



Date: _____
Series: Discovery Digs
Summer Year 4, Lesson 7

Elijah's Fiery Ride

Take Home Point: *God gives us an earthly mission and a heavenly home.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 2 Kings 2:1-18

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:9, "Whether we live in the body or move out of it, our goal is to be pleasing to him."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Elijah's return to heaven and the commissioning of Elisha.
- Our mission on earth is to bring people to know, love and follow Jesus.
- Each of them plays an important and unique part in accomplishing God's mission.




We will help kids feel:

- Excitement in their journey of following Jesus.
- Significant to God's plan.

We will help kids do:

- Work together to accomplish a group initiative problem in completing a journey.
- Make a group project that demonstrates how each of them plays a part in their special mission together.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	The children work together to solve a puzzle and complete a mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large piece of paper • two pieces of string approximately four feet long
Large Group 	4 7 9 10	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude on a Mission”—Jerry concludes his mission on earth is “surfing the waves, and soaking the rays.” He seems to be lost since he is spending the time in <i>(your state)</i>. Dr. Turner Round and Dr. Goofagain challenge him to find a bigger mission in life as they look through the sands of time.</p> <p>Video Presentation: <i>The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha</i></p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Jerry Dude on a Mission”—Jerry Dude realizes his mission in life is to know, love, and follow Jesus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry puppet • tub of sand • flash paper (order from www.gospelmagic.com) or pencil with tissue paper attached to eraser • Bible • beach towel with a slit cut in the middle so a child can put his head through and it looks like a cloak • sandals • key with discovery point “God gives us an earthly mission and a heavenly home.” • <i>The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha</i>, Nest Family Entertainment, 1994 (order from www.nestfamily.com.)
Small Group Application 	4	Each child will create something that represents a way they can serve Jesus in their mission and then glue it together to make a collage as a group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper for each child • pens • glue or glue sticks • piece of poster board

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies needed: a large piece of paper and two pieces of string approximately four feet long

Place pieces of string parallel to each other at least 10 feet apart. Say:

These are not strings; these are banks of a river. It is not just any river, but a river of boiling chocolate.

Hold up the large piece of paper and say:

This is not a piece of paper. It is a magic island. It does not fly, but it can be placed on the river so that you can stand on it and it will not sink. But if any part of your foot touches the river and is not also touching the island, you are swept away and become, uh-oh, chocolate syrup!

You have a mission to complete together. You all have to get from one side of the river to the other side.

Let the kids spend a few minutes trying to solve how they will get across the river.

Caution: *If they decide to make it an island to jump to the bank, watch out for them slipping and falling. This could especially be dangerous on a tiled floor so do not allow unless on carpeting.*

Solution: The paper must be torn into small pieces so that everyone has a pair for each foot to use to walk across.

Have the group come back together again and discuss:

What did I call your task to complete? *(A mission.)*

What instructions did I give you? *(Get to the other side of the river.)*

How did you work together to accomplish your mission? *(Someone tore the paper. Someone gave instruction. Sometimes we encouraged one another.)*

How is this like our mission as a believer in Jesus Christ? What mission do we have in life or what is our task? Do we have instructions to accomplish this task? Do we need to work together? How? *(Accept a few answers.)*

Today we will learn **God gives us an earthly mission and a heavenly home.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude on a Mission”—Jerry concludes his mission on earth is “surfing the waves, and soaking the rays.” He seems to be lost since he is spending the time in *(your state)*. Dr. Turner Round and Dr. Goofagain challenge him to find a bigger mission in life as they look through the sands of time.

Video Presentation: *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha*

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Jerry Dude on a Mission”—Jerry Dude realizes his mission in life is to know, love, and follow Jesus.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened? & Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to 2 Kings 2:1-18 in their Bibles.

