



## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Is Powerful

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Kings 6

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Joshua 1:9

Maybe it's one too many viewings of *It's a Wonderful Life*, featuring George Bailey and his bumbling spiritual sidekick, Angel Second Class Clarence Odbody. Or perhaps it's the alarming number of baby-faced Precious Moments angel figurines that filled our grandparents' china cabinets. Or maybe it's just because we humans are so dependent on our sense of sight. Whatever the case, our understanding of angels is often skewed.

That's why 2 Kings 6 is such an eye-opener ... literally.

When Elisha's servant despaired at the sight of a besieging Aramean army, Elisha prayed, "Lord, open my servant's eyes so that he can see." Suddenly, Elisha's servant could see beyond the physical veil, and he saw innumerable "horses and chariots made of fire" on the nearby hills (2 Kings 6:17). God's awesome power—both concealed and revealed—won a mighty victory for Israel that day.

2 Kings 6 gives us a tiny glimpse into an unseen spiritual realm that we struggle to comprehend. But it's very real, and it's entirely within God's sovereign control.

God is powerful, with countless legions of angels at His command (Matthew 26:53, Revelation 5:11–12). Yet this same infinitely powerful God loves you dearly, and His omnipotence will bring about His perfect plan for your life, sometimes in ways you can see and sometimes in ways you can't. That's an encouraging thought!

*Lord, open our eyes that we might see. Help us perceive beyond the physical with greater clarity to understand what You're accomplishing in our lives and in Your kingdom.*

—Josh Cooley

Children's Minister and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS  
ELISHA AND THE ANGEL ARMY

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

**WHO?**

Elisha left the security of his wealthy farming family to serve Elijah the prophet. Elijah opposed the worship of the false god Baal in the northern kingdom of Israel. After Elijah was taken up to heaven, God equipped Elisha as Elijah's prophetic successor.

**WHAT?**

In order to stop Elisha the prophet, the army of Aram surrounded him and his servant at the city of Dothan. Elisha's servant was terrified, but God revealed His angel army to the servant and blinded the army of Aram. Elisha then led the enemy army to Samaria, where they were outnumbered.

**WHERE?**

Dothan was a major city in the northern kingdom of Israel, a few miles north of the capital city of Samaria. The army of Aram's presence there shows how vulnerable Israel had become to attack. Aram was centered on Damascus, to the north and east of Israel.

**WHEN?**

[Second Kings 6](#) comes shortly after the Aramean commander Naaman went to Elisha for healing. Now Aram is back at war with Israel, highlighting the volatile nature of their relationship, which cycled between a fragile truce and all-out war.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

The appearance of the angel army illustrates that things are not always as they seem. Though Elisha was surrounded, God was in control. Similarly, Jesus' death on the cross looked like a sure defeat, but through it, Jesus broke the power of sin and death.



## Curiosity

### LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.*

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#### Activity: Hidden Toy Soldiers

**SUPPLIES:** large bin, shredded paper, small toy soldiers (5), scooping tools (optional)

Fill a large, shallow bin with shredded paper. Hide five small toy soldiers in the bin for kids to find. You can include scooping tools for kids to play in the bin.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome! I'm so happy you're here. Come see what we have today! See if you can find something hidden in the bin.**

Encourage kids to find the hidden toy soldiers and play in the bin. After a kid finds a toy soldier, ask her to hide it in the shredded paper again.

**Today we'll hear a story about a time when God showed His power through an angel army.**



## Belief

### LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.*

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#### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, Your power is big enough to create the sun, moon, and stars. You're powerful, and You love and know each one of us. You even know how many hairs are on our heads! Draw us closer to You today through Your Holy Spirit. Help us hear from You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

#### God's Big Story

**Note to leaders:** This story is not in any of our picture Bibles. You can use the verses and/or script included below.

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

**Tell the Bible story**

Elisha and the Angel Army

2 Kings 6:8-17

**8** The king of Aram was at war with Israel. He talked things over with his officers. Then he said, "I'm going to set up my camp in a certain place."

**9** Elisha, the man of God, sent a message to the king of Israel. Elisha said, "Try to stay away from that

## 9:00 Service

place. Aram's army is going to be down there." **10** The king of Israel checked on the place the man of God had told him about. Time after time Elisha warned the king. So the king was on guard in those places.

**11** All of that made the king of Aram very angry. He sent for his officers. He said to them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

**12** "You are my king and master," said one of his officers. "None of us is on Israel's side. But Elisha is a prophet in Israel. He tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in your own bedroom."

**13** "Go and find out where he is," the king ordered. "Then I can send my men and capture him." The report came back. The officers said, "He's in Dothan." **14** Then the king sent horses and chariots and a strong army there. They went at night and surrounded the city.

**15** The servant of the man of God got up the next morning. He went out early. He saw that an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my master!" the servant said. "What can we do?"

**16** "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

**17** Elisha prayed, "LORD, open my servant's eyes so that he can see." Then the LORD opened his eyes. Elisha's servant looked up and saw the hills. He saw that Elisha was surrounded by horses and chariots made of fire.

### Script:

**Our part of God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Elisha.**

Encourage the kids to say, "Elisha." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Elisha!**

**Elisha was a prophet who spoke God's messages to the Israelites. Israel was fighting in a war against Aram. The king of Aram made secret plans to fight Israel. The king told his army officers where to go and where to sleep.** Point to a spot across the room. Encourage the kids to do the same.

**But God heard all the king's plans! God is everywhere and hears everything. God told Elisha where Aram's army would be. Then Elisha told the king of Israel.** Place one hand to the side of your mouth and whisper, "Pssst." Have kids do the same.

**This made the king of Aram upset! He sent an army to where Elisha lived to capture him!** Pretend to be grumpy. Have kids do the same.

**The enemy army came to capture Elisha. Elisha's servant saw a big army with soldiers and horses coming for them. He was scared!** Pretend to be scared. Have kids do the same.

**"Don't be afraid!" Elisha said. Elisha prayed for God to open his servant's eyes. The servant looked up and was surprised.** Pretend to be surprised. Have kids do the same.

**The hills were covered with a huge army of angels and chariots of fire! Aram's army looked small now! When Elisha's servant saw the angel army, he knew God is powerful. Elisha was not defeated by the enemy army! Elisha prayed for God to make them blind, then he led the enemy army to**

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some food, let them eat, and sent them away.

### Word of Wonder

#### WORD OF WONDER

**Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. God  
will be with you wherever you go.**

—from Joshua 1:9

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BE STRONG AND BRAVE.**—*Flex both arms.*
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID.**—*Shake head.*
- **GOD WILL BE WITH YOU**—*Point up.*
- **WHEREVER YOU GO.**—*Walk in place.*
- **FROM JOSHUA 1:9**—*Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **We can only be in one place at a time. How can God be with us wherever we go?**
- **What are some places you go every week?** Allow the kids to respond. **God is with you in all those places!**



## Identity

### LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.*

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#### Power Poses

In today's part of God's big story, we learned God is powerful. Let's say it together: **God is powerful!** Have kids repeat the phrase with you. **Flex your arms!** Flex your arms and repeat, "God is powerful," and encourage the kids to mimic you.

Continue to repeat the Wonder Truth, then call out and model different poses each time: hands on hips, arms up like a superhero, march in place.

#### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His power and for always being with us.

**Great God, thank You for always being strong! When we're afraid, help us remember You are with us. You are more powerful than the strongest person we know, and You know and love us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May our all-powerful God guide and protect you this week. May you walk with Him today and all the days of your life.