

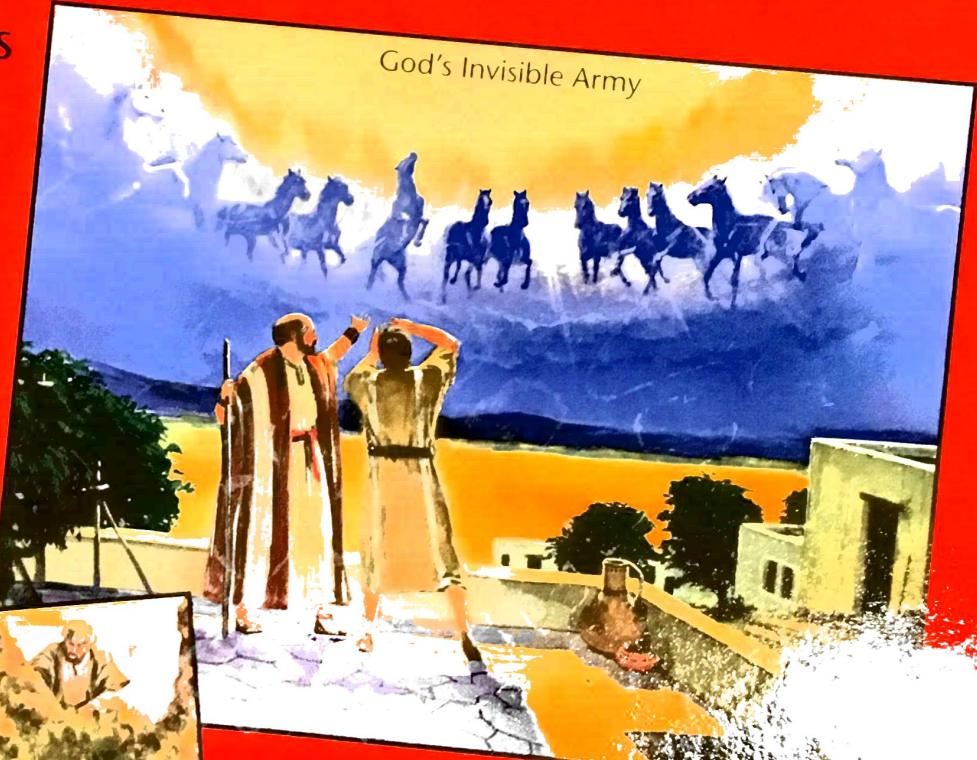
Let's LEARN about GOD

Ages 4-5

Bible Flash-a-Cards

13 Lessons • 40 Cards

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- 2 God Provides for Elijah (Part 2)
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- 8 Lazarus, Come Forth
- 9 Tax from a Fish's Mouth
- 10 Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man
- 11 Jesus Loves the Children
- 12 Jesus Heals Ten Lepers
- 13 Peter Is Free





Let's LEARN about GOD

Bible Flash-a-Cards

Elmina Richardson

Cheryl Parvin

Linda Wasser

Artist:
Brian Jekel

Lessons

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Joyful Life®

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Teacher Instruction

Before presenting a lesson to the children, read it over three or four times until you know it well enough to recall the main points from memory. Then practice aloud several times, holding each Flash-a-Card in sequence as you tell the story with feeling and animation appropriate to the age group.

Lesson 1

God Provides for Elijah—Part 1

1 Kings 16:29–17:6; Deut. 11:13–17; James 5:17

Introduction

Sometimes mothers and fathers give us important jobs to do. They may say, “Tell your brother or sister it’s time to eat.” When you tell them what your mother said, you are being a messenger. God had special messengers called prophets. They had a very important job! They told the people what God wanted them to know.

Card LLG 1

Elijah the messenger



Elijah was a prophet, one of God’s messengers, who lived a long time ago. Elijah loved God, but many people who lived in Israel did

not love God. Ahab, their king, was a cruel, wicked king; and he did not love God. Instead of worshiping the true living God, King Ahab made idols for the people to worship. The idols were made of rocks or stones. The people would bring gifts to these rocks and stones. The idols had eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear. The people prayed to these idols and asked them for help, but Elijah knew the idols could not help the people nor love the people the way God would.

Do you think God stopped loving the people when they worshiped these idols? No, He still loved them very much, but He hated what they were doing. He wanted them to love and worship Him—the true God Who created all things.

God had promised the people of Israel that if they would love Him and serve Him with all their hearts, He would send rain when the land needed it, and there would always be food to eat and water to drink. “But,” God warned, “if you worship idols and serve them, there will be no rain, and nothing will grow.”

Elijah remembered what God had said. He thought, “If God doesn’t send rain, the people won’t have food to eat. If the people get really hungry, they will turn back to God and believe in Him again.” So Elijah began to pray that it wouldn’t rain. Elijah knew that God had heard his prayer.

Because the people had disobeyed God, He was going to punish them. We need to remember that when we disobey, we will be punished, too. Oh, it may not happen right away, or we may think that no one knows the bad things we’ve done, but God knows. He sees everything, and because He wants us to learn to obey, He punishes us when we do wrong.

Lesson 1

Card LLG 2

Elijah's message

Next Elijah, God's messenger, went to visit King Ahab. Knowing that God is stronger



than any earthly king, Elijah spoke boldly to the wicked king. Do you know what Elijah's name means? Elijah's name means "God

is my strength." And He certainly was Elijah's strength. Elijah said to King Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, there will be no dew or rain upon the land until I say that it will rain."

Can you imagine how the people must have laughed at Elijah's message? They did not believe God as Elijah did, and as they looked at his ragged clothes, they laughed, saying, "Who is this man to come in here and say that there won't be any more rain?" But Elijah was not just talking; he was giving them a very important message from God.

Days went by, and it didn't rain. Two weeks went by, and still it didn't rain. Then two months went by—three months, four months, five months, six months. The grass turned brown, but still it didn't rain. Then one whole year went by, and not one drop of rain fell on the land of Israel.

Without the rain, the food didn't grow. Without food, the poor animals began to starve and die. The people were also hungry

and thirsty. But what about God's messenger? Would he starve? Elijah knew that God could do anything. If He had stopped the rain, He could take care of Elijah.

