

LESSON 6: GOD SURROUNDS ELISHA WITH AN ARMY

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 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 surround themselves with enemies, then see a glow-in-the-dark army.

Supplies

- Bible
- glow-in-the-dark craft paint (check your local craft store or the craft section at Walmart)
- paintbrush
- plain white paper
- 1 sheet of poster board
- index cards (1 per child, plus 8 extras)
- pens
- black plastic (if you have windows that don't have blinds)

Easy Prep

- Use glow-in-the-dark paint to paint stick figures on several sheets of paper, 5-10 stick figures per sheet. You'll need at least 3 times as many stick figures as there are kids in your class. Hang the papers around the room.
- On the poster board, use glow-in-the-dark paint to write this text from John 16:33: "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." Set the poster board on a counter or other surface where kids won't see it when they're sitting but where it will have a chance to absorb light.
- If you have windows, close the blinds or cover them with black plastic.
- Using a separate index card for each word, write the following in large letters: tree, apple, giraffe, yellow, newspaper, grape.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray in the dark, then see God's army around them.

Supplies

- glow-in-the-dark figures used in Core Bible Discovery



OBJECT LESSON

Kids make and find their fingerprints.

Supplies

- petroleum jelly (1 container for every 5-6 kids)
- 3x5-inch pieces of black construction paper (1 per child)
- white crayons (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- UV black lights (several for kids to share) (available for \$8-\$10 each at department stores like Walmart or Target)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids listen and guess how many kids are galloping.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids search for pony beads and make 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 glow-in-the-dark balls.

Supplies

- paper towels
- regular duct tape
- scissors
- glow-in-the-dark duct tape (about 4 inches per child)
- black plastic* (if you have windows that don't have blinds)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cover your windows so that with the lights off, your room will be dark.

**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.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

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're going to learn that God is everywhere, so we look for him around us. In today's Bible story, one person who looked for God saw that God was surrounding him!

Share

- Tell kids something *you'd* like to be surrounded by.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share what *they'd* like to be surrounded by.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to 2 Kings 6, and say: **It's fun to imagine being surrounded by something we love. And did you know that right now you're surrounded by God?**

The Bible is special because it's full of true stories about what God has done, and it shows us that God is all around us, even when we can't see him. Let's listen to God and look for him right here today.

Pray, praising God for being everywhere. Ask him to open kids' eyes to see him today.



Supplies

- Bible
- glow-in-the-dark craft paint (check your local craft store or the craft section at Walmart)
- paintbrush
- plain white paper
- 1 sheet of poster board
- index cards (1 per child, plus 8 extras)
- pens
- black plastic (if you have windows that don't have blinds)

Easy Prep

- Use glow-in-the-dark paint to paint stick figures on several sheets of paper, 5-10 stick figures per sheet. You'll need at least 3 times as many stick figures as there are kids in your class. Hang the papers around the room.
- On the poster board, use glow-in-the-dark paint to write this text from John 16:33: "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." Set the poster board on a counter or other surface where kids won't see it when they're sitting but where it will have a chance to absorb light.
- If you have windows, close the blinds or cover them with black plastic.
- Using a separate index card for each word, write the following in large letters: tree, apple, giraffe, yellow, newspaper, grape.

Play Charades

Say: **Let's start our Bible story time with a game of Charades.**

Choose a child to be the Actor. Show the Actor one of the index cards. Then step behind the Actor and hold up the card so everyone else can read it without the Actor seeing what you're doing. Before the Actor even starts to act, kids will "guess" correctly. Continue this way with all the cards, trying not to let the Actor know what you're doing.

Have kids tell the Actor how they were able to guess so quickly.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you had a hard time keeping a surprise a secret.** Share your own example first.

Say: **Our Charades game reminds me of what happened in today's Bible story. Let's check it out.**

Read 2 Kings 6:8-10.

Say: **The king of Aram couldn't keep his battle plans a secret because God was showing them to Elisha! God is everywhere, so he could hear all the battle plans and tell Elisha what they were.**

That made it hard for the Arameans to win any battles. So the king of Aram was mad at Elisha! He asked people to go find and capture Elisha.

Read 2 Kings 6:12-14.

Set Up Enemies

Say: **Let's draw enemies.** Give each child an index card. Have kids fold the index cards in half, like a tent, and have each child draw an enemy, a horse, and a chariot on the outside of the card.

As kids draw enemies, make two of your own tent cards: one for Elisha and one for his servant.

Say: **When Elisha and his servant woke up the next day, this is what they saw.**

Read 2 Kings 6:15. Have kids set up the scene by surrounding your Elisha and servant tents with their enemies.

See God's Army

Say: **Elisha's servant was scared. But Elisha wasn't. He knew that God is everywhere, so we look for him around us. And that's just what he told his servant to do.**

Read 2 Kings 6:16-17.

