

LESSON 6: GOD SURROUNDS ELISHA WITH AN ARMY

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 2 Kings 6:8-23

01/12/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: 2 Kings 6:8-23
- In This Passage: God has been showing the prophet Elisha secret battle plans from the enemy country of Aram. The king of Aram is mad and sends a great army to surround Elisha and his servant. But Elisha can see another army all around them—God’s army. God opens the eyes of Elisha’s servant to see the army, too. God is everywhere, so we look for him around us.
- Bible Point: God is everywhere...
- Application: ...so we look for him around us.
- Summary Verse: “For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?” (Isaiah 43:19).

Dig Deeper

- You’ll Be Teaching: *God is everywhere*. Younger kids have an easier time believing in what they can’t see. If you tell them it’s true, then it’s true. Older kids are more skeptical, seeking tangible evidence that what you say is factual. Either way, kids need to know that although we may not be able to physically see God with us, his fingerprints are everywhere! If we’re intentional about opening our eyes, we’ll see him everywhere.
- Think About: What evidence of God have you seen in unexpected places?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray the prayer Elisha prayed in 2 Kings 6:17 for your kids: O Lord, open their eyes and let them see!

Quick Tip

- Be sure to read and study this passage ahead of time. Most leaders (and kids) are not as familiar with this story, and you may be pretty amazed to read the details! If you know the passage well, you’ll be better prepared to answer the questions your kids ask. The extra time you take to prepare will make all the difference.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids act out the Bible story in surprising ways and talk about worries.

Supplies

- Bible
- bulletin board paper
- white or clear glow-in-the-dark paint
- paper (1 sheet per child)
- crayons
- small snacks (1 per child)
- black plastic (optional)

Easy Prep

- Hang bulletin board paper all the way around your meeting area, if possible. Use the glow-in-the dark paint to draw large stick-figure soldiers and horses on the bulletin board paper. You might even draw simple carriages. If necessary, cover windows with black plastic so the glow-in-the-dark paint will show up when you turn out the lights.
- Fold each sheet of paper in half.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids look for beads and build wristbands.

Supplies

- pony beads in various colors (about 15 per child) (make sure you have plenty of colors boys won't mind wearing, such as orange, brown, black, blue, green, red, and white)
- chenille wires (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place the beads all over the room in somewhat hidden locations so kids will have to search for them. Also place some in plain sight but out of the way of your other activities.



CRAFT

Kids make tinted binoculars.

Supplies

- paper towel tubes (1 per child)
- 6x6-inch squares of cellophane in various colors (2 per child)
- rubber bands (2 per child)
- transparent tape
- colorful duct tape
- stapler
- washable markers
- stickers (2-3 per child)

Easy Prep

- Cut paper towel tubes in half. Each child will need 2 halves.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play with bubbles that are surrounding them.

Supplies

- bottles of bubbles with bubble wands (1 per adult)

- or teen helper)
- upbeat music
- music player



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray after they see the glow-in-the-dark army surrounding them.

Supplies

- glow-in-the-dark army you prepared for the Core Bible Discovery activity



OBJECT LESSON

Kids peel and smell clementines.

Supplies

- clementines (1 per child)
- paper plates (1 per child)
- wet wipes or hand sanitizer

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids give a foot-five (a high-five with a foot) to two friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids give the birthday child a fist bump with fireworks. (Don't know what this means? Ask your kids!)
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll find out God is everywhere. We can look for him all around us because he's with us everywhere we go. He's at home with us, and he's with us when we're at church. He's at the park and the store and at our friends' houses. Today we'll read about how God was with his friends, and he sent some angels to surround and protect them. Let's think about things we'd like to be surrounded by.**

Share

- Share about something *you'd* like to be surrounded by. You might say you'd like to be surrounded by friends or family, bubbles, water, or even chocolate.
- In small groups, have kids share what *they'd* like to be surrounded by. They might say they'd like to be surrounded by toys, puppies, or their families.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **It could be interesting to be surrounded by any of those things. But the very best thing to be surrounded by is God's love! God is everywhere, so we can be sure he's all around us. As we become closer and closer friends with God, it helps us see him everywhere we go.**

Pray, thanking God for being everywhere.

**God Surrounds Elisha With an Army (2 Kings 6:8-23)**

Supplies

- Bible
- bulletin board paper
- white or clear glow-in-the-dark paint
- paper (1 sheet per child)
- crayons
- small snacks (1 per child)
- black plastic (optional)

Easy Prep

- Hang bulletin board paper all the way around your meeting area, if possible. Use the glow-in-the dark paint to draw large stick-figure soldiers and horses on the bulletin board paper. You might even draw simple carriages. If necessary, cover windows with black plastic so the glow-in-the-dark paint will show up when you turn out the lights.
- Fold each sheet of paper in half.