Card LLG 3

Elijah at the brook Cherith

One day God told Elijah, "Go away from here to the brook Cherith." Elijah obeyed God and went to the brook. Elijah lived by the brook a long time. While he was there he



was never hungry or thirsty. He had cool water to drink from the brook, and the Bible tells us that God sent big, black birds called ravens with bread

and meat for Elijah to eat each morning and evening. How did the birds know to bring the food to Elijah? God, Who created them, told them to do it.

God took care of Elijah by giving him food and water every day. Elijah was very thankful that God sent the bread and meat to him. We have good food given to us every day, but sometimes we complain about what we have. "I don't like this or that," we say, and we do not eat it. We may even argue or pout when we are asked to finish our food. Let's thank God for taking care of us and giving us just what we need each day.

Review Questions:

1. What were the people worshiping instead of God? *idols*
2. Who prayed that the rain would stop so that the people would again worship God? *Elijah*
3. What did the ravens bring for Elijah to eat? *bread and meat every morning and evening*

Lesson 2

God Provides for Elijah—Part 2

1 Kings 17:7-16

Card LLG 4

The brook dries up

God had provided for Elijah in a miraculous way by the brook Cherith. But one day Elijah noticed that the water in the brook wasn't as wide as it had been. Every day he noticed that there was less and less water in the brook. God had warned the people, "If you worship other gods and serve them, there will be no rain." Now there was no rain to fill the brook. Elijah knew that he could not live without water, but he also knew that God saw what he needed and would give him what he needed.

After a while the brook was completely dry—there was no more water for Elijah to drink. What would happen to Elijah now? Would God forget about Elijah and let him go without food and water? No, God knew where Elijah was because He had sent him to



the brook. God knew that the brook had dried up; God knows *all* things. He had something else for Elijah to do. So the brook dried up. God said to Elijah, "Go to Zarephath. There you will find a widow."

The poorest people in all the land were the widows. Widows were women whose husbands had died and now had no one to take care of them—no one to help them buy food. How could a poor widow give food to Elijah? Elijah didn't know how the widow would feed him, but Elijah knew God does not lie. He left the dried-up brook where he had never been hungry or thirsty, and he walked all the way to Zarephath. What a long, hard journey it was!

Card LLG 5

Elijah goes to Zarephath

When Elijah entered the city, he found a woman picking up sticks by the gate. This was



the woman God had already told to help Elijah. Elijah was very thirsty. He asked the woman, "Would you please get me a drink of water?" As the widow was going to get Elijah a drink, he called to her, "When you come back, please bring me some bread, too. I am very hungry."

The widow stopped and turned around and looked at Elijah. "I have no bread," she said sadly. "I have only a handful of meal (or flour) in a barrel and a little oil in a jar. I am gathering sticks for a fire to bake bread for me and my son. Then the barrel of meal and the jar of oil will both be empty. After we eat the bread, we will have no more food so we will probably die."

This woman to whom God had sent Elijah was so poor that all she had was enough bread to feed herself and her son and no one else. How could God use *her* to help Elijah? Elijah, the messenger of God, said to the poor widow, "Go ahead, but when you make the bread, make one for me first. Then make some for you and your son. God has promised that your jar of oil and your barrel of meal will not be empty until He sends rain."

Card LLG 6

Miraculous supply of meal and oil

The widow went home and used the last handful of meal and the last bit of oil to make some bread. She did exactly what Elijah told her to do. She made Elijah's bread. Then she looked in the barrel and saw that there was still a handful of flour! She looked in the



Lesson 3

oil jar—and there was more oil! Just as Elijah had said, there was enough meal and enough oil left to make bread for herself and her son. How happy the woman was that she had obeyed God and helped Elijah!

The next day, there was *still* enough meal and oil for the widow to make bread for Elijah, her son, and herself. There was still meal and

oil the *next* day and the *next* day and the *next* day. Every day until the rain made the crops grow, God miraculously provided enough meal and oil to make bread for that day.

God is a great God and a faithful God. He provided food for Elijah just as He said. And while He was taking care of His messenger, He provided food for the widow and her son, too.

Review Questions:

1. Who did God command to feed Elijah in Zarephath? *a widow*
2. Did the widow have enough meal and oil to make more than one cake? *no*
3. Who gave the widow enough meal and oil for each day? *God*

Lesson 3

God Sends Fire and Rain

1 Kings 18:1–2, 17–46

Card LLG 7

Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal

It had been more than three years since God had stopped the rain. Without rain, food did not grow, many animals died, and the people were very hungry. One day God told Elijah to go talk to Ahab, the wicked king. As Elijah walked along the road to see King Ahab, he saw what had happened because the people had disobeyed God. Without rain, the fields were brown and dry. If the people tried to buy food for their families, there was nothing to buy! What a sad time this was for the people.



When King Ahab saw Elijah he asked, "Are you the one who is causing this trouble in Israel?" King Ahab blamed Elijah for stopping the rain.

He also blamed Elijah for the people and animals that were dying.

Elijah answered, "I haven't caused the trouble; *you* have. God is punishing you and the people for turning away from Him and worshiping the idol Baal. Now gather together the people of Israel and the prophets of Baal and bring them all to Mount Carmel. There we will see *Who* is God."

On Mount Carmel, Elijah watched as the prophets of Baal came. He lifted his hand and pointed. "You build an altar to *Baal* and put wood on the altar and a young bull on top of the wood. Call on your god *Baal*, and ask him to send fire for your altar. I will build an altar to *God* here. And I will call on the *God of Israel*. Then the One Who answers by sending fire, let Him be the true God." All the people agreed. They knew that this was really a contest to prove who the true God really was.

Card LLG 8**Baal cannot answer**

Elijah watched as the prophets of Baal built an altar and put the wood and the young



bull on top. Four hundred fifty prophets of Baal stood around their altar and prayed for Baal to send fire, but Baal couldn't hear because he wasn't real; he was only an idol that the people had made. The prophets of Baal begged and yelled and pleaded all morning, but nothing happened.

Elijah laughed and said, "Call louder. Maybe Baal is talking and can't hear you; or maybe he's asleep. Maybe he is away on a trip." Elijah knew that all their prayers could do nothing, because idols are not alive. The false prophets called louder, but still no fire came from Heaven.