Before God took Elijah home, he sent him on a journey. Where did God send Elijah? (2 Kings 2:1, 2, 4, 6. *God sent him from Gilgal to Bethel, to Jericho, and to the Jordan River.*)

At each place Elijah asked Elisha to stay there, how did Elisha answer him each time? (2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6. *“I solemnly swear, as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not abandon you.”*)

What did this demonstrate about Elisha's character? (*His faithfulness and courage to follow no matter where God led.*)

What did Elisha ask from Elijah before he left him? (2 Kings 2:9. *A double share of his spirit.*)

Why did Elisha ask for Elijah's spirit? *(Elisha hoped to follow in the footsteps of the great prophet Elijah. His goal was to complete the ministry that Elijah had begun.)*

How did Elijah respond? *(2 Kings 2:10. "If you see me taken from you, it will be yours. Otherwise, it will not." This showed that Elijah knew it was God who would decide if Elisha would become a great prophet.)*

Elisha did see Elijah taken to heaven in a windstorm and fiery chariot. What sign or proof did he receive from God that he would receive Elijah's spirit? *(2 Kings 2:12-14. Elisha picked up Elijah's coat or mantle, left behind, and took it and struck the water with it. As he struck the water, calling out to the Lord, it divided to his left and his right and he walked across the on dry land just as Elijah had done.)*

Elisha began a journey following God for the rest of his life. He did what God wanted him to do until God called him to heaven.

How can we be like Elisha? *(Have faith and courage to follow wherever God leads us in our mission here on earth.)*

Just like Elijah passed on his mantle to Elisha, Jesus gives us the robe of his righteousness through his death and resurrection. We pick up that robe of righteousness when we believe through faith that Jesus is our Savior. We can trust Jesus and be filled with his power to bring others to love, know and follow God. Then someday we will go to be with him and others in our heavenly home.

How can we walk in the footsteps of Jesus and continue the ministry he began? *(Be a servant like Jesus, love others and tell them the good news of salvation.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Our verse today from 2 Corinthians 5:9 says, "Whether we live in the body or move out of it, our goal is to be pleasing to him."

God has important stuff for us to do, bigger than just hanging out. He made each of us for a purpose. What do you think God is calling you to do? How can you serve him in your life right now?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: paper for each child, pens or pencils, glue or glue sticks, one poster board for the group

Hand each child a piece of paper and say.

Tear this paper into a shape of something that represents a way you can please God and accomplish the mission he has given you here on earth. (For example, if a child said he could serve God by praying for other people, he might tear the paper into the shape of praying hands.)

Hand out pens and have kids write their names on their creations. Have kids share what they made and explain what it represents. Then say:

In small group warm-up, we had to depend on others to help us journey to the other side of the river. How is this like our Christian walk? (We can encourage each other and work together in our mission just as Elijah and Elisha did.)

Have kids glue their creations to the poster board to show that we can work together to accomplish our earthly mission. Then say:

As children of God we will all someday be together in the heavenly home God has prepared for us.

Additional Idea: If you have a lot of small groups, you can take the collages and attach them to a wall in the shape of a cross for them to see the following week.

Today we learned that **God gives us an earthly mission and a heavenly home.*

Let's pray together and ask God to help us use these different ways to complete our mission here on earth:

Dear Lord, we are really excited that you give us an earthly mission and also a heavenly home to live in forever. Please help us to know, love, and follow you more. Help us to be pleasing to you as we bring others to know, love, and follow you. Thank you for Jesus showing us the way we can do this. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Large Group Presentation

A Mission Now and Forever Discovery Digs – Puppet Presentation

The theme for this series is "Discovery Digs." Two presenters play the role of explorers searching through the sands of time for lessons from God's story in the Bible. The characters' or story tellers' are Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round (Dr. G and Dr. T, for short). We suggest that both characters develop their own personality, accent and costume. Both are archeologists and historians. Both know the Bible events enough to tell them well. Since they are presenting to kids, it's helpful to note that "overacting" works well with kids! Exaggerate expressions of surprise, exhortation or puzzlement.

Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round search through the "Sands of Time" and through the pages of the Bible for a special discovery each week. These are Bible truths that students not only discover, but truths that they put into practice. The Bible events are not told as exact readings of the Bible but are paraphrased. Still, it is a good idea to have a Bible in hand so that students can see the source. They might use a clipboard to hold their script, though it looks like archeologist's notes.

