



Date: _____
Series: Discovery Digs
Summer Year 4, Lesson 9

An Army of Fiery Chariots

Take Home Point: *See the main thing—God’s power and forgiveness.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 2 Kings 6:8-23

Key Verse: Ephesians 1:18-19, “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength.” (NIV)

We will help kids know:

- Main things about God are his power and forgiveness.
- Kids can see God working in their lives if they look through eyes of faith.
- Through eyes of faith they can see God’s power and forgiveness in everyday circumstances.

We will help kids feel:

- Awed over the idea that they will be able to see the main things of God: his power and forgiveness.
- Challenged to see God working in their everyday lives.

We will help kids do:

- Think in new ways as they try to “see through cardboard.”
- Make a craft, “main thing glasses” out of cardboard that reminds them to look for the main things of God.
- Identify ways they have seen God work recently in their lives showing his power and his forgiveness.

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THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids will use a cardboard square to discuss and discover how God is at work in their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6" x 6" corrugated cardboard per child or nine precut segments per child. • (NOTE: Cutting the cardboard takes time, please do plenty in advance.
Large Group 	3 8 10 13	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Jerry Dude Sees the Main Thing"—Jerry is troubled by fears (real or imagined) and begins to see his fears with a new perspective.</p> <p>Tandem Storytelling: "Seeing the Main Thing about God"—Elisha's actions and miracles demonstrate God's power and forgiveness through the Bible event of Elisha against an entire army.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: "Jerry Dude Sees the Main Thing"—Jerry Dude learns from the Bible event that God's power and forgiveness are always at work in our lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tub of sand • butane lighter • key with discovery point • Main Thing Glasses with string attached for easy recovery from the sand • blindfold • plastic knives, swords, soldier's helmet or toy soldiers • fast food sack or container
Small Group Application 	4	Kids make "Main Thing Glasses" to demonstrate we can rely on eyes of faith to see how God is always at work in our lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nine, ½ inch strips of corrugated cardboard for each child (NOTE: Cutting the cardboard takes time, please do plenty in advance. • eye glass temples pattern • scissors • ruler • pen • glue sticks

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: One 6" x 6" piece of corrugated cardboard for each group

Begin with:

Can you think of a time when you were afraid of the dark? You might think back to when you imagined that there was something in the dark that was going to get you.

Have kids tell about a time they were afraid of the dark. While kids share, have them hold up the square of cardboard in front of their eyes to block out the light as a reminder of darkness. Pass the cardboard to the first volunteer and continue to pass the same piece to the next person and so on indicating whose turn it is to share.

After all have shared, give them the challenge:

Which one of you is able to see through this cardboard square?

Perhaps they will unanimously agree that no one can or maybe one or two can solve the mystery. Turning the cardboard on its side and looking through the corrugated ribs solves it. Then you can see all the way through it.

When I hold the cardboard on its side and look this way, I can see through it. Today we will learn, especially at times when we are afraid, that we can see God working in our lives. He has mighty power for us through his love and forgiveness. We don't have to be afraid when we know God is always there for us. Today, we are going to **see the main thing....God's power and forgiveness.*

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 Sees the Main Thing"—Jerry is troubled by fears (real or imagined) and begins to see his fears with a new perspective.

Tandem Storytelling: "Seeing the Main Thing about God"—Elisha's actions and miracles demonstrate God's power and forgiveness through the Bible event of Elisha against an entire army.

Puppet Conclusion: "Jerry Dude Sees the Main Thing"—Jerry Dude learns from the Bible event that God's power and forgiveness are always at work in our lives.

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?

Have kids refer to 2 Kings 6:8-23 in their Bibles for the following questions.

How did the Israelites keep one step ahead of the Arameans so they would remain safe? (2 Kings 6:12. Elisha told the king of Israel everything the king of Aram said.)

How did the king of Aram try to stop Elisha? (2 Kings 6:13-14. He sent a large army to capture him.)

What did Elisha do to calm his servant's fears when the Aramean army surrounded them? (2 King 6:16-17. He prayed for the Lord to open his servant's eyes and let him see the mountain filled with fiery horses and chariots.)