Card LLG 9**Elijah prays to God**

Finally it was Elijah's turn. First, he built an altar with twelve stones. Next, he dug a ditch around the altar. After that, he put wood



on the altar and a young bull on top of the wood. Elijah wanted to be sure the people would see and know how great God's power was. He had men get four big barrels of water and pour them all over the altar. This soaked the altar, but to prove that there were no tricks, Elijah had the men pour four *more* barrels of water over all the wood and the meat! Then, they poured four *more* barrels of water, filling even the ditch around the altar with water! Twelve barrels of water!

This seemed very strange to the people. They all knew that wet things do not burn.

Elijah knew his God is all-powerful. He wanted the people to see and understand that the God of Heaven can do anything, even set water on fire.

Everything got quiet as the people waited and watched. Elijah looked up to Heaven and prayed, "Dear God, please let these people know that the God of Israel is the Lord, that He is the true, living God, and not Baal."

Card LLG 10**God sends fire**

Just as soon as Elijah finished praying, the fire of the Lord came down from Heaven. The fire burned up all



the meat. It burned up all the wood on the altar. It burned up all the stones of the altar. Then the flames even burned up the water that was in the ditch around the altar! God had answered Elijah's prayer right away. When the people saw this, they fell to the ground and said, "The Lord, He is God! He is all-powerful. We will follow Him the way we should."

Has your mother or father ever had you sit on a chair because you disobeyed? After a while maybe they said to you, "Are you ready to obey, or do you have to sit longer?" They want to know if you need more punishment or if you will obey.

Card LLG 11**God sends rain**

God's time of punishment for the people was over. And so Elijah prayed to God again. This time he prayed for God to send rain. After he finished praying he sent his servant toward the sea to look for rain clouds. The sky was bright blue, without a single cloud in it. The servant came back and told Elijah, "I don't see anything."

Elijah prayed again, and again he sent his servant to look for a cloud. Again his servant returned and said, "I don't see anything." Elijah

Lesson 4

kept praying. He prayed *five* more times; and each time he sent the servant to look for clouds. And each time the servant returned, he said, "I don't see anything." Elijah understood that sometimes God answers our prayers right away, as He did when He sent the fire, but at other times God wants us to wait for the answer.

The *seventh* time that Elijah prayed for rain, the servant went toward the sea. This time he hurried back and said, "I see a little



cloud rising out of the sea." God was sending rain! Soon, the wind began to blow and a great, mighty storm came, sending rain to the thirsty ground, animals, and people. God heard Elijah's prayer and He sent rain at just the right time.

Review Questions:

1. Why couldn't Baal answer the prayers of the prophets? *He wasn't the true God; he was just an idol made by men; he had no ears to hear their prayers.*
2. What happened when Elijah asked God to send fire? *God sent fire immediately.*
3. How many times did Elijah pray for rain? *seven times*

Lesson 4

Elijah Goes to Heaven

1 Kings 19:15–21; 2 Kings 2:1–15

Introduction

Do you ever get to help Mother in the kitchen when she is baking cookies? She is teaching you how to be a good cook so that you can bake for your family some day when you grow up. Elijah was a good messenger for God, and now it was time for Elijah to teach the next prophet. God told Elijah to go to Israel and find a man named Elisha. Elisha would be the next messenger giving God's words to the people after Elijah was gone.

Card LLG 12

God calls Elisha

When Elijah reached Israel, he found Elisha working in the fields. There were many

people who had obeyed God by not serving idols. Elisha was one of these people who loved God. When Elijah passed by Elisha he did not say a word. He just took off his own coat



and threw it over Elisha's shoulders. Elisha understood what this meant—Elijah was giving his prophet's job to him.

For the next ten years, Elisha helped Elijah and learned how to do the job of a prophet. During this time, there were many young men in Israel who followed

God by studying His Word and teaching the people. Elisha started schools for these followers. The young men were called "the sons of the prophets."

Elijah loved the people of Israel, especially the sons of the prophets. But by this time, he was getting old. He knew that he would soon go to be with God. Before he went to Heaven, though, Elijah wanted to visit the schools to see his students once again.

Elisha did not want to be left behind. He knew that this was the day God would take Elijah to Heaven, so Elisha told Elijah that he would stay by his side.

Card LLG 13 God parts the waters

The two men came to the edge of the Jordan River. How could they cross to the other side? Elijah knew that this was no problem for God because he had seen God do mighty miracles before.



Taking off his mantle-coat and rolling it up, Elijah hit the water of the Jordan River with it. Elisha watched as the waters slowly separated into two

parts. There in front of them was a dry path. God had worked a miracle, and now they could walk to the other side of the river. How exciting it is to see God's great power!

When they had crossed over safely, the waters of the Jordan River came back together, flowing as they had before. Then Elijah said to Elisha, "What would you like me to do for you before I go to Heaven?"

What would you say if someone asked you that?

Elisha did not ask for things. He asked for more of God's power because Elisha knew that he had a hard job to do. He would continue the work Elijah had started—showing the people of Israel how to obey God as they should. He knew he could not do this by himself. He

needed God's help. God was pleased that Elisha asked for this thing because this showed that he believed in God's power.

Elijah answered, "You have asked a hard thing, but you will have your request *if you are with me when I go to Heaven.*" After this, Elisha stayed even closer to Elijah as the two of them kept walking and talking together.

Card LLG 14

Elijah goes to Heaven in a chariot of fire

Suddenly, something wonderful happened. As Elijah and Elisha were walking along, they heard a roar and saw a bright light in the sky coming toward them. It looked like a chariot of



fire driven by horses of fire. A whirlwind lifted Elijah up into the chariot, and the great prophet was taken instantly to Heaven to be with God.

Elijah never had to die! The Bible tells us that there was only one other person who did not die—Enoch, in the book of Genesis. Both Enoch and Elijah had loved and obeyed God with all their hearts. And God gave them the privilege of going straight to Heaven without dying.

Elisha saw that as soon as the chariot of fire had taken Elijah, it disappeared. Elisha was sad, but he knew that God would be with him just as God had been with Elijah. And he realized that he would have even more of God's power, since he had seen Elijah go up into Heaven.

