years

## Part One



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## Elisha and the Army

Last week we learned that the young servant girl told Naaman and his wife about God's power. The king sent letters so that Naaman could get help. But the king of Israel did not know what to do. Elisha asked that Naaman come to his home, but Naaman was offended because Elisha did not treat him the way he expected to be treated. God healed Naaman.

II Kings 6:8-23

### Memory Verse:

When you pray  
for something, believe  
that you have already  
received it.  
Then it will be yours.  
**(Mark 11:24 NIV)**

### Read the Bible

**READ: II Kings 6:8-23 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Begin With Prayer

In Elisha's time, there were other countries besides Elisha's country of Israel. The king of Aram was at war with God's people in Israel. Each time the Arameans set up a place to attack, God would tell Elisha who would then tell the King of Israel. They would go a different way and avoid trouble. (II Kings 6:8-10)

After Israel was able to avoid many of his attacks, the king of Aram decided that someone in his army was telling his secrets to the king of Israel. (II Kings 6:11)

His army told him that no one in the army was sharing secrets. They explained that Elisha was telling the king of Israel what was going on. They knew that he was a man of God. (II Kings 6:12)

When the king heard this, he sent out a large group of army soldiers to find him. They found him in the city of Dothan. The king sent a large group of soldiers, horses, and chariots to get Elisha. They traveled by night and totally surrounded the city. (II Kings 6:13-14)

The next morning, Elisha's helper woke up and looked out the window. He was shocked and scared. He saw soldiers everywhere. He ran to Elisha to tell him the news. (II Kings 6:15)

Elisha encouraged his helper. He prayed to God and asked God to open his helper's eyes to see what God was going to do. (II Kings 6:16-17)

When the helper looked out the window again, he saw an amazing site. He saw horses and chariots of fire from God behind all the soldiers. (II Kings 6:16-17)

Suddenly, the army started moving toward Elisha's home. Elisha prayed to God for help. He asked God to make them blind. Instantly, the

### Goals

1. Understand that Elisha was a man of prayer.
2. Recognize that God protected Israel.
3. Learn that God blinded the army of Aram to protect Israel.
4. Understand that God answers prayer.

### Elisha and the Army – Bible Facts

1. The king of Aram was at war with Israel.
2. God would tell Elisha where Aram was going to attack.
3. Elisha would tell the king of Israel.
4. The king of Aram thought someone was telling Israel his secrets.
5. God blinded the army of Aram.

WHOLE army was blind!! (II Kings 6:18)

All the soldiers were confused and afraid. Elisha boldly walked up to them and explained that they were in the wrong town. (II Kings 6:19)

Then he did a very brave thing. He asked them to follow him! They were being led by the person they came to capture! They had no idea who they were following. Elisha led them to Samaria. He led the whole army into the hand of the king's army. (II Kings 6:20)

Then, Elisha prayed and asked God to remove the blindness. Suddenly, the men could see. When they looked around, they saw that they had been tricked and now THEY were surrounded by soldiers. (II Kings 6:20)

The king of Israel asked Elisha if they should kill them. Believe it or not, Elisha told them instead to be kind to the soldiers. He instructed the king to prepare a delicious meal for the men. (II Kings 6:20-22)

After they ate, they returned home. Because of this kindness, the king of Aram did not fight God's people for a very long time. (II Kings 6:23)

God heard all of Elisha's prayers. God hears our prayers, too. Sometimes, God will answer a prayer with a "yes." Other times, God may want to wait or even say "no." We must remember that God knows what is best and will help us.

### Review

1. **Who was at war with Israel?** (The king of Aram was at war with Israel.)
2. **What did God do?** (God would tell Elisha where Aram was going to attack.)
3. **What did Elisha do?** (Elisha would tell the king of Israel.)
4. **What happened next?** (The king of Aram thought someone was telling Israel his secrets.)
5. **What did God do next?** (God blinded the army of Aram.)

### Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus really IS God's Son. He died on the cross to pay the price for all the wrong things that we have done (our sins). (John 3:16) Jesus took all our sin on Himself and died to make a way for us to go to Heaven. (John 14:6) If we believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our heart, He will clean out all the dirt of our sin and make us pure and clean. (Romans 10:9-10) He will stay with us forever and take us to Heaven one day. If you want to know more about Jesus, talk to your teacher.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins.
3. Ask God to help you seek Him in prayer.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to seek God in prayer.

### Application

Elisha was a man of prayer. When the king of Aram wanted to make war against Israel, God protected Israel. Elisha prayed and God blinded the army of Aram to protect Israel. God answered Elisha's prayer. He will answer our prayers, too. "So I tell you, when you pray for something, believe that you have already received it. Then it will be yours." Mark 11:24 NIV

### Planning for the next week:

**Josiah Finds the Bible — 2 Kings 22-23:25**

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: II Kings 6:8-23 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

**Teachers:** Make individual placemats for the children. Glue pictures of food on cardstock or construction paper. Write the memory verse. Use contact paper to cover the placemats.