How was the Aramean army captured? (2 Kings 6:18-20. Elisha asked the Lord to strike them with blindness and then Elisha led them into Samaria where they were surrounded by the Israelite army.)

What did Elisha tell the king of Israel to do with the Aramean army? (2 Kings 6:22-23. Don't kill them. Prepare a feast for them and then send them home.)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you think Elisha wanted to give the army prisoners a feast and let them go? (Elisha had the army of God, God's power, on his side ready to attack. Yet like God, Elisha demonstrated mercy and forgiveness to the Arameans.)

Why do you think this king of Aram never again attacked Israel?

Elisha had power to forgive the Arameans even though they wanted to kill him. Where did he get this forgiving power? (His faith in God.)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: Each student will need twelve ½ inch strips of corrugated cardboard, pens, scissors, rulers and glue sticks.

If not already precut, mark twelve ½ inch lines/segments going against the grain of the corrugation. The students cut along the lines so they end up with twelve, ½ inch strips. Glue 11 strips on top of each other making a tower of corrugated strips. The twelfth strip can be folded to make a hand holder by gluing around one edge of the tower.

Option: Eyeglass temples are available in the appendix. Copy on cardstock. Cut and fold on the appropriate lines. Use glue stick or white school glue to attach to the cardboard “glasses.”



While kids are working on their project ask:

What are things in our lives that can be problems for us? These may be things we are afraid of or things that we worry about that become obstacles from seeing the main thing...God's power and forgiveness.

How can we see these problems differently if we look at them with eyes of faith? (God may be using a hard situation to teach us something or to show his might to others.)

Talk about Jesus' words in Mark 9:23, "Jesus said to him, 'As far as possibilities go, everything is possible for the person who believes.'" or Matthew 19:26, "Jesus looked at them and said, 'It is impossible for people to save themselves, but everything is possible for God.'"

When we look through our Main Thing Glasses, we can see light coming through. We can even see "the main thing"... what's on the other side, though not clearly.

Our problems become less when we focus on the light. Jesus is the light. He is the main thing. He will give us his power and forgiveness to handle the problems.

Just like Elisha's servant's eyes were opened to see God's protection, we can pray for God to help us. We can see that God makes all things possible when we look with "eyes of faith" and *see the main thing... God's power and forgiveness.

Closing Prayer:

Encourage kids to pray for their faith and trust in God's power and forgiveness in all areas of their life. Then close with praying Ephesians 1:18-19 over the students:

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength." (NIV) Amen.

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Large Group Presentation

Seeing the Main Thing About God

Discovery Digs – Tandem Storytelling

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 six inches deep. Label it "Sands of Time"*
- *butane lighter*
- *Bible*
- *key with discovery point*
- *Main Thing Glasses*
- *blindfold*
- *fast food sack or container*
- *plastic knives, swords, soldier's helmet or toy soldier figure*

Jerry Dude Sees the Main Thing

Puppet Presentation

Jerry has an irrational fear of something that ties into the geographical area of your country. For example, in Nebraska it will be a fear of cows. Make up your own irrational fear that would suit your part of the country.

Jerry: Yo, dudes and dudettes. Welcome to Kingdom Quest and a radical good time. Let's bring out those diggin' dudes, Dr. T and Dr. G. Come on out you khaki clad dudes.

Dr.____: **Hi, Jerry. Good to see you again. I remember last week you were getting over some of your homesickness. Did that work out?**

Jerry: Yeah, like totally. Because, like, I learned to give my loneliness thing to God and to trust him.

Dr.____: **So, it sounds like you had a good week!**

Jerry: Kind of, sort of, maybe...it's just that something else has come up.

Dr.____: **What's that, Jerry?**

Jerry: Well, we were talking about being afraid of the dark.

Dr.____: **Yes.**

Jerry: And, it's not like I'm afraid of the dark, man. Since I've been to ____ (*insert your state*), there are other things that freak me out.

Dr.____: **What do you mean?**

Jerry: Well, like when I catch waves in California (*or Hawaii*), I imagine there are sharks in the ocean that will get me. My imagination gets the better of me and it creeps me out.

Dr.____: **I can understand that, but what creeps you out here in Nebraska (*insert your state*)?**

Jerry: Promise not to laugh?