Elisha picked up Elijah's mantle that had fallen to the ground. Then he returned to the Jordan River. There, he took the coat and hit the waters, just as Elijah had done. He cried, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" In a moment, the waters parted for Elisha just as they had parted for Elijah, and he walked across the riverbed on dry ground.

The sons of the prophets saw Elisha as he struck the water, and they saw the mighty river part, but they had not seen Elijah go up in

Lesson 5

the fiery chariot. Elisha told them what had happened, and they knew that Elisha would be their new leader from that time on.

Elisha had faithfully served Elijah, obeying him and doing all he could to help him. God was getting Elisha ready to be His servant. By

obeying your parents and by learning to be a good helper, you are getting ready for the special job God has for you. Decide now to obey your parents so that you will obey God and serve Him when you are older.

Review Questions:

1. Who did God choose to be the next messenger after Elijah? *Elisha*
2. What did Elijah do when he found Elisha? *threw his mantle, or coat, over Elisha's shoulders*
3. How did Elijah go to Heaven? *He was caught up in a chariot of fire.*

Lesson 5 God's Invisible Army

2 Kings 6:8-23

Introduction

Have you ever been frightened by something much bigger than you? When we are afraid, we can remember the special promises in God's Word. Elisha, God's messenger, knew what to do when a powerful enemy came after him. Listen carefully, and you'll find out how God helped Elisha and His people.

Card LLG 15 The Syrians' scheme

Benhadad, the king of Syria, wanted to fight against Israel. So the king gathered all the important men who led his army, and they thought up a good battle plan together. The Syrians decided to hide in some of the narrow valleys so that when the army of Israel came through, they could surprise them with an attack. They were proud of their ideas and thought that surely they would surprise and defeat the people of Israel.

But God knew their plans. He told Elisha, the man of God, what the Syrians were getting ready to do. Right away, the prophet Elisha sent a message to the king of Israel, saying, "Look out! Do not take your army through this valley or along this road. Our enemies are hiding, and they are planning to attack you there. They want to destroy your army!"

When the king of Israel checked on the places that Elisha had warned him about, he found that it was true! The Syrians *were* hiding there, and his men would have been attacked if they had marched that way. This made the king of Syria very angry. "*How did the people of Israel find out about my trap?*" he wondered. King Benhadad thought one of his own men had been telling Israel their secret plans. He called his men together and asked them, "Which one of you has been warning the army of Israel to stay away from our hiding places?"

The men said, "None of us, sir! Elisha, the prophet of Israel, tells the king where we plan to attack. He knows the words you speak even when you are all alone! Elisha is ruining our attacks against Israel."

The king was surprised! He never thought that a prophet could keep his army from victory. Quickly, he ordered, "Go capture Elisha. Bring him back here to Syria. I won't let that prophet ruin *my* plans!"



One night, King Benhadad sent a large army with many horses and chariots to surround Elisha in the city of Dothan. Early the next morn-

ing, Elisha's young servant woke up and began his morning chores. As he looked out, he saw hundreds of horses, chariots, and soldiers. He realized, "Our enemies are all around us!"

The servant ran to Elisha and cried out, "What will we do? The whole city is surrounded by the Syrian army!"

But Elisha was not worried or afraid at all! He calmly said, "Don't be afraid. There are more with us than with them." He told his servant that God's army was bigger than the Syrian army.

Card LLG 16 God protects Elisha

Elisha's servant did not understand. All he could see was the huge enemy army surrounding them. What was Elisha talking about? Elisha could *see* something that was invisible to



everyone else—the Lord's army covering all the hills! He prayed, "O Lord, open my servant's eyes and let him see what I see."

God answered Elisha's prayer, and the servant could see the mountain covered with horses and chariots of

fire. Elisha was right. There were *many* more in God's fiery army than in the Syrian army. The Lord had put His *own guards* there to protect His servant Elisha! Even though the Syrians couldn't see the fiery chariots and horses, they had no power against God's army. There was no need to worry, because God had everything under control. The Syrian army began to march toward Elisha's house. And Elisha prayed, "Lord, cause *these* men to be blind." As Elisha had prayed for God to *open* his servant's eyes, now he prayed that God would *blind* his enemies' eyes. And God answered Elisha's prayer. All the Syrian soldiers immediately became blind. The soldiers were so confused and afraid that they did not know where to go or what to do. They didn't even know who Elisha was when he came to talk to them. Elisha told the Syrians, "Come with me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for."

The soldiers followed the sound of Elisha's voice as he led them right into Samaria, the capital city of Israel! After the enemy soldiers were all safe inside Samaria, Elisha prayed, "Lord, now open their eyes and let them see." The Lord took away the blindness of the Syrian soldiers, and they realized that instead of capturing Elisha, Elisha had captured them.

The Syrians probably wondered, "What will the people of Israel do to us now?" They were all afraid that they would die. They never imagined what would happen next.

When the king of Israel saw that his enemies had been captured, he wanted to destroy the Syrians, but Elisha said, "No. Give them food and drink and send them back safely to the land of Syria."

Elisha showed the Syrians God's power and His protection and that their mighty army was no match for God's army. After that, the Syrian army did not try to harm Elisha again. They knew that the power of God was too great. What a great, powerful God we serve! He protected Elisha with a big army of invisible horses and chariots. Have you prayed for God's help with your problems? He still wants to help us today if we will ask Him to.

Review Questions:

1. Who told Elisha about the traps of the Syrian army? *God*
2. What did Elisha's servant see when he awoke that morning? *the enemy army surrounding their city*
3. What did God send to protect His servant Elisha? *an invisible army of horses and chariots*
4. What unusual thing did Elisha tell the king of Israel to do when he had captured the Syrians? *Feed the Syrians and turn them loose.*

Lesson 6**Miracle at the Wedding***John 2:1-11***Card LLG 17****Jesus goes to a wedding**

The Bible tells us about a wedding that took place in the little town of Cana in Galilee. In Bible days, weddings were very different than they are today. When a couple got married, the wedding lasted a long time, sometimes even several days! The bride and the groom invited all of their family and friends to come celebrate their marriage and enjoy a big feast. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was there. And Jesus and His disciples were invited to attend. I imagine they had a good time talking with each other and visiting with their friends.