Say: **Let's see what happens when we look for God around us.**

Turn off the lights. Kids will see the glowing stick figures all around the room.

Say: **When the lights were on, all you could see were the enemies surrounding Elisha and his servant. But now you can *really* see...God's huge army of angels is all around us!**

Pray About Worries

Turn the lights back on.

Say: **We may never be surrounded by an army that's trying to capture us. But sometimes we feel like we're surrounded by problems and worries.**

Have kids each write a problem or worry on the inside of the tent. Then have kids sit in one group, and surround them with their index cards.

Say: **When we feel surrounded by our problems, we can remember that God is everywhere, so we look for him around us. His army of angels is always there, ready to support us, comfort us, and defend us. And God always wins!**

Pray: **God, open our eyes and let us see that you are everywhere.**

Pick up the sign you painted with the words of John 16:33. Turn off the lights, and walk around the group of kids slowly so everyone can read the sign. Then turn the lights back on.

Ask: • **Tell about a way you've seen God at work when you've had a problem or worry.** Share your own example first.

Say: **Because God is everywhere, we don't have to feel alone or overwhelmed by our problems.**

Have kids pick up their index cards and throw them away.

Lead the Blind

Say: **God is everywhere, and he placed his army all around Elisha. But that's not all God did.**

Read 2 Kings 6:18-20.

Have kids form pairs. The older partner in each pair will be the Aramean. The Arameans will point to a place in the room they want to go and then close their eyes. The younger partners will then lead their Aramean partners somewhere far away from where they pointed.

Have kids switch roles and lead the Arameans again.

Say: **This is kind of a funny battle story, isn't it? God is everywhere, and he was there, helping Elisha lead the blind enemies to the wrong place! When they realized they were in the wrong place, Elisha and the king of Israel fed them a meal and sent them home.**

No one was killed in this battle. They even got a free meal! But you know what? The Arameans left Israel alone after that.

Ask: • **Why do you think the Arameans didn't fight Israel after this experience?**

Earlier we wrote our worries on the enemy index cards. Those are real problems you're facing in your life right now. And Elisha's problem was real, too. But when we face problems, we can remember that God is everywhere, so we look for him around us. Those glow-in-the-dark figures have been here our whole time together, but we can't see them very well in the light.

Sometimes all we can see are the problems around us. But when we ask God to change our view, we'll find that we don't see our problems as much as we see God's hand at work. Let's ask God to change our view of our problems right now.

Turn off the lights again for a moment of reflection. Then close the reflective time by saying, **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Leave the glow-in-the-dark figures up for use in the Life Application Wrap-Up activity.



Pray in the Dark

Supplies

- glow-in-the-dark figures used in Core Bible Discovery

Pray in the Light and the Dark

- With the lights on, have kids silently talk to God about the worries or distractions that are keeping them from seeing him.
- Turn off the lights, revealing God's army from Core Bible Discovery. Have kids pray that God will open their eyes to see him at work all around them this week.

Wrap Up

Pray: God, thank you that you are everywhere. Open our eyes and help us see that you're all around us this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



OBJECT LESSON

That's Me!

[10 min]

Supplies

- petroleum jelly (1 container for every 5-6 kids)
- 3x5-inch pieces of black construction paper (1 per child)
- white crayons (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- UV black lights (several for kids to share) (available for \$8-\$10 each at department stores like Walmart or Target)

Study Fingerprints

Say: Detectives often search for fingerprints to identify people who were at crime scenes.

Fingerprints are everywhere! Every person has a unique fingerprint that's unlike anyone else's.

- Have kids examine their thumbprints for several seconds and try to memorize what they look like.
- Encourage kids to compare their own thumbprints to a friend's and notice differences.

Make Fingerprints

Say: You think you know what your fingerprint looks like, but can you recognize it under a black light? Let's do an experiment to find out.

- Form groups of five or six kids. Give each group a container of petroleum jelly and a white crayon.
- Give each child a 3x5-inch piece of black construction paper. Have each child use the white crayon to write his or her name on one side of the paper.
- Have kids take turns dipping their thumbs into the petroleum jelly and then making a print on the other side of the black paper. Make sure the names are on the back.

Find Fingerprints

- Have kids mix up their prints and then lay them on the floor or a table. Turn off the lights.
- Let kids take turns shining black light onto the prints. The black light will make the petroleum jelly glow a bluish color.
- Have kids try to identify their own prints and turn over the papers to reveal if they're correct.

Talk About It

Say: Fingerprints provide evidence to confirm a person's identity. Like you looked for your fingerprints, you can look for God. His fingerprints are all around us because God is everywhere. They're on every flower we see, every animal we observe, and every person we come into contact with.

Ask: • What can you do to better notice evidence of God around you?