Make the Enemy Army

Say: **Today we'll find out that God is everywhere. Let's see what the Bible has to say about that.** Open the Bible. **The Bible says God's friends the Israelites were at war with some other people called the Arameans (AER-uh-MEE-anz). The Aramean king kept making plans to hurt the Israelites. The Aramean king would say, "Let's take our army to this place." But God always heard the plans and told Elisha, who told the Israelites, and they stayed safe. That's because God is everywhere.**

Let's draw some pictures and pretend they're the Aramean army. Give kids each a folded sheet of paper, and have each child draw a soldier on the paper so the soldier will be right-side up when the folded paper is standing like a tent.

Say: **The Bible says the Aramean king would plan to send his army to one place.** Lead kids to gather in a new area in the room and stand up their soldiers. **But God would tell his friend Elisha the Aramean king's plans, and Elisha would tell the Israelites to stay away from that place.**

Then the Aramean king would plan to send his army to another place. Lead kids to gather in a different area in the room and stand up their soldiers there. **But God would tell Elisha, and Elisha would make sure the Israelites didn't go there.**

Then the Aramean king would make *another* plan. Lead kids to gather in a third area and stand up their soldiers there. **But God is everywhere, so God always knew the Arameans' plans. Finally, the Aramean king became very upset. He said, "Who's telling the Israelites all my plans?!" His people told him, "It's God's friend Elisha. He knows the things you say, even things you say in your own bedroom!"**

Get Surrounded

Say: **The Aramean king told his people to go find Elisha and capture him. So they found out where Elisha was staying.** Lead kids to a new area, and collect their soldiers. **One night Elisha went to sleep, and something happened.** Have kids lie down and pretend to sleep. Have them close their eyes as you count to 20. Quickly set up the soldiers so they're surrounding the kids. Draw out the counting so you reach 20 after you've set up all the soldiers.

Have the kids "wake up" and sit. Say: **The Aramean army surrounded the city where Elisha slept. When his friend woke up and went outside, he saw that the army was surrounding them. He was so scared because there were soldiers, horses, and carriages.** Point out the soldiers surrounding the kids.

Say: **The friend went to tell Elisha right away. But Elisha told him, "Don't be afraid! We have a bigger army than they do. God's on our side, and God is everywhere!" Elisha prayed that God would show his friend that God's army was even bigger. Let's pray, too.** Lead children in a short prayer, asking that God help kids understand that God is everywhere.

Turn out the lights in the room, and point out the glow-in-the-dark army you painted ahead of time. Say: **Look—God’s army is bigger and stronger than the Aramean army. After Elisha prayed, his friend saw that God had sent an angel army to surround them!**

Lead the Blind

Say: **The Aramean army started to come toward Elisha, so Elisha prayed. He knew God is everywhere and that God would hear him anytime, anywhere, no matter what. Elisha prayed, “God, make the Aramean army blind.” And God did it! Then Elisha said to them, “You’re in the wrong place! I’ll take you to the right place.” Then he led all the Aramean army men to a different city called Samaria (sah-MEHR-ee-uh).**

Have kids pair up, and invite them to take turns leading their partners from one side of the room to the other while the partners close their eyes. As they do, pick up the paper soldiers and set them aside.

After a few minutes, gather all the children and have them sit.

Have a Feast

Say: **After they made it to Samaria, Elisha talked to God again and said, “Please make the Aramean army see again.” And he did! The Aramean army realized Elisha was right in front of them, and he’d taken them to Samaria, the place many Israelites lived in. Now *they* were surrounded by the Israelites! The Israelites’ king wondered if he should hurt the Aramean army, but Elisha said no. He told the king to have a big feast, or a great big dinner, for the Arameans.**

Give each child a small snack, and invite kids to enjoy it. Say: **They ate; then they were sent home, and they never came back to the Israelites’ land.** Lead the children in a cheer.

Talk About It

Say: **God is everywhere, so he could help the Israelites—and he sure did! Did you know that God is everywhere today, too?**

Share three places you go during the week. After you mention each place, say “God’s there, too.”

Ask: • **Where are some places you go?** After kids share about each place, remind them that God is there with them, too.

