

WEEK 5
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God is always
with me.

BIBLE

Elijah and the Chariot of Fire:
2 Kings 2:1–14

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.**

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Dress The Chef

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, prepare two sets of [dress-up items](#) like a chef hat, a chef coat with buttons or an apron, and oven mitts. Have two kids come to the front and see how quickly they can get dressed (with the leaders' help, of course). Repeat with two new kids, and play until everyone has tried. To save time, you could spread out the items and have different kids try on one item at a time. You may want to spray disinfectant in between wears to minimize spreading germs lightly. Don't forget to snap photos! Play a fun song [like this](#) as kids play.
- You were all looking fired up, dressed up in your fancy chef clothes! I can't wait to share today's Bible story with you where Elijah passes on his coat to someone else.

ACTIVITY | Pass It Down

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, prepare two baguettes (or cut pieces out of a brown pool noodle), one for each relay line. Hand the "bread" to the first kid in line, who will hand it to the next player in line by passing it under their legs. This pattern continues until the bread reaches the last kid. Repeat with different passing methods like over the head or alternating over and under, and have kids line up in a different order.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Prepare a bunch of "bread" (pool noodles cut into foot-long pieces) and provide toddlers with a pail they can fit the bread in. Talk about how something like the bucket (the chariot) with carry Elijah up to heaven.
- Imagine what might have happened if you passed over your bread but there was no one behind you to catch it. The bread would have fallen to the ground.
- In today's Bible story, Elijah has to pass down his job to a man named Elisha. Would Elisha be ready for this big job?

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 2 Kings 2: 1–14 (Elijah and the Chariot of Fire)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below. Dress as a chef with a white apron and hat. Prepare a pretend oven (it can be as simple as a cardboard box on its side) and place your Bible inside. You may even set up a fun kitchen timer, bring out the Bible, and begin teaching when the timer goes off.
- Welcome to the Bible Bakery, where we always get a taste of God’s goodness and some yummy treats, too. I am so fired up for today’s Bible story!
- Elijah was a great prophet, kind of like a head chef in this situation. He has been working for years, delivering messages from God to the people.
 - Elijah did great things for God! **Do you remember any of Elijah’s stories?**
 - He helped a woman and her son have never-ending supplies of bread. He prayed to God for fire to come down from heaven, and it did!
 - He went through some hard times, too, but God was always with him through it all.
- But now it was time to go be with God. But before Elijah could go, he would need to give his job to someone else. That someone else was Elisha.
 - **Let’s say those two names together. Elijah. Elisha. Elijah. Elisha.** They sound really similar, right?
 - Elisha was like a chef-in-training. He has been learning from Elijah as they have been journeying to many different places.
- Before Elijah could go, he asked, “What can I do for you, Elisha?”
 - Elisha wanted to do God’s work like Elijah did. Elijah said if you see me go up to heaven, you’ll know it happened.
 - Then, Elijah went up to heaven. He was taken up in a chariot pulled by horses, but they were made of fire! Elijah, the chariot, and the horses all went up to heaven in a whirlwind!
 - Elisha saw the whole thing. He picked up the cloak Elijah left behind and touched the river. The waters separated!
- This helped Elisha know that even though his friend and teacher Elijah was gone, God would never leave him. God’s power was with Elisha just like it had been with Elijah!

BIG IDEA | God is always with me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this month’s Big Idea reveal, you’ll need a large aluminum cookie sheet and each week’s Big Idea [printables](#). Print the pages double-sided and cut out each “baked good.” Arrange them on the cookie sheet so that the words are facing down. Invite one kid at a time to come up and flip over a baked good. If there is a word on there, read it aloud for them. After all the words are found, arrange them in order on the cookie sheet. Have kids repeat the Big Idea a few times, then teach them the corresponding hand motions.
- Ah! Something smells heavenly! I wonder what Big Idea is baking today.
- **Let’s learn the Big Idea together:**
 - **God** (Point upward.)
 - **is always** (ASL for “[always](#).”)
 - **with me.** (Point to self.)

VIDEO | Fired Up, Episode 5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Cali’s World](#).

ACTIVITY | Pass The Cloak

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have kids play a version of “tag,” but have the kid who’s “it” wear a “cloak” (a kids size bathrobe or even the chef’s coat from the “Dress The Chef” activity earlier would work). The first person that gets tagged wears the cloak and is the new person who’s “it.” Keep playing until most kids have been “it” at least once.
- Elijah went up to heaven, leaving Elisha alone. But Elijah’s cloak was there! When Elisha struck the water with the cloak, the waters parted.
- Elisha knew that God was with him, just like **God is always with me** and you!

PRAYER

- God, thank you for always being with us no matter where we go. Help us to trust and follow you. Amen.

SHARING TIME**SNACK | Pizza Party**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide Pizza Lunchables, or create your own version using water crackers, marinara sauce, and shredded mozzarella cheese.
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide a more toddler-friendly alternative, like [watermelon pizza](#).
- We usually have pizza when we are celebrating something like a class party. Today’s Bible story was kind of like a goodbye party for Elijah and a welcome party for Elisha.
- **What kinds of food and games would you want at a party?**
- **Who is your favorite person to go on adventures with?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sit in a circle together. Pass around a slow-rising bread squishy (like [this one](#)) as kids take turns responding to the questions. The person holding the item gets to speak.
- **Who was going to take over Elijah’s job doing God’s work?** Elisha.
- **How did Elijah get to heaven?** In a chariot and horses made of fire.
- **What did Elijah leave behind for Elisha to pick up?** His cloak.
- **What happened when Elisha hit the water with Elijah’s cloak?** The waters separated.
- **Who is always with you?** God! God is always with me.

ACTIVITY | Heavenly Chariot

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this craft, print the [printable](#) on cardstock paper. Have kids cut out each piece on the dotted lines. Use glue dots or staples to help kids attach Elijah’s chariot and the horses along the spiral-cut paper at different places. You may want to hole punch the top of the spiral and attach a pipe cleaner loop to make this craft easy to hold and hang up. You can add pieces of orange and red tissue paper or cellophane to the horses and chariot to make them more fiery. See worked example [here](#).
- Even though Elijah went up to be with God, Elisha wasn’t alone. God was with him! You can say loud and proud, “**God is always with me,**” wherever you go!

MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month’s memory verse by setting the words to the tune of “Yankee Doodle.” You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”**

PLAY TIME**ACTIVITY | Coloring Page**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Horse Care

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play station, provide kids with two sensory buckets: chocolate pudding (mud) inside and soapy water and brushes. Place a handful of plastic toy horses in the "muddy" bin, and give kids turns washing the horses and putting them back and forth between the "muddy" bin and the wash bin. Consider providing towels as well. Talk about how these horses remind us of the horses that took Elijah up to heaven. For a mess-free option, add in other figures and have them reenact the story from today or previous weeks: Elijah and the drought, Elijah at Mount Carmel, and Elijah at Horeb.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Offer toddlers a chance to simply play with the toy horses. Play the sounds that horses make, and talk about the horses and chariots in the Bible story.

ACTIVITY | Play Dough Station

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play station, provide play dough and an assortment of cookie cutters, rolling pins, and other clay tools for kids to create their own baked goods and pretend to run a bakery. You could also provide cake trays, cupcake liners, and pie plates for kids to display their creations.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Remember to offer a cuddle and a quiet spot for toddlers when they feel overwhelmed. A walk in a supervised hallway with an extra adult helper may help to calm a fussy toddler when needed.