

GODLY MIRACLES – ELISHA

Objective

The children learn that God can work miracles through his servants.

Contents

- The floating iron (2 Kings 6:1–7).
- Seeing right – Elisha's servant (2 Kings 6:8–20).
- Naaman is healed (2 Kings 5:1–18).
- The miracle of our transformation.



Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Place a glass filled with water on the table and drop a coin into it. The coin will sink to the bottom of the glass.

Discussion

- The coin is made of metal which is heavier than water.
- According to the laws of nature given by God, objects which are heavier than water will go under in the water.
- As a matter of principle, human beings are unable to suspend the laws of nature.
- God, who is almighty, is able to do this easily. This is when something happens which man cannot explain: a miracle.

Implementation

The Bible reports that, contrary to the laws of nature, prophet Elisha once made iron float.

Workbook, Text

The children read the story “The Floating Iron” in the workbook.

Discussion

Analyze the text with the children.

- Elisha’s disciple had run into a problem when he lost the axe, particularly because the tool had only been borrowed. Through Elisha’s intervention the disciple was able to experience the wonderful help of God.
- For a moment God suspended one of the laws of nature and worked a miracle through Elisha.

Question Prompt

Who was Elisha?

A

- Elisha was Elijah’s successor.
- He was a respected prophet in Israel.
- His activity was accompanied by many a miracle of God.

Teacher's Presentation

Tell the children about another miracle which God performed through Elisha when the king of Syria waged war on Israel.

- Several times Elisha warned the king of Israel in good time about a Syrian ambush.
- Having found out that Elisha had revealed the plans of the Syrian king to his king, the Syrian king was full of rage and decided to take Elisha prisoner. He sent a large company of warriors with horses and chariots to the city where Elisha and his servant were staying.
- When Elisha's servant saw the armed forces surrounding the city the following morning, he was very much afraid.
- Elisha prayed to God. Then the servant's eyes were opened and he saw that the mountain on which Elisha was, was full of horses and chariots of fire which surrounded Elisha.
- Elisha prayed again, and God struck the Syrians with blindness. They did not recognize Elisha when he led them in the wrong direction for the benefit of the Israelites.

Discussion

Analyze this miracle with the children.

- Elisha's servant saw the army of enemies, became afraid and saw no way out of the predicament.
- Elisha trusted in God's help. After he had prayed, God opened the servant's eyes. Only then did he recognize God's might.
- We also have problems and difficulties in our life at times. Sometimes the worries and needs are so great that we are filled with fear. If we turn to God in prayer, he can 'open our eyes' to recognize:
 - We are prayed for.
 - We do not stand alone.
 - We can go our way with surety and without fear.

Elaborate on a third miracle which the Lord worked through Elisha.

Workbook, Exercise 1**Discussion**

For this, the children solve exercise 1 with the help of the Bible text.

Analyze the meeting of Naaman and Elisha, elaborating on the following:

- Naaman, the Syrian captain, was incurably sick with leprosy. His wife's Israelite maid told him that prophet Elisha would surely be able to help him. So Naaman went to Israel.
- Naaman had preconceived notions as to how Elisha was to heal him (through prayer and the laying-on of hands).
- His own opinion stood so much in his way that he became angry about Elisha's advice and wanted to return to Damascus without being healed. Only when his servants persuaded him, did he do what Elisha had told him and became well.
- This miracle also caused Naaman to recognize the Lord as the only true God, wanting to stand by him from then on.

Apply this situation to ourselves.

Discussion

- As children of God we would do well to seek help from God in our worries and needs.

How do we do this?

- We pray directly to him.
- We ask our parents for advice.
- We consult God's servants.
- To experience God's help, it is crucial to place one's own opinion about how and when he should help into the background.
- God's advice is to be followed in faith, even if we do not understand it or like it.
- God knows the right time to provide his help.

Result

Those who place their will under God's will, humbly ask for God's help, and patiently wait for it, will experience help in a wonderful manner.

Statement Prompt

The greatest miracle is yet to come.

- The Lord Jesus will come again.
- The entire people of God will be transformed in a moment, taken from the earth and transported to the Lord Jesus.
- It will be a miracle for us to be able to take part in this ourselves.
- etc.

Conclusion

Tell the children about an event reported by an African Apostle which shows us that God also today is still able to perform visible miracles through his servants.

The Apostle and a few brothers visited the Basawara tribe in the heart of the Kalahari desert where 50 people attended their first divine service. The Apostle was able to seal twelve souls. After the service the wife of the village chief said that her husband was very sick and could not even talk any more. So the Apostle and the entire congregation visited the critically ill patient. He immediately baptized and sealed him. Then he was prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray the following:

“Because of the special circumstances thou hast permitted our brother here to become ill so that he was not able to attend the divine service. Now, Father, I pray thee as thy servant, show him and the people gathered here that the Apostles of today are also equipped with the power to heal the sick, as were the Apostles of the first church. I pray thee in the name of Jesus Christ, my sender, the Chief Apostle, the District Apostle and in thy name, Father, let my brother be fully well by tomorrow so that all those present here will then be able to glorify thy name. Amen.”

The next morning, the Apostle received the news that, immediately after the Apostle and the brethren had said their goodbyes, the brother became completely well again.

Chief Apostle Fehr on miracles:

“For a moment the dear God suspends the laws of nature he has provided and immediately there is a miracle.”

Workbook, Exercise 2

Finally, the children work on exercise 2 and compare their answers.

[illegible]