At first, everyone was enjoying the wedding feast. Just as you would have fun at a birthday party or a special celebration, the guests laughed and

talked and ate and drank for a long time. Jesus was enjoying the feast too. In the middle of all the excitement of the wedding feast, something very embarrassing happened. They ran out of wine! Can you imagine having a big party and running out of cake or ice cream before everyone had been served? That would be terrible!

The servants in charge of preparing the food and drink began to worry. What were they

going to do? The people were still eating—they were thirsty, and there was nothing to drink. Their master would be angry with them for not having enough wine to last the whole wedding feast.

Card LLG 18**There is no wine**

Then, Jesus' mother heard that there was nothing to drink. Right away, she went to tell Jesus. "Jesus, there is no wine for the people to drink. Can you help our friends?" Mary knew



that Jesus was not an ordinary Man. She knew that Jesus was God's Son and that He could do anything, even things that seemed impossible! Mary

trusted that Jesus would help them, so she told the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do." Jesus already knew about the problem because He is God. No one had to tell Him, for it is up to God to decide what we really need. In the Bible we read, "My God shall supply all your need." We may ask God to give us something or help us with something, but then we must trust that God will know whether

or not we should really have it and then be happy with His answer. It may be “*yes, that would be good for you*,” “*no, that would hurt you*,” or “*you need to wait a little longer*.” Whatever the answer, God’s answer is best.

Card LLG 19

Jesus turns water into wine

Jesus commanded the servants to fill up six big stone pots with water. The servants looked at the pots. They could have said, “Those pots were for washing the feet of the guests! If we tried to serve them water from these pots, they would become very angry!” or, “The wedding guests will



not want to drink water! They want the wine that they had earlier.”

But they did not do that. They just did what Jesus told them to do. It took

them a while to carry the water up to the house. They had to go to the well and back again and again to fill the pots, because each one held many gallons of water.

As soon as they were finished, they went to Jesus to see what they should do next. “Now,” said Jesus, “pour out some drink into a cup. Then take it to the man in charge of the wedding.” The servants knew the pots were full of water; they had filled them up themselves. But even though they didn’t understand why Jesus told them to pour out the water, they obeyed what Jesus told them. As they began to fill up the cup, they noticed something about the water. It looked different! It smelled different!

It was not water at all! Jesus had turned the water into wine.

Card LLG 20

The best is served last

The servants quickly took the cup to the man in charge of the wedding feast. When the man tasted his drink, he looked surprised. He asked the groom, “Where did you get such



good wine? When I have gone to other weddings, the people usually served the very best wine *first*. Then, after everyone was full, the hosts

poured out the wine that was not as good. But you have done it the opposite way. You have saved the very best wine for last!”

But the servants knew what had happened. They knew it was *Jesus* who had turned the water into wine. It was a miracle—the very first miracle Jesus let the people see. This was the first miracle Jesus did to show people that He is God. Only Jesus, the Son of God, could do miracles. Jesus did many more miracles while He lived here on Earth. He made deaf people hear, lame people walk, and blind people see.

It was not a difficult thing for Jesus to change that water into wine. He changes things all the time. Jesus can change us, too. Have you asked Him to help you control your temper or to tell the truth? You can ask Him to help you obey your parents and be a good worker. Jesus is ready and waiting to help you do what is right, if you will only ask for His help.

Review Questions:

1. Where were Jesus and His disciples invited? *to a wedding in Cana*
2. What happened at the wedding? *They ran out of wine.*
3. What did Jesus tell the servants to do? *Fill six water pots.*
4. Who turned that water into wine? *Jesus*

Lesson 7

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

John 2:13-17

Card LLG 21

Jesus goes to the Temple

After the wedding feast at Cana where Jesus turned the water into wine, Jesus went down to Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee. Here He taught many, healed some that were lame, and called Matthew the tax collector to be His disciple. Then Jesus made His yearly springtime trip to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration.



While Jesus was in Jerusalem, He went, as usual, to the Temple. The Temple at Jerusalem was the place where all the Jewish people came to

make sacrifices for their sins. If they lived in Nazareth, they had to travel to Jerusalem. If they lived in Cana or Capernaum, they still had to travel to Jerusalem. Everyone who came to offer sacrifices had to bring an animal offering. Those who were very rich were expected to bring a bull. Others could bring lambs or goats. Those who were very poor could bring a turtle-dove or a pigeon. Some of the people who traveled great distances to Jerusalem brought money to buy their animal offering in the marketplace when they got to Jerusalem.

Now, a marketplace in those days was a very busy, noisy, smelly place, especially if animals were being sold. It was filled with much commotion—people buying and selling. A marketplace was just the opposite of the quiet, beautiful, sacred Temple. But do you know what the religious leaders were doing? They were allowing the market people to come into the Temple area to sell their animals!

When Jesus walked into the Temple area and saw this, He was displeased—it looked like a sale at a cattle market! The court was filled with flocks of sheep, herds of oxen, and crates of pigeons. The cattle were dirty and noisy. The

merchants were shouting at their customers and cheating them by asking for more money than the animal was worth. It was a mess! In the midst of all the noise and barnyard sounds, the moneychangers traded behind tables stacked high with coins. For an extra price, they would trade the money of the people from other towns into the kind of money needed to give in the Temple. The Passover guests were being cheated by greedy, money-loving men who did not care about the Temple or worshiping God.

