

WEEK 5
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God is always
with me.

BIBLE

Elijah and the Chariot of Fire:
2 Kings 2:1–14; John 6:25–35

ABOUT THIS WEEK

If you want to become the best baker, you'll need to find someone willing to share their experience and wisdom with you, even if they can't always join you in the kitchen. This week, we'll look at how God took Elijah up to heaven and how Elisha became God's messenger. Elisha wouldn't be alone, though, and when he picked up Elijah's cloak, he knew this—**God is always with me.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

What a fun and tasty month sharing yummy treats and stories about God with you. Through the stories about Elijah, we discovered how God is with us in good times and tough times, helps us find what we need, hears our voice, guides us when we're scared and comforts us. Today, let's find out what unfolded as Elijah wrapped up his work on Earth and got *fired up* one last time.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Dress The Chef Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a [kitchen bell](#) and two sets of kitchen dress-up items, including a chef's hat, chef coat with buttons, apron, and oven mitts. Divide into two equal groups and line up. The goal is to put on all the chef gear quickly, then take it off and pass it to the next person in your group. The last person on each team rushes to press the kitchen bell, placing an equal distance from both teams. The first team to ring the bell wins.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Getting dressed might pose a challenge for some kids. Instead, have kids work together to dress one of their teammates in the chef's attire as fast as they can.*
- **Why might a chef pass down their hat, coat, or apron to another chef?** *It could mean it's the next person's turn to be the head chef. It's a symbolic way of handing off the responsibility.*
- *In today's Bible story, we'll see how passing off another article of clothing meant for God's new special messenger.*

ACTIVITY | Toasty Baguette Toss

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need fake baguettes [like this](#), or make your own by cutting a yellow pool noodle into foot-long pieces. Pair up kids and have them line up across from one another. One side will toss the baguette to the other. If anyone drops the baguette, that pair is out, but if they catch it, they take one*

step back and toss it back to the other side.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Add a twist by giving more complicated commands to the kids holding the baguettes. Commands can include taking steps to the left or right, turning around and throwing the baguette backward or between their legs, laying on the floor, and then throwing it like a football.

- Tossing the baguette to each other required not only skill but trust in the other person to catch it. In today's Bible story, we are going to see Elijah exit the scene, but the story does not end there. Elijah will pass on his work to someone new named Elisha.

QUESTION | What are some things that are always there?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids think in pairs or small groups about the things that are always around. You can provide paper for them to jot down their ideas. Have them share their responses aloud with the group.
- Think about what you do every day: going to school, coming home, going to practice, dining out, running out to the store. **Can you name some things—or even people—that are always there?**
- There are lots of things that are always there but we don't notice, like road signs that keep us safe or even the crossing guards who help us at intersections. Or what about your favorite cereal at the grocery store? Or your family? Or how about oxygen?
- We can thank God for everything that is always there for us, but most importantly, we can thank God for always being there for us. In today's Bible story, Elisha is sad to see his friend and mentor, Elijah, leave, but he would soon learn that God would always stay with him.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 2 Kings 2:1–14 (Elijah And The Chariot Of Fire)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** In your teaching area, set up a table and lay out a few baking tools like a rolling pin, mixing bowl, whisk, etc. Place your Bible and teaching notes on a cookbook stand. For added fun, pretend to clean up all your baking equipment and wipe down the table with a rag as you begin storytelling. Feel free to distribute baked treats to everyone at the end.
- Pardon me as I clean up this baking stuff. I loved being in the Bible Bakery with you, tasting God's goodness and some yummy treats as well. As we close up shop today, it reminds me of one last Elijah story from the Bible.
- **Let's read 2 Kings 2:1–6.**
 - God had been with Elijah through all sorts of amazing things, like helping a widow have endless flour and oil during a drought or sending fire down from heaven to show people who the real God is.
 - But God decided it was time for Elijah to go up to heaven. Elijah's disciple, Elisha, wanted to stay with him until he had to go.
- **What happened next? Let's read 2 Kings 2:7–10.**
 - It was clear that God's power was with Elijah, even during his final moments on earth. As they crossed through the Jordan River on miraculously dry ground, Elijah asked Elisha if he could do anything for him before he left.
 - **What did Elisha ask for?** (A double portion of Elijah's spirit.) Elisha was telling Elijah that he wanted to continue doing God's work.
 - Elijah said that it wasn't up to him—it was up to God. Elijah then said that if Elisha saw Elijah being taken to heaven, it would be a sign that God would answer Elisha's request.
- **What do you think happened? Let's find out in 2 Kings 2:11–14.**
 - What a spectacular sight that must have been. Elisha watched as Elijah went to heaven in a whirlwind and a chariot. And not just any chariot, but a chariot of fire. Even though Elisha felt sad saying goodbye to Elijah, seeing him leave this way confirmed that God had chosen Elisha to