Each week a student is brought forward to pull a special key out of the "Sands of Time"—a key that has a clue to the discovery of the day. It is helpful for the characters to use a dry paint brush to brush off the sand from objects pulled from the sand. There is special humor as the archeologists first put their hands in the sand to pull out a rather surprising or intimidating object. This creates just a bit more suspense for the student who then goes searching for the key. Then the characters tell their story in creative fashion using the student volunteer or perhaps the entire audience.

The puppet for this series is Gordy's cousin, Jerry, the surfer dude. He speaks in surfer dude language. He came in to town for summer vacation and likes to come to Kingdom Quest, especially since they play in the sand a bit. He serves as the one to start and close the large group presentation. He interacts with Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner, whom he calls Dr. G and Dr. T. The presenter's lines are labeled: Dr._____. (Both characters can be used in all presentations, but in the case of unavailable volunteers or a smaller congregation, one individual would be sufficient, as well. Fill in with whichever character is available this week.)

Props:

- *a tub of sand, at least 6 inches deep. Label it "Sands of Time"*
- *flash paper and a small butane lighter to quickly light the flash paper as it is pulled from the Sands of Time. This must be practiced. It can be order from www.gospelmagic.com. (Optional: pencil with small piece of tissue paper attached to the eraser.)*
- *Bible*
- *beach towel with a slit cut in the middle so a child can put his head through and it looks like a cloak*

- *sandals put in the Sands of Time*
- *key with Discovery Point: "God gives us an earthly mission and a heavenly home."*
- *video-Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha, Nest Family Entertainment, 1994.*

Jerry Dude on a Mission

Puppet Presentation

Jerry: Hey dudes and dudettes, welcome back to my show. I am Jerry Dude. Rock on! Just cruisin' through this town, on my number one mission in life. Where are my friends? Dr. T? Dr. G? Who's around? There they are. Far out, dudes.

Dr.____: **Hey, Jerry Dude. What do you mean you're cruisin' through town on your number one mission in life?**

Jerry: Oh, yeah. My number one mission in life is to surf them waves and soak up them rays.

Dr. ____: **Well, how is your mission going?**

Jerry: Like bummer, dude! I'm stuck here in (*insert your state*). No gnarly waves here. My mission is like crashed and burned.

Dr.____: **Well, we might have some advice for you. Maybe you can have a bigger mission.**

Jerry: Like bigger than riding the waves in California (*or Hawaii*)? Gotcha! I'll be riding the twenty-foot pipelines, man!

Dr.____: **No, even bigger than that!**

Jerry: No way!

Dr.____: **God has a mission for you and it's a mission that starts now and it lasts forever.**

Jerry: What's that, dude?

Dr.____: **Let's check our Sands of Time and see if we can find out. What do we have in here today?**

Pull the lighter and flash paper from the sand and quickly touch the lighter to the flash paper, tossing it out in a brilliant flash. If you choose not to use flash paper, you can attach a small piece of tissue paper on the end of a pencil. It will quickly burn and then you can extinguish it in the sand.

Jerry: Whoa! Totally awesome, man! Like, tripindicular! So do we get to play with fire?

Dr. ____: **No, of course not! Never, ever play with fire! Got that kids?**

Jerry: But *you* got to!

Dr. ____: **No, I was just showing you what we are going to do today. God played with fire.**

Jerry: Whoa...

Dr. ____: **After the prophet Elijah finished his mission on earth, God brought him home to heaven in a fiery chariot.**

Jerry: Cool! Like in the sky? Totally awesome! Even more awesome would be if it were a fiery surfboard, man!

Dr. ____: **That's not the most exciting thing. The exciting thing is that Elijah fulfilled his mission for God here and then God took him to his heavenly home. Then Elijah's apprentice Elisha became the one with the mission from God.**

Let's dig through the Sands of Time to see if our key says something about this. Let's get a volunteer to pull out the key from the Sands of Time.