One morning Elisha's helper opened the windows to the home. It was a beautiful day and the sun was shining. Suddenly he gasped. (Make a gasp sound). There were soldiers surrounding the whole town! Elisha's helper was scared.

He ran to Elisha and told him the news. Elisha was not scared. He knew that God would take care of them. He prayed and asked God to show his helper who was behind the soldiers.

Suddenly, the helper saw that God's horses and chariots of fire were behind the mean soldiers.

Then Elisha prayed and asked God to blind the mean army. Suddenly the army was blind. They could not see anything.

Instead of hurting the men, Elisha led them out of the city and took them to Samaria. The men probably had to hold hands to follow along. Then, Elisha asked God to open their eyes. Suddenly, they could see. Elisha had taken them right to the king and his army. However, they did a very kind thing. Instead of hurting the men, they gave them delicious food and water to drink. Then, they let the men go back to their homes. The men were so grateful for the kindness; they did not try to fight God's people for a very long time.

Elisha and God's people were kind to people who had been mean to them. That kindness showed the soldiers their wrong. They decided to be kind, too. Both sides lived in peace because of the kindness.

God wants us to be kind, even to people who are mean to us. God loves us and will help us be nice to others.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins.
3. Ask God to help you seek Him in prayer.

### Memory verse for younger children

When you pray for something, believe that you have already received it. Mark 11:24

## Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Make individual placemats for the children. Glue pictures of food on cardstock or construction paper. Write the memory verse. Use contact paper to cover the placemats.
- **Test your memory** — Make a collage of letters as you tell the story. Use poster board and attach the letters to the poster board as you tell the story. If you use two-sided tape, the children can retell the story. (Example: K – king; A- Amram; E- Elisha; I – Israel; etc.)
- **Taste activity** — Prepare a meal with the children. Make something simple like breakfast pancakes.
- **Think about it** — Talk about how Israel was God’s chosen people and how God protected them. Talk about how God protects His children.  
  
God told Elisha that they should feed the army of Aram. Talk about how God wants us to treat those who mistreat us.  
  
Talk about prayer. Share experiences from your life of how God answered prayers with a “yes,” “no,” or “wait.”
- **Touch activity** — Cut holes in paper plates. Cover the outside of some of the plates with colored cellophane. Cover the outside of some of the plates with aluminum foil. Leave some of the plates uncovered. Write the verse on the paper plates. Talk about how the army was blinded by God.
- **Run and play** — Have the children stand arm in arm in groups (two, three, or four). Blindfold that group. Let another child lead them.
- **Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God answers prayer.
- **Sing** — Sing “Whisper a Prayer,” “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” or another song related to the story.
- **Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the paper plates with the verse for each child. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

## Memory Verse

When you pray  
for something,  
believe that you  
have already  
received it.  
Then it will be  
yours.

Mark 11:24

## Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

answered

Elisha's

prayer

## Word Search

N A N A F L T S R C R E F R C T B  
T E H B S F B K F D S A E B K D I  
I K L S D T J G V G Y D M R R S N  
S S N I I P O Q P M N G A R R A I  
C B O K S L P I R N C W K A A F P  
L V A A B H E A R G T B E M S M G  
A E N T E W A H C A N L A U O F N  
D B P A T M O R O C H N O K B A F  
A N M R R A R N B R K C I P H M G  
B R I A O K C G L C S N H T B I Y  
K W M L D S G K S U G E O G R T L  
F G D M B R Y H S S T D S L S T B