Dr.____: **Oh, sure, Jerry. What are you afraid of?**

Jerry: Cows (*or whatever is a predominate feature of your state landscape*)!

Dr.____: *(trying to suppress a laugh)* **Cows?**

Jerry: Yeah, attack cows.

Dr.____: **What do you mean?**

Jerry: I imagine them coming out of the cornfields *(adapt to suit)*, attacking me and trying to nibble off my ears.

Dr.____: **Jerry, I'm sorry that I laughed, but it is kind of funny!**

Jerry: Chyaa-a, it wouldn't be funny to you if cows were nibbling on your ears.

Dr.____: **Well Jerry, today we will learn that you need to see things in a different way.**

Jerry: Like, what do you mean?

Dr.____: **You need to see the main thing about God. God is here with his power to help you.**

Jerry: How do you see him?

Dr. ____: **Well, you see him with eyes of faith. Why don't we go through our Discovery Digs and look at the Bible event and then we will come back to you.**

Jerry: I'll check it out now as you tell the Bible event. I'll just go down here as long as there aren't any attack cows there. Bye, dudes and dudettes.

Jerry exits.

Seeing The Main Thing About God Tandem Storytelling

The following Bible event, 2 Kings 6:8-23, can be told in tandem with Dr. Turner Round and Dr. Goofagain each taking assigned sections or it can be told by one character while the other handles the objects. As you tell the story, the object(s) helps illustrate the story. All objects are laid in the sand and easily retrieved at point of illustration(s) in each section.

Supplies needed: tub of sand, butane lighter, key with discovery point, "Main Thing Glasses" with string attached for easy recovery from the sand, blindfold, plastic knives, swords, soldier's helmet or toy soldiers, fast food sack or container

Introduction: (*Object needed: Main Thing Glasses*)

Dr. ____: I would like a volunteer to come up and take a search through the sands of time and see what you can find for us.

Have the volunteer pull the string attached to the Main Thing Glasses buried in the sand.

Dr. ____: What in the world are these? They may be a clue to today's Bible event.

Let the child guess.

Dr. ____: Describe what you see looking through the glasses.

Child describes.

Dr. ____: Let's find the key to help us figure out what these glasses mean? Would you please read what it says on the key?

Have the volunteer pull out key and read, "*See the main thing... God's power and forgiveness.*"

Dr. ____: Aahh! These are Main Thing Glasses. When you look through them you see the main thing. So, today we want to look at life's challenges and **see the main thing...God's power and forgiveness.* Thank you for your help today.

Have volunteer return to his/her seat.

Elisha's Spiritual Eyesight (*Object needed: Main Thing Glasses*)

Dr. ____: To the north of Israel was a country called Aram. The king of Aram wanted to conquer Israel. He had a great and might army. He planned to attack one city at a time until finally he would rule over all of Israel. But when the soldiers attacked one city, they were surprised to find that the king of Israel had already strongly guarded that city.

Dr. ____: The king of Aram asked how the king of Israel knew which city was to be attacked. He always seems to be one step ahead of us. There must be a spy in our midst.

Hold up Main Thing Glasses.

Dr. ____: He sent his soldiers to find out how the king of Israel seemed to know their plans ahead of time. He was certain there was a spy in his army.

Dr. _____: His soldiers came back to report what really had happened. They told him there was not a spy among them. Instead, there was a prophet from the God of Israel who told the king exactly what their army was going to do. Remember the prophet from last week? This prophet's name was Elisha and he was the spy. He seemed to see the king of Aram's every move. He even knew what the king said in his bedroom.

King of Aram Prepares to Attack (*Object(s) needed: Weapons such as plastic knives, helmet, swords or small soldier figures*)

Dr. _____: The king of Aram was furious. He knew that he could not win battles as long as Elisha was telling the Israelites his plans. He asked his army to find where Elisha was staying and capture him.

Retrieve weapon(s) or soldiers from sand to illustrate.

Dr. _____: The men returned to tell the king of Aram that Elisha was in the small town of Dothan. Carefully, the king planned Elisha's capture. He sent a large army to surround Dothan as Elisha and the city slept. No man would be a match for such a great army.