Share how you might experience God in the three places you mentioned earlier. For example, if you said God is at the grocery store with you, you could say that God can help you make good choices about what to buy and what not to buy to keep your body healthy. Or if you said God is with you at the dentist, you might say that you can talk to God while you’re in the waiting room or you can talk to God and ask him for courage while you get a cavity fixed.

Tell a place one of the kids shared, and then invite kids to share how they might talk to God or how he might help us in that place.

Say: **God is everywhere, so we look for him around us. It doesn’t matter where we are—God is always there for sure. When we talk to him, it helps us see how he’s all around us. When we think of ways he might help us, we find out he’s here with us. And when we think of ways we can tell others about him, we can remember he’s with us.** Leave the glow-in-the-dark army in place for use in the Life Application Wrap-Up.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Looking for God

Supplies

- pony beads in various colors (about 15 per child) (make sure you have plenty of colors boys won't mind wearing, such as orange, brown, black, blue, green, red, and white)
- chenille wires (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place the beads all over the room in somewhat hidden locations so kids will have to search for them. Also place some in plain sight but out of the way of your other activities.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Search for Beads to Build Wristbands

Say: **In today's Bible story, Elisha could see an army God had sent to surround him and his friend—but his friend couldn't see God's army. He was focused on the enemy's army. Elisha prayed that God would open his friend's eyes to see God's army, and God did. God's army was there the whole time; Elisha's friend just hadn't seen it.**

For our game, I've placed beads all over the room. Some you might see easily now that you know to look for them, and some you'll have to look harder to find.

- Give everyone a chenille wire, and show kids how to bend one end back so they can slide beads onto the wire without them falling off.
- Kids will all race to search for and add beads to their wires to make a wristband.
- When a person has found 12 to 15 beads, he or she can ask a friend for help in twisting the ends of the wire together around a wrist to form the wristband.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids search for beads and make their wristbands.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Why didn't you notice all the beads around the room until we were playing the game?**

Say: **It was easy to not even notice the beads until I said something about them. You certainly couldn't see *all* of them until you looked for them. We can miss that God is all around us when we're not watching for him, too. But when we turn our attention to God, we might find reminders of him all over.**

Ask: • **What distractions keep you from seeing God all around you?**

Say: **We can practice looking for God wherever we go because God is everywhere. If we focus on God and ask him to help us see him, we might be surprised at how he shows up! Keep the wristband you made as a reminder to look for God all around you.**



CRAFT

Tinted Binoculars

[20 min]

Supplies

- paper towel tubes (1 per child)
- 6x6-inch squares of cellophane in various colors (2 per child)
- rubber bands (2 per child)
- transparent tape
- colorful duct tape
- stapler
- washable markers
- stickers (2-3 per child)

Easy Prep

- Cut paper towel tubes in half. Each child will need 2 halves.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Binoculars

Say: **Elisha's friend was afraid when he saw the Aramean army. All he could see was the scariness around him. But God is everywhere. Elisha prayed, and God helped his friend see things differently. His friend saw God's powerful angel army surrounding and protecting him and Elisha! Let's make a craft that will help us see things differently, too.** Show kids the sample craft.

- Give each child two paper-towel tube halves.
- Let each child pick out a color of cellophane, and help kids cover one end of each tube with a piece of cellophane. Have kids place rubber bands over each piece of cellophane to hold it in place.
- Kids can place several pieces of transparent tape over the rubber bands to make sure they don't slide off the cellophane.
- Once both tubes are covered with cellophane, staple the uncovered ends of the tubes together.
- Help kids each wrap a strip of duct tape all the way around the center of both tubes to hold them together.
- Let kids decorate their binoculars using markers and stickers.

Play I Spy

Once kids have finished their binoculars, play a few rounds of I Spy. Call out things that God made, and have kids search for those things as they look through their binoculars.

Say: **I might not see God with my eyes like I can see all of you. But God is everywhere, so we look**

for him in other ways. We can look for God's love in other people when they do kind things, and we can feel God with us in our hearts. God is everywhere, so we look for him.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Bubbles, Bubbles, Everywhere!

[10 min]

Supplies

- bottles of bubbles with bubble wands (1 per adult or teen helper)
- upbeat music
- music player

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Try to Catch Bubbles

Say: **Today we heard how God surrounded Elisha and his friend with a special army. God was with them because God is everywhere. I have something fun and special to surround you with for our game—lots and lots of *bubbles*!**

- Have the kids gather in a circle, and give each adult or teen helper a bottle of bubbles.
- Have kids stand still, facing out. Tell them to close their eyes while holding out their hands.
- Start the music, and have adult or teen helpers blow bubbles to surround kids. (Remind kids to keep their eyes tightly closed.)
- Allow 20 to 30 seconds for helpers to surround kids with bubbles, and then ask the kids if they think the bubbles are there surrounding them—but remind them not to peek!
- Finally, let kids open their eyes and run around trying to catch the bubbles for the remaining time.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did you know the bubbles were all around you when you couldn't see them?**

Say: **It can be hard for us to really see God all around us, but he's here, too, just like the bubbles were all around you even when you couldn't see them.**

Share what *you* like about God's presence, such as feeling safe with God.