ELISHA

WAR

ISRAEL

ARMY

AMRAM

KING

AVOID

ATTACKS

DOTHAN

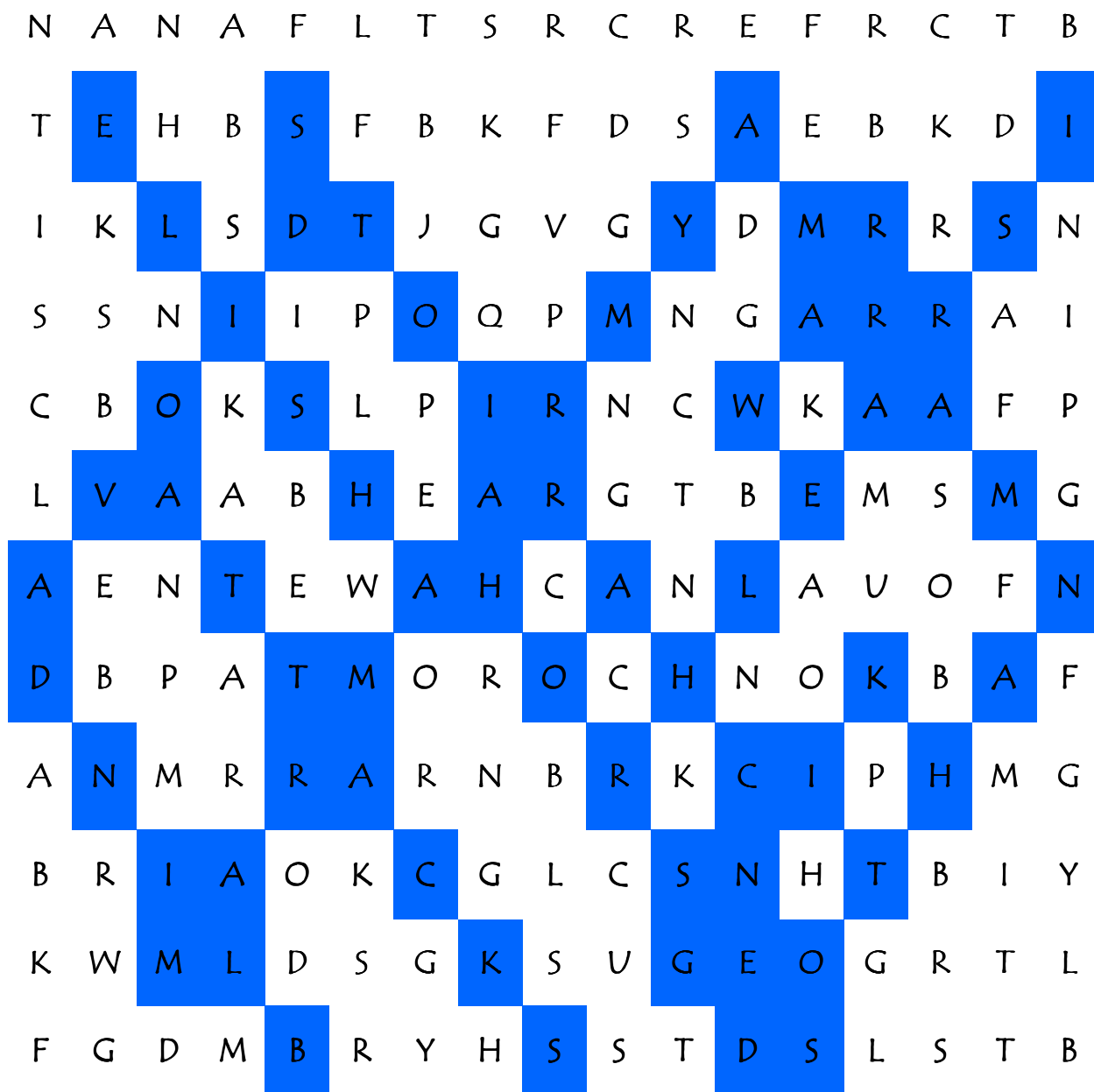
BLIND

HORSES

CHARIOTS



## Word Search



ELISHA

WAR

ISRAEL

ARMY

AMRAM

KING

AVOID

ATTACKS

DOTHAN

BLIND

HORSES

CHARIOTS

## Word Search

K L P G S P R K T F L J  
S W B N K D W C S D P M  
B K R K S P R C T D K N  
S B M H O R S E S P K D  
P R N B L I N D P S P F  
J F C H A R I O T S L B  
S T G A R M Y D H K D E  
D R E L I S H A P S B R  
R N C A M R A M F J D H  
N R K T D M P L M B J S  
P H L G P K R S Y R T D  
V L D B R F G W F D G W

HORSES

CHARIOTS

BLIND

ARMY

ELISHA

AMRAM

## Word Search

K	L	P	G	S	P	R	K	T	F	L	J
S	W	B	N	K	D	W	C	S	D	P	M
B	K	R	K	S	P	R	C	T	D	K	N
S	B	M	H	O	R	S	E	S	P	K	D
P	R	N	B	L	I	N	D	P	S	P	F
J	F	C	H	A	R	I	O	T	S	L	B
S	T	G	A	R	M	Y	D	H	K	D	E
D	R	E	L	I	S	H	A	P	S	B	R
R	N	C	A	M	R	A	M	F	J	D	H
N	R	K	T	D	M	P	L	M	B	J	S
P	H	L	G	P	K	R	S	Y	R	T	D
V	L	D	B	R	F	G	W	F	D	G	W

HORSES

CHARIOTS

BLIND

ARMY

ELISHA

AMRAM

# Anagram

RYAP

MNGOEISHT

VEEEIBL

YRAAELD

RVDEEEIC

ILWL

YROSU

RKAM

SAIELH



## Anagram

PRAY

SOMETHING

BELIEVE

ALREADY

RECEIVED

WILL

YOURS

MARK

ELISHA