



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.

Second 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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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: large cardboard boxes (1-3), scarves or ribbons (2 per box), markers, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Chariot Picture](#), [Elisha and the Angel Army Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: **Decorate Chariots**

Set-up: Set out cardboard boxes, scarves (or ribbons), and markers. Print and display the [Chariot Picture](#).

Play: Have kids create a chariot using a cardboard box, markers, and scarves. They can look at the [Chariot Picture](#) to see an example of a chariot. Encourage kids to pretend to be the driver and horse. If kids don't know what a chariot is, explain that it's a cart pulled by horses that was often used in battle.





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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 place. Aram's army is going to be down there." ¹⁰ The king of Israel checked on the place the man of

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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:

Elisha was a prophet who spoke God’s messages to the Israelites. The Israelites were fighting Aram in a war! The king of Aram planned an attack on Israel. The king told his army officers what to do—where to send troops and set up camp.

But the king didn’t know that God heard his plans! God is everywhere and hears everything. God told Elisha where Aram’s army would be. Then Elisha warned the king of Israel.

This made the king of Aram upset! How did the king of Israel always know what he was doing? Maybe an officer told their secrets to their enemy, the Israelites!

But an officer told the king how Elisha talked with God. That’s how Israel knew their plans! The king of Aram made a new plan. He sent an army to capture Elisha! Do you think God heard this plan? Let kids answer. Yes! God heard. So the enemy army went to where Elisha was and prepared to capture him.

Elisha’s servant saw the enemy army with soldiers and horses outside and got scared. “Oh no!” the servant cried. “What can we do?”

“Don’t be afraid!” Elisha said. “There are more people with us than there are with them.” What did that mean? They didn’t have anyone else with them ... (Fold your hands as if praying and encourage the kids to do the same.)

Elisha prayed for God to open his servant’s eyes. The servant looked up and was surprised! The hills were covered with troops of angels, horses, and chariots of fire! The angel army was huge! Aram’s army looked small now!

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Elisha prayed for God to make the soldiers of Aram blind. And God did it. He can do anything! The soldiers were surprised and confused!

Elisha led the soldiers away from the city, and God opened their eyes. Elisha fed the soldiers a meal, and they returned back to Aram. The king of Aram stopped attacking Israel. Perhaps he figured out what Elisha's servant realized when he saw the angel army: God is powerful.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who was telling the Israelites the plans of king of Aram? (*God told Elisha*)

How do you think God knew the king of Aram's plans? What does this tell us about God?

Why do you think Elisha's servant was afraid when he saw the enemy soldiers?

Why do you think Elisha wasn't scared? (*Elisha knew that God was more powerful!*)

How would you describe a chariot? Tell a friend sitting next to you what you think it is.

What is something you're scared of? What's scary about it?

Share about a time when you were brave or strong. Why do you think you were brave or strong?

How does knowing God is always with you help when you're afraid?

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!**



Faith

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

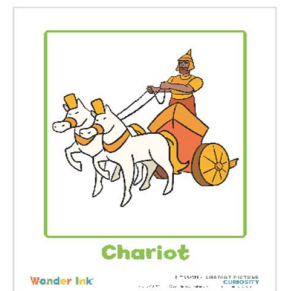
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Craft: Make Your Own Chariot

SUPPLIES: paper cup cut to resemble a chariot, 2 circles, 2 brads, and 1 piece of string per kid



Today we learned about God's power when we heard about how He sent an angel army with chariots of fire. Remember, chariots are carts pulled by horses. God gave His people a victory, and they escaped the army from Aram. Chariots were used in battle and were big and powerful. God showed His power by defeating an army with 900 chariots. Hold up the [Chariot Picture](#) to show a picture of a chariot. Elisha and his servant saw how powerful God is, and God is still showing His power today! You can take your chariot craft home to help you remember that God is powerful and that you don't need to be afraid.

Show kids how to poke holes in the sides of their cups with a pen or thumbtack, and thread the ends of their string through each hole. They can use small pieces of tape to attach the strings to the insides of their cups, which will be the "reins" for the chariot. Next, let them decorate their small circles to look like wheels for their chariots. Once they are finished decorating the cups, kids can use the brass brads to attach the wheels on either side of their cups. Kids can then decorate their chariot cups.





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.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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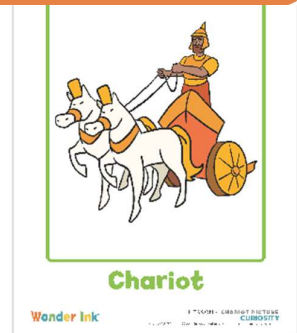
WORD OF WONDER: From Joshua 1:9

Closing Game: Hidden Chariots

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Chariot Picture](#) (several copies)

Today we learned that God is powerful even if we can't always see Him working or see His power or presence with our eyes. In the story, Elisha's servant couldn't see the chariots of fire at first, but God allowed his eyes to be opened so he could see them. Let's play a game where we will find the hidden chariots around the room. Just like Elisha's servant in the story, we can't see them right now. But as we look, we'll see them! Even when we can't see everything, God always does!

Allow the kids to look for the chariots. Hide the chariots again as time allows.



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

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today and all the days of your life.