Ask: • **What do *you* like about having God all around you?** Kids may share that they feel safe, too, or that they like talking to God.

Say: **God is everywhere—everywhere we *all* go *all* the time! We might not be able to see him like we can see each other now, but God's with us, and we can ask God to help us see him. We can look for God around us and see all the amazing ways he shows up!**



Supplies

- glow-in-the-dark army you prepared for the Core Bible Discovery activity

Talk and Pray

Say: **Today we found out God is everywhere, and we can look for him around us. We heard how Elisha prayed and then Elisha's friend saw an angel army that God had sent to surround and protect them. God is with us like that, too—he is everywhere, and he's always with us and protecting us, even when we can't see him.**

Share a worry *you* have. You might share how you're worried about a project at work or about having enough money to pay a bill.

Ask: • **What do *you* worry about?** Kids might share that they worry when they're alone in the dark or about making a new friend.

Turn out the lights, and point out the glow-in-the-dark army. Say: **Whenever we worry, we can remember that God's with us and he's protecting us like he protected Elisha and his friend.**

Lead the children in a short prayer, asking God to help kids remember that God's always with them, protecting them.

Turn on the lights. Say: **God's with us when we're excited and celebrating, too!**

Share about something *you're* excited about or a celebration you recently had. You might share about a birthday, a special dinner you went to, or an award you won.

Ask: • **What are *you* excited about that you want to celebrate?** Kids might share about a new skill they learned or a party they're going to.

Turn out the lights, and point out the glow-in-the-dark army. Say: **Whenever we're excited and celebrating, God's with us, too! God loves when things are going well for us!**

Lead the children in a short prayer, thanking God for celebrating with them.

Turn on the lights. Say: **God's with us everywhere we go, and we can talk to him anytime.**

Share about something *you* recently talked to God about. You might share about something you asked God for, or you might share about something you thanked God for.

Ask: • **What's something *you* want to talk to God about?** Kids can talk to God about anything. Help them think of ideas, such as requests for help for themselves or a friend or a question they have about God.

Turn out the lights, and point out the glow-in-the-dark army. Say: **God's always around to hear us, and he wants to hear whatever we want to say to him.**

Pray, briefly thanking God for being everywhere. Turn the lights back on.

Say: **This week, remember that God is everywhere and practice talking to him about anything! I hope you'll all come back next week and let me know what you talked to God about.**



OBJECT LESSON

Escape the Smell

[10 min]

Supplies

- clementines (1 per child)
- paper plates (1 per child)
- wet wipes or hand sanitizer

Peel and Eat Clementines

Have kids clean their hands, and then give each child a clementine and a paper plate. Help kids use their fingers to peel and eat the snack. As they work, point out the fresh citrus smell that fills your room, and share a memory about eating fruit like this. Perhaps you eat an orange every Christmas Eve, or maybe clementines are your favorite midday snack at work.

Ask: • **When have you eaten fruit like this before?** Kids might share about eating a clementine at a friend's house or at the park.

Smell Citrus Around the Room

Say: **These little oranges are a tasty snack. And because they have a fresh citrus smell, they make our room smell good, too! Oranges, grapefruit, and clementines are all citrus fruits.** Ask kids if they smell the citrus, and then point to another area of your classroom. **I wonder if we can still smell the citrus on *that* side of the room.**

- Move with the kids to the other side of the room, and ask if they smell the citrus. Cheer and celebrate that they can still smell it.
- Point to another corner of the room, and investigate whether they can smell it there. Cheer and celebrate that they can still smell it.
- Encourage kids to choose another spot within the room and go there to see if they can still smell the citrus. Then celebrate that they do! Repeat as time allows.

Talk About It

Say: **The citrus smell is everywhere! No matter where we go in our room, we can still smell the fruit. Just like the smell is everywhere, God is everywhere. When we sit at our tables, God is with us.** Point to another area of your room. **When we play games, God is with us.** Have kids smell their hands and notice that they still smell like citrus. **This smell will stay on our hands when we leave our classroom and go to our homes. God will stay with us, too! God goes with us wherever we go.**