Pick a volunteer from the audience to come forward and pull the key out of the sand.

Jerry: *(To kid who pulls out key.)* Way cool, like, you get to dig in the sand, man!

Dr. ____: **Interesting. It says, **God gives us an earthly mission and a heavenly home.* That means mission work was not just for Elijah and Elisha in their time. We, too, can have an important mission here on earth before God takes us to our heavenly home. Let's take a look at our video while you think: What is God's mission for me?**

Jerry: I'm in the groove with this mission thing. I'm going to get my soda, man.

Video

Show video: *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha*, Nest Family Entertainment from the opening title to 5:50.

Jerry Dude on a Mission

Puppet Conclusion

Dr. ____ asks for another volunteer from the audience.

Dr.____: I would like to present to you the “Mantle of Mission.”

Take the beach towel slip it on the volunteer to look like a cloak.

Jerry: A beach towel. Like, I've got one of those!

Dr.____: No, this is a mantle.

Jerry: You mean a beach towel with a slit.

Dr.____: No, this reminds us of the mantle that was passed down in today's Bible event.

Jerry: Like, I remember it. It's, like, the one dude gave it to the other one. What were their names again?

Dr.____: Let's ask our volunteer. Who passed the mantle? (*Elijah passed it down to Elisha.*) And do you know what that meant? (*Let the kid answer and then fill in if they need help.*) Elisha had the role of prophet after Elijah went to heaven. God gave Elisha a double portion.

Jerry: Double portion? Does that mean like extra work, man?

Dr.____: No, what that means is that Elisha took Elijah's place as God's prophet for his people. In those days, the firstborn child received a double portion of the inheritance when the father was old. It was like Elisha was receiving a double portion of inheritance from his heavenly Father by getting to be God's prophet. It was a pretty important role.

Next pull sandals from the Sands of Time.

Jerry: Radical, dude! Like, I can smell them from here. Totally gnarly. They're like a pair I once had, but my mom made me throw them away. That's okay. Like, I dug them back out of the trashcan!

Dr.____: (*To volunteer.*) What do these remind you of?

Let him/her answer but lead him/her to conclude that the sandals are for walking on a journey.

Dr.____: Elisha also had a journey to complete. Elisha was a farmer but God called him to a whole different mission. He called him to be a prophet. God even showed Elisha that he had the same power as Elijah by doing something spectacular. Do you remember what that was? He used his cloak to do it. *(Let volunteer answer. Help if needed. He struck the river with it and the water divided so he could cross.)* **But his journey then meant that he followed God for the rest of his life. He did what God wanted him to do until God called him to heaven, too.**

Jerry: Like in a fiery chariot?

Dr.____: **No, Jerry. God called Elisha to his heavenly home in a normal way like you and me.**

Jerry: I'm not ready to go there yet, man.

Dr.____: **You don't have to because you still have a mission here. But it is a bigger mission than just riding a ten-foot wave.**

Jerry: You mean a twenty-foot wave.

Dr.____: **Whatever. Bigger than just surfing. Our mission is to bring others to know, love and follow Jesus. In the Bible, it says, "*Whether we live in the body or move out of it, our goal is to be pleasing to him.*" (2 Corinthians 5:9)**

Jerry: But can I be pleasing to him when I'm out riding waves?

Dr.____: **Sure you can. You can be pleasing to him in whatever you do, if you do it for God's glory and remember to be thankful to him for what God did for us.**

Jerry: Man, I don't know if I always follow God all the time and do my mission. It's a gnarly mission, but it's a negative on being able to do it all the time.

Dr.____: **God understands that but he wants us to try. That is why he gave his own Son Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, he took our sins away. Now we can trust him and be filled with his power to love, know, and follow God. Would you say a closing prayer, Jerry Dude?**

Jerry: Totally! Dear God, you have given us a pretty cool **earthly mission and a heavenly home* that is most bodacious. Hang with us here so that we can do those things to better please you, like, what did the doctor say?...Like, knowing you and loving you and following you. Thank you for Jesus who gave his life for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.