Card LLG 22

Jesus drives out the animals and overturns the money tables

All of this made Jesus very sad! This is not what should be happening to God's house or His people. So Jesus made a small whip from ropes He had twisted together and began



swinging it this way and that. He went through the court and drove out all the big animals who obeyed Him instantly. Then He turned over the money tables of the greedy moneychangers so that their coins scattered all over the floor. Next He went over to the men selling doves and pigeons and cried, "Take these things out of here! Don't make My Father's house a place of business. My house is a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

Everyone seemed to know that the Temple was a special place set aside to worship God. They must have sensed that Jesus had the right and the power to drive them out as He did. At Jesus' words they scattered and fled. He was the Lord of the Temple and was so sad to see it mistreated. Today we don't travel to a Temple once a year, but we do go to God's house each

week to learn about Him and to worship and sing praises to God. God wants us to be careful to show respect in His house, and to keep it a

special place of honor to Him. Can you think of other ways we can honor God in His house? (*Call on the children to name a few.*)

Review Questions:

1. Why were the people going to the Temple in Jerusalem? *to bring an animal offering to God*
2. What was happening in the Temple? *People were selling animals and changing money.*
3. Do those things belong in God's house? *no*
4. What did Jesus do about it? *He drove out the animals and turned over the money tables.*

Lesson 8

Lazarus, Come Forth

John 11:1-45

Card LLG 23

Lazarus is sick

Jesus had three special friends who lived in the town of Bethany—two sisters named Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus. Jesus liked to visit in their home and spend time talking with them. The sisters and brother believed that Jesus was God's Son. They knew that He was the Savior. Jesus spent many happy days with His friends in Bethany. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus looked forward to the times when Jesus came for a visit.



One day, Lazarus became very sick. As time passed Lazarus's sickness got worse. Mary and Martha were so worried about their brother

that they decided to send for Jesus. Because Jesus was their friend, they just knew He would come and make Lazarus well again. They called a servant and told him, "Quickly, go find Jesus.

Wherever He is, find Him and say, 'Lord, he whom Thou lovest is sick.'

The messenger found Jesus in Jerusalem, not far away. But when Jesus heard about Lazarus, He said, "Lazarus is sick for a reason. God will get glory from what will happen." And Jesus stayed right where He was for two more days instead of hurrying to Bethany.

Can't you imagine the two sisters watching for the Lord every moment, thinking that the message must have had time to reach Jesus? But hour after hour passed, and still Jesus did not come. Lazarus grew weaker and weaker, until finally he died.

In the sad days that followed, Mary and Martha and their friends prepared the body of Lazarus for burial, put the body in a cave, and rolled a heavy stone across the door of the cave. They may have thought, "This is very strange! Jesus hasn't come, and He hasn't sent us a message. Why didn't He hurry to save our brother?"

Lesson 8

Although Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, He stayed where He was and did not go to them right away. Jesus had a purpose and a plan that no one else understood. Then, after the two days, He said to His disciples, "Let's go to Judea. Our friend Lazarus has gone to sleep, but now I will go and waken him."

The disciples looked at Jesus and said, "Well, if he is asleep, won't that help him to feel better?"

Jesus knew that his disciples did not understand, so He told them plainly what had happened. "Lazarus is dead. But for your sakes, I am glad that we weren't there. Now you will see something that will help you believe in Me."

Card LLG 24

Jesus goes to Bethany

When they were almost to the town of Bethany, Martha ran to meet Jesus, leaving Mary waiting at home. When she saw Jesus,

she said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. But even now, I know that whatever you ask God to do, He will do it."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again. All those who believe in me, though they were dead, they will live! Do you believe this, Martha?"

Martha believed that God could do anything, but she didn't understand what Jesus was saying. And so Martha answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe You are the Son of God, the One we have waited for so long." She was saying, "I believe whatever You say."

Then Martha went to tell Mary that Jesus had come. Mary went to Jesus and fell down at His feet. She told Jesus the same thing that Martha had said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would still be alive." Mary was crying. She was so sad. Jesus was sad, too, and He cried along with Mary because Jesus has great love and compassion for people!



Card LLG 25

Jesus goes to Lazarus's tomb



Mary and Martha took Jesus to the tomb where Lazarus had been buried. The tomb was a cave with a big rock in front of it. Many people

were standing around the tomb, crying because their friend Lazarus was dead.

"Take away the stone!" Jesus told some of the men.

"What?" they nearly shouted. "We can't do that!"

"But Lord," Martha said, "he has been dead four days."

Then Jesus told Martha, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God glorified?" So they rolled away the stone. Jesus lifted up His eyes to God the Father in Heaven and prayed, "Thank you for always hearing Me. Help these people to believe that You are the One who has sent Me."

Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" Everyone's eyes were on the door to the tomb. As soon as Jesus had spoken, there was a rustling sound inside! Someone was moving about! Surely, it could not be—but it was!

Card LLG 26

Lazarus is raised to life



Lazarus came walking out of the tomb! HE WAS ALIVE! Jesus had made a dead man come back to life! Just think—that same voice of power

will someday be heard, and all the dead in Christ will be raised to life again.

I imagine Lazarus threw his arms around Mary and Martha and then hugged his old friends. Of course, he thanked Jesus over and

over for this great miracle. Jesus had turned tears of sorrow into smiles of joy.

That day, many people who saw this miracle believed that Jesus was God's Son. What a

happy day it was for Mary and Martha! Jesus had given their brother back to them! Truly, Jesus was the Son of God, for only God could do such a glorious thing.

Review Questions:

1. Name Jesus' three friends from Bethany. *Mary, Martha, and Lazarus*
2. Who did the sisters call for when their brother was sick? *Jesus*
3. Why did Jesus wait until Lazarus had died to come and help?
because He wanted to help His disciples believe in Him

Lesson 9

Tax from a Fish's Mouth

Matthew 17:24-27

Introduction

Many times when you buy something in a store, you pay taxes on it. The tax money goes to the city or state or country or rulers to pay for roads and armies and other things. People have been paying taxes for a long time. Even when Jesus lived on Earth, people had to pay taxes. One special tax was for all the Jews to pay.

Card LLG 27

Tax collectors ask for the tax

One day Jesus and His disciples went to the city of Capernaum, which was beside the Sea of Galilee. Some men who collected taxes from the people came to one of Jesus' disciples, Peter.

The tax collectors asked him, "Doesn't your teacher pay taxes?"

"Yes," Peter answered. "We pay taxes."

Peter went to the house where Jesus was. Before Peter could say a word about the tax collectors, Jesus began

to talk to Peter about taxes. Jesus already knew who had been talking to Peter! Since Jesus is God, He knows everything that is going on!

Card LLG 28 **Jesus pays taxes**

"We will pay our taxes," Jesus told Peter. "Go to the Sea of Galilee and throw out your fishing line. Take the very first fish you catch and open its mouth. You will find a coin in the fish's mouth. It will be enough to pay our taxes."