continue Elijah's important work.

- When Elisha took Elijah's fallen cloak, struck the water as Elijah did, and asked, "Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" he wasn't really asking where God was. Elisha knew that God was with him. The miracle of the cloak parting the water again showed that God's power didn't disappear with Elijah—it reassured Elisha that God would always be with him.
- But this was bigger than God being with just one person like Elisha. The fact that God sent messengers and showed power through amazing miracles meant that God was still with the people, too. "The Lord, the God of Elijah" was right there beside them.

BIG IDEA | God is always with me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need a toy oven or a drawer decorated to look like one, oven mitts, a kitchen timer, and a printout of the [Big Idea graphic](#) taped onto a cookie sheet and placed inside the "oven." Set the kitchen timer for a minute or less. Once it rings, invite a volunteer to put on oven mitts, remove the cookie sheet from the oven, and reveal the Big Idea. Have everyone recite it together.
- Mmm, something smells wonderful! I wonder what Big Idea is baking today? Let's read it together. **God is always with me.**

VIDEO | A Clip Of Time-Lapse Baking

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show a time-lapse video of baking (like [this one](#)). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- I don't know about you, but that video made me hungry. Isn't it fun to watch all that bread and pizza rise in the oven?
- **Does anyone know what causes the dough to rise?**
- Most baked goods, like bread, cakes, and cupcakes, require something called a "leavener" or a "leavening agent" to rise. These are things like yeast, sourdough starter, baking soda, or baking powder. When a recipe calls for a leavening agent, you don't want to skip it!
- Elisha was able to "rise" to his new calling because he knew God would be with him. God's power and presence would be the most important ingredients in his work. And just like leaveners help dough rise, we can rise up to do things because **God is always with me** and you.

ACTIVITY | Special Garment

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need a chef's coat or apron. Invite kids to do a simple activity together, like jumping rope, hula hoop, passing a ball, or playing a board game. As they play, pass around the chef's coat or apron and have each kid wear it for thirty seconds before handing it off to someone else.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Preteens are getting more secretive and unwilling to share aloud or participate in activities. You won't make much progress trying to force them to comply but that doesn't mean you should let them sit out and ignore them. Maintain a relationship with them by establishing common ground. Being curious about their interests is a great conversation-maker and a way to let kids know you care.
- **Did having the coat help you do what you were doing better? Faster? More creatively?**
- I didn't think it did. In fact, it doesn't help with the baking either. A coat or apron doesn't cook, know any recipes, preheat the oven, or decorate the cakes. It does nothing.
- In the same way, the cloak that Elisha got from Elijah did not have any powers of its own. It wasn't the cloak that split the Jordan River. It was God. The cloak was just a reminder to Elisha that **God is always with me.**

SCRIPTURE | John 6:25–35

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage aloud or invite a volunteer to read.