Say: God is everywhere. Like detectives look for fingerprints, we can look for evidence of God in our everyday lives.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Guess the Gallop

[10 min]

Guess How Many People They Hear Galloping

Say: In today's Bible story, Elisha could see the army God sent to surround and defend them, but his servant couldn't see at first. It's hard to know for sure about the things we can't see right in front of us. I've got a game that'll show you what I mean.

- Invite a willing person to be the Guesser, and have everyone else gather in a wide circle around him or her.
- Explain that the Guesser will close his or her eyes and keep them closed. Then you'll tap a few people in the group on the shoulder, and at your cue, those people will start galloping around the circle.
- The Guesser, with eyes remaining closed, gets two chances to guess how many people are galloping.
- If the Guesser guesses correctly, he or she can be the Guesser for one more round.
- If the Guesser guesses incorrectly with both guesses, the Guesser will open his or her eyes and run to tag one of the Gallopers. The person tagged will be the new Guesser.
- Play until everyone has a chance to be the Guesser, and vary the number of Gallopers for each round.

Talk About It

Ask: • What was hard about guessing the number of Gallopers?

• Since you couldn't use your eyes, what did you do to try to guess the right number?

Say: God can show us in many different ways that he's all around us. Maybe it'll be something we notice with our eyes, or maybe it'll be through something we hear, smell, feel, or taste. Maybe it will be something in our hearts.

Ask: • What are reminders of God you've noticed around you? Share an example of your own, such as hearing a song that makes you think about God or seeing God's kindness and love in the way someone treats you.

Say: God is everywhere, even though we can't see God clearly with our own eyes. No matter where we are, we can look for God around us in all the little and big ways he shows up.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Looking for God

[10 min]

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 servant—but his servant couldn't see God's army. He was focused on the enemy's army. Elisha prayed that God would open his servant's eyes to see God's army, and God did. God's army was there the whole time; Elisha's servant 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 race to search for and add beads to their wires to make wristbands.
- 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 Glow 'n' Throws

[20 min]

Supplies

- paper towels
- regular duct tape
- scissors
- glow-in-the-dark duct tape (about 4 inches per child)
- black plastic* (if you have windows that don't have blinds)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cover your windows so that with the lights off, your room will be dark.



Make Duct-Tape Balls

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the paper towels, scissors, and regular duct tape to share.

Have kids follow these directions to make their own glow 'n' throws.

- Wad a paper towel into a ball.
- Wrap it tightly in duct tape until you have a good-size ball.

Play

- Have kids sit in two rows, facing each other.
- Turn off all the lights.
- Have kids roll the balls to each other and try to catch them.

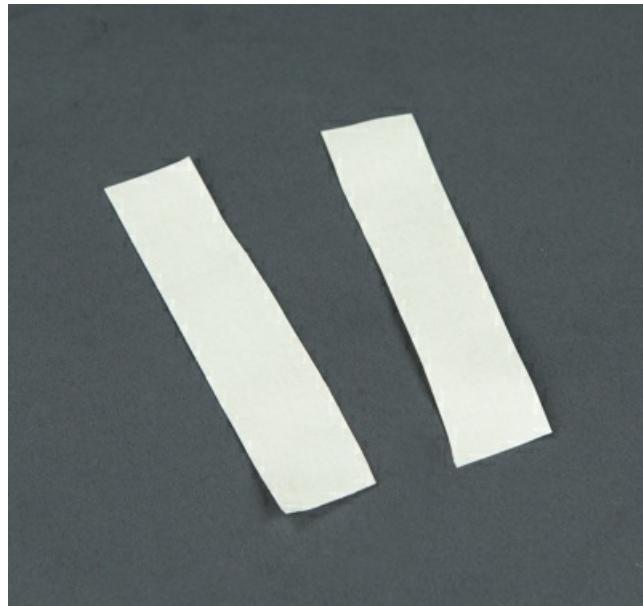
Turn the lights back on.

Ask: • **How did you feel trying to catch when you couldn't see?**

Make Them Glow

Say: It's too hard to catch a ball you can't see. Let's turn these into glow 'n' throws!

- Have kids each cut a 4-inch piece of glow-in-the-dark duct tape. (This is more expensive than regular duct tape, so make sure kids aren't taking too much.)
- Have kids cut their 4-inch pieces in half the long way to make two narrow 4-inch-long strips.



- Have kids wrap the strips around the balls in opposite directions.
- Have kids sit or stand across from a partner again. (They should spread out so they're not near other pairs in case they need to move to catch a toss.)
- Turn off the lights.
- Have kids roll or throw the glow 'n' throws. They should be really easy to see now!

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was different about the game after you added the glow-in-the-dark duct tape?**

Say: **God is everywhere. But like we couldn't see in the first game, we can't always see him. When we ask him to open our eyes, we'll see that he's all around us! Like adding the glow-in-the-dark tape changed how you could see the ball, God can change your view so you see him more in your life.**

Have kids take their glow 'n' throws home and show them to their friends and families as a reminder that **God is everywhere.**