That is a strange place to look for money—in a fish's mouth! Peter, as a fisherman, had seen a lot of fish, but he probably had never seen one with a coin in its mouth. Do you suppose Peter obeyed Jesus? Do you think he

found a fish with a coin in its mouth just as Jesus had said? Yes, he did.

Why did Jesus pay taxes? He wanted to teach His



Lesson 10

followers an important lesson. We should obey those who are in charge of us. We should obey our parents by doing what they tell us to do: we pick up toys and come when we are called. We should obey our teacher by doing what she

says: we play nicely together and are quiet when she wants us to be quiet. We should also obey the rulers of our country. Jesus used a fish and a coin to teach the important lesson that God wants us to obey all who are over us.

Review Questions:

1. Who came to Peter looking for money? *the tax collectors*
2. What did Jesus tell Peter to do? *go fishing*
3. Where did Peter find a coin to pay the taxes? *in a fish's mouth*

Lesson 10 Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

Introduction

In the town of Capernaum, four men hurried down the street carrying something very heavy. These men had heard that Jesus was in town, and they had a very important reason to see Him.

Card LLG 29 **Four friends carry a sick man**

The four men, in such a hurry to see Jesus, were carrying a friend—a man who couldn't



stand up or couldn't walk. He wasn't able to work or to feed himself. He was helpless. All he could do was lie on his mat day after day, while others

waited on him and carried him places. He had no hope of ever walking or moving about.

But this poor, helpless man had four wonderful friends who believed Jesus could heal him. They ran to him and excitedly said, "Jesus, the great Healer, is in town, and you've got to see Him. He can heal you; we're sure of that!"

The helpless man said, "You know that's impossible—I can't get to see Jesus; I can't even walk to get there. Oh, I wish there were some way I could get to Jesus."

The four friends talked it over and determined that somehow they would take the sick man to see Jesus. One of them said, "I have an idea."

"What is it?" the other three asked.

"All four of us are strong and healthy; we can pick up our friend and carry him on his bed to Jesus. We'll put him down right at the feet of Jesus."

The four men agreed and were excited to take their crippled friend to Jesus. So the four friends carried him to the house where Jesus was teaching.

Card LLG 30 **They climb onto the roof**

When the four friends arrived at the house where Jesus was teaching, they saw that the house was completely filled with people. And the yard was full of people. Those who couldn't get inside the house were outside in the yard.

How would they ever get their friend in to see Jesus? They asked some people, "Will you please let us by so we can get our crippled friend to Jesus?" But nobody wanted to move over to let them by.

"Don't worry," the four men said to their friend. "We have another plan! We are not giving up!"

On the outside of the house were steps leading up to the flat roof. The four friends picked up the crippled man in his bed and

carried him right up the stairs and onto the flat roof of the house.

Card LLG 31

They let the man down through the roof

Up on the roof, they set down their crippled friend. Then they stooped down on their knees and began lifting out the tiles of the roof. First they made a small hole in the roof, then a large

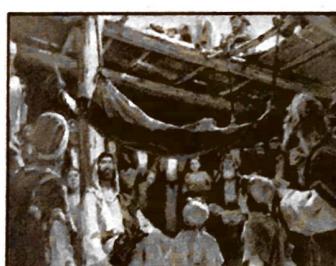
hole; and finally the hole was big enough to lower the crippled man and his bed right down into the house. They tied ropes to each corner of the

crippled man's bed, slowly letting him down right in front of Jesus.

Card LLG 32

Jesus heals the paralyzed man

Jesus knew that the crippled man and his four friends believed in Him. Jesus saw their



faith and forgave the crippled man from all his sin because that is what he needed most.

Then Jesus said, "Rise, take up your bed, and walk!" Immediately the crippled man's body gained strength, and he felt strong enough to get up and walk.



The people standing around were amazed that Jesus could heal the crippled man. Many of them believed that Jesus is God. And they also admired the four friends who were determined to get their friend to Jesus.

Card LLG 33

The man walks away

The crippled man jumped up; his legs and body were healed. He rolled up the mat he used for a bed, putting it under his arm. He pushed



his way through the crowd to join his four friends. That day he went home healed and forgiven. The people did not know what to think. Some were afraid, and all were amazed! Many praised God for what they had seen that day! They said to each other, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

The four men who showed their friendship to the crippled man were overjoyed with thanksgiving. They were so glad they had brought their friend to Jesus. Do you have friends who need to know about Jesus? You can tell them about Jesus, so He can be their Friend, too.

Review Questions:

1. Who took the crippled man to Jesus? *four of his friends*
2. How did the friends get the crippled man to Jesus? *They carried him.*
3. What did Jesus do for the crippled man? *Jesus forgave him and healed him.*

Lesson 11

Jesus Loves the Children

Matt. 19:13–15; Mark 10:13–16; Luke 18:15–17

Introduction

Do you know who Jesus is? He is God, God the Son. Jesus made all the world and everything in it.

A long time ago Jesus came from Heaven to live here on Earth. He taught people about God and God's love for all people. Jesus had some special friends who listened to Him and believed what He said. These special friends were called disciples.

Jesus and His disciples went to different towns to tell people about God. The people of the towns liked to listen to Jesus talk. They had never heard anyone like Him! Sometimes Jesus did wonderful miracles like making sick people well. The people who saw these wonderful things began to understand that Jesus was not just a Man like other men.

If you had lived when Jesus lived, would you have wanted to see Jesus? Would you have asked your father or mother to take you to see Jesus? That would have been wonderful, wouldn't it?

Card LLG 34

Jesus and the children

Well, there were some fathers and mothers who decided to take their children to Jesus. They wanted their children to see Jesus, and they wanted Jesus to pray for their children.

When the parents and children arrived, Jesus was busy teaching. The disciples looked at the children and said, "Jesus is busy teaching important things. He does not have time to bother with children."

Oh, how unhappy those parents and children must have been! They had wanted so badly to see Jesus and talk with Him. They started to turn away after they heard what the disciples said.

But Jesus heard the disciples, too. Jesus did not think the children were a bother. He was not too busy to talk with the children.