- When you read about Jesus, you'll find stories where he shared or miraculously provided bread for people. Jesus cared for those around him, wanting to provide for them and share meals. But instead of finding joy in being with Jesus, some people focused more on the miracles he did.
- That's because people thought what they needed most was actual bread to eat. But in this passage, Jesus said that he is the "bread of life." He came to the Earth to fill a hunger that wasn't about physical food. The world needed a savior and life from God.
- So, when Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me will never go hungry," it was not about people having full tummies forever. It was about Jesus giving the world a chance to have a relationship with God.
- This offer isn't just a one-time thing. God keeps inviting us to accept the gift of the bread of life, Jesus. When we choose to receive it, we can trust that God will be with us forever. **God is always with me.**

VIDEO | *Fired Up*, Episode 5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | What Dough You Think?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need [homemade](#) or store-bought play dough for kids to knead as they reflect on the questions. Feel free to provide play dough tools and cutters so they can make their own cloaks.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Make sure you take time to remind kids of social skills, like taking turns, raising hands, and sharing materials. Everyone in the group will benefit from these reminders anyway, but repeated directions will be helpful for kids with learning disabilities.
- Sometimes, we forget that food from the oven is really hot. Just like we let baked goods cool down before enjoying them, let's also take a moment to cool down ourselves.
- As we work our dough, let's think about what we've learned so far and what God wants us to do about it.
 - **Imagine you are Elijah, and you know you will be leaving soon. What would you want to say to your friend Elisha?**
 - **Now imagine you are Elisha, and your teacher and friend are about to go for good. What thoughts and feelings would you have?**
 - **What is something you have that has special meaning, and you've kept it for a long time? What makes it special?**
 - **When are some times you might need an extra reminder that God is always with you?**
- Let's shape our dough into what Elijah's cloak might have looked like. The cloak helped Elisha know what we know from our Big Idea: **God is always with me.**

RESPONSE | Recipe Card Responses

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid an index card, pencil, and colored pencils. Have them write their response to the prompt on the lined side or draw on the blank side. If you've been collecting the cards each week, punch a hole in the corner of each card and secure all the cards with a [binder ring](#).
- The recipe for everything we need starts with God. Through the story of Elijah going up to heaven in a chariot of fire, we learned that God is always with us.
 - **Write or draw about a time when you could tell God was with you.**
 - **What are some other ways God has shown up for you?**
- **God is always with me.** No matter what I'm feeling and no matter what I've done, God continues to love me and be there for me. **How can we thank God for being with us always?**

MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
- **“It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”**

PRAYER

- God, we are so grateful that you are always here with us. We know that wherever we go, you are with us. Help us to know and feel your presence in a real way. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME**DISCUSSION**● **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**

- **What did Elisha ask of Elijah before Elijah was to be taken away?** *A double portion of his spirit.*
- **What happened both times Elijah and Elisha struck the water with the cloak?** *The water in the Jordan parted and the men were able to cross on dry land.*
- **In what way did Elijah go up to heaven?** *In a chariot and horses of fire that carried Elijah away in a whirlwind.*
- **Read John 6:35. What do you think Jesus is talking about here?** *Those who receive and believe in Jesus will be able to live forever with God.*

● **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- **Does anyone in your life guide you as Elijah did for Elisha?**
- **If you were asked what Elisha was asked in 2 Kings 2:9, what would you ask for? How would that help you get closer to God?**
- **Is there anyone who needs to know God is always with them? Why?**

ACTIVITY | Whirlwind Goodbye

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need plastic spoons, tape, paper or foam cups, pipe cleaners, and construction or tissue paper in red, orange, and yellow. Have each kid draw a face on a spoon to represent Elijah. Decorate the outside of the cup with paper flames or stickers. Poke a hole at the bottom of the cup and add two pipe cleaners attached end to end, shaped like a spiral, to stick out at both ends of the cup. Finally, stick the Elijah spoon into the “whirlwind.” See the worked example [here](#).
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens make a “whirlwind” paper airplane that can fly “forever” to remind them that God is always with them. Follow [this tutorial](#). Have them write the Big Idea on their cardboard, then practice making their whirlwinds go!
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Have kids make sensory bottles to symbolize the whirlwind and remind them that God is always with them. Gather bottles filled about two-thirds of the way with water. Add food coloring, glitter, pom poms, beads, or other small items. Glue the caps on or use heavy-duty tape to secure the caps.
- Elijah had to say goodbye as he went up to heaven in a whirlwind and a chariot of fire. But God didn't say goodbye—God would remain with Elisha as he continued Elijah's work. Just like how **God is always with me** and you, too.!