Lord, Let Him See (*Object(s) needed: Main Thing Glasses and lighter*)

Dr. _____: In the morning, Elisha's servant went outside and saw that soldiers surrounded the city. He ran to Elisha and cried out in fear, "Oh, my master. What should we do?"

Elisha was not afraid. He said calmly, "Do not be afraid. There are more of us than the Arameans." His servant looked again at the hillside that was covered with enemy soldiers. He could not understand Elisha. There were only two of them but thousands of soldiers coming to take them as prisoners.

Then Elisha prayed, "Lord open the eyes of my servant that he may see." And then the servant saw what Elisha was talking about. He saw the "main thing"

Look through Main Thing Glasses.

Dr. _____: On the hills all about were fiery horses and chariots.

Pull out and hold up lighter to show the flame.

Dr. _____: They were the angels and heavenly warriors ready to protect Elisha. Now, the servant could see the main thing that was invisible to him just a moment ago. It was the power of God that would rescue them.

No wonder Elisha was not worried. Neither was the servant. He knew God was caring for them.

King of Aram's Army is Blinded *(Object(s) needed: blindfold)*

Pull blindfold from the sand.

Dr._____: Look at this next object. I wonder what this is for. Aahhh! Even though there were all those fiery chariots and the army of God ready to help Elisha, what did Elisha ask from God? Elisha said please strike this army with blindness. And God blinded the whole army just like that.

Put on blindfold.

Dr._____: They couldn't see. Now Elisha told the army to follow him and that he would lead them to the man they wanted. But Elisha, instead, led them to another city in Samaria. Samaria was the capital of Israel. They all followed him there. Waiting inside the city was the whole army of Israel, but the Aramean's could not see them. Remember they were all blinded. Then Elisha prayed that their eyesight would return. Suddenly, they could see again.

Remove blindfold.

Now, they could see the army of Israel surrounded them. They were the ones afraid now. The king of Israel asked Elisha what he should do with all these prisoners. Should he kill them?

God's Forgiveness *(Object(s) needed: a fast food sack or container)*

Dr._____: No! You weren't the ones to capture them. God was. You are not to kill the Aramean army. Instead you should be merciful to them. Instead of death, you should give them a feast and then send them back home.

Pull out the food sack or container.

Dr._____: The Aramean army was stunned and couldn't believe their ears. What was happening? They were tricked and captured as prisoners. But, they were not treated like prisoners. They were fed good food and sent home. How could they possibly return evil for such goodness and mercy? So this king never attacked Israel again.

Conclusion *(Object(s) needed: Main Thing Glasses)*

Dr._____: There is one main thing to see in all of life's circumstances, especially when you are afraid. We can see God's power just like the

servant of Elisha saw the hillside filled with fiery chariots and horses. And we can also see God's mercy and his forgiveness when he spared the Aramean's lives and sent them home.

God gives us his forgiveness as well. In all things we can come to Jesus and find his forgiveness and his power.

Jerry Dude Sees The Main Thing

Puppet Conclusion

Jerry: Totally gnarly, dude. Can I have some glasses like that? I want to see fiery chariots.

Dr.____: **No, we will probably not see chariots, but can see things in our lives that need God's power and his forgiveness.**

Jerry: You mean like attack cows (*substitute your area or state's "peculiarity" to create a "fun" fear*).

Dr.____: **Yes, we can give God our fears and we can see that he will be right there beside us and he is much more real than any attack cow (*or replace with the fear created above*).**

Jerry: Totally awesome.

Dr.____: **But the greatest power that God has for us is the power of his forgiveness. You see we need that above all else. Because we sin and disobey, God sent his Son Jesus. Jesus paid the price for us by giving his life. Jesus is alive right now. When we place our trust in him, he lives in our hearts. He will make sure we see God's power and his forgiveness with eyes of faith. Just like it says in Ephesians 1:18-19: *"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength"* (NIV)**

Jerry: Dear God, you are, like, a totally awesome God and it would be completely bodacious for us to be able to have one of those glasses that see your power. But, I guess we can if we look to see the main thing: your power and forgiveness for us. Lord, help us to trust you, especially if we are afraid of stuff like attack cows (*or other fear inserted above*). I know you will be there to make those fears go away. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Templates for frames