Jesus said to His disciples, "Don't stop the children. Let them come to Me."

He spoke kindly to the children. He also tried to help His disciples understand something very important.

"These children trust Me and love Me," He explained. "That is how all people must come to Me—they must trust Me just the way these children do."

Card LLG 35

Jesus loves children

Jesus took some of the younger children and held them in His arms. Can you imagine what it would be like to sit on Jesus' lap and have Him smile at you and talk to you? Those children that day had a wonderful time talking to Jesus. Jesus loved them very much.

Jesus loves you very much, too. You are important to Jesus. He knows all about you.



He knows where you are, no matter where you go. He knows if you are at school or at Grandma's house, when you are sleeping in bed or playing outside. He is never too busy for you. He always has time to listen to your prayer.

Review Questions:

1. Was Jesus happy when the disciples sent the children away? *No, Jesus was unhappy.*
2. What did Jesus say to the disciples? "*Let the children come to Me.*"
3. Is Jesus too busy for you? *No, He always has time for me.*

Lesson 12 Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Luke 17:11-19

Introduction

Who can do a miracle? Only God can. A miracle is something special, such as making a sick person well with only a touch or a word. When Jesus lived on Earth, He did many miracles to show people that He is God the Son, the One God had promised to send.

Card LLG 36 **Jesus heals ten lepers**



One day Jesus walked by a small village. Suddenly a group of men called out to Him. These men had a terrible disease called leprosy.

Leprosy was a sickness that caused a person to get big sores all over his skin. People who had leprosy were called lepers. In Bible times, God made a law that when a person got leprosy, he had to live with other lepers. He could not stay at home, because other people in his family might catch the disease of leprosy.

The ten men who called to Jesus were lepers. They had heard of Jesus. The men knew Jesus could heal sick people. They hoped Jesus might heal them, too.

"Jesus, help us!" they cried.

When Jesus saw them, He said to them, "Go show yourself to the priests."

In that day, when a person had leprosy and then got well, he had to go see the priest before he could go back home to live with his family. The priest would say whether the leprosy was all gone or not.

When Jesus told the men to go show themselves to the priest, they ran off to see the priest. Because they believed Jesus, He healed them as they were running to see the priest. As they ran, they looked down and saw that their skin was clear and healthy again. They were well! Jesus had made them well!

Card LLG 37 **One leper gives thanks**

One of the lepers, seeing that he was well, suddenly stopped. He wanted to go to the priest so that he could be allowed to go back



home, but first he turned and ran back to Jesus. The man fell on the ground in front of Jesus and began thanking Jesus for making him well.

Jesus said to the man, "Weren't there ten lepers whom I healed? Where are the other nine? Are you the only one who has come back to praise God for making him well?"

Lesson 13

Of course, Jesus knew the answers to these questions. He asked these questions to teach the people who were with Him.

The lesson was this: When God does something for us, we need to be sure to thank Him. We need to tell Him how happy we are for what He has done.

Does it make you feel good when someone thanks you for what you have done for them?

Yes, everyone likes to hear, "Thank you!" from other people. You can make your parents and brothers and sisters and your pastor and even your teachers happy when you say "thank you" for the things they do for you. God is pleased when we say "thank you" to each other and to Him. Can you think of something you can thank God for today? Let's thank Him right now.

Review Questions:

1. What disease did the men have? *leprosy*
2. Who did the men ask to help them? *Jesus*
3. Who did Jesus tell them to go see? *the priest*
4. How many men were healed of leprosy? *ten*
5. How many came back to thank Jesus? *one*

Lesson 13 Peter Is Free

Acts 12:1-17

Introduction

Peter learned an important lesson about trusting God the night he walked to Jesus on the water. Many years later Peter learned another important lesson about trusting God.

Card LLG 38

Peter is in prison

Jesus had gone back to Heaven to live with God the Father. Peter and the other disciples were going many places to tell people about Jesus. Some people were glad to hear and trust Jesus. Some people did not love God, and they did not want to hear about Jesus or how they could go to Heaven.

They did not love God nor want anyone preaching about Jesus. Some of these who did not love Jesus had Peter put into prison.



Peter's friends found out that he was in prison. How sad they were. They knew what to do to help Peter. They would ask God to help Peter get out of prison. They went to one of their homes and began to pray that God would keep Peter safe and send him back to them.

Card LLG 39

God sends an angel

God heard their prayers. He sent an angel to Peter's prison. Peter was sound asleep; he knew God would take care of him.



The angel woke Peter up. "Get up," said the angel. The chains that were locked around Peter's ankles fell right off when he

stood up. The angel told Peter to put on his coat and shoes and follow him.

Peter quickly dressed and followed the angel right past the guards who had been told to watch him.

All the time Peter did not really know what was going on; he thought he was having a dream. He followed the angel right out through the gate! They walked down the street, and suddenly the angel disappeared.

Peter then knew this was not a dream; what was happening to him was real! God had sent His angel to rescue him from prison.

Card LLG 40

Peter is free

Peter hurried off to Mary's house and knocked at the door. Inside the house, the people who loved Jesus were praying for Peter. Peter kept knocking. A young girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. Rhoda knew who Peter was. She had heard him tell about



Jesus. Rhoda was so excited to hear Peter's voice that she did not even open the door! She ran to tell the people, "Peter is at the door! Peter is at the door!"

"How can that be?" they said. They were certain that Rhoda was hearing things.

"He's here, he's here," Rhoda kept telling them. "I really heard his voice; he is at the door. We prayed that God would take care of him and set him free, and God has answered our prayers. Come! Come! Come with me and see."

They followed Rhoda to the door, and sure enough there was Peter still standing there knocking. They opened the door. When they saw Peter, they were really surprised.

Peter told them to be quiet; when all his friends were inside, Peter told them what had happened to him that night, how God had taken care of him and sent the angel to set him free.

Peter's friends loved and cared for him and asked God to set him free from prison. And God answered their prayer and set Peter free. Our God can do anything. He is a wonderful God.

Review Questions:

1. Who was in prison? *Peter*
2. What were Peter's friends doing? *praying*
3. Who freed Peter from prison? *an angel sent from God*
4. Who answered the door when Peter knocked? *Rhoda*