

“Elisha” - LESSON 1

“How To Be A Faithful Follower”

Main Focus:

If you want to be a good leader, you have to learn to be a good follower



Power Verse:

“...If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.” - Matthew 16:24



Watt’s Up:

“I Will Follow God With All Of My Heart!”

LEADER’S INFO

Remember the game “Follow The Leader” from when you were young? It never failed that everyone always wanted to be the leader. Very few had any desire to be one of the followers.

There is something in all of us that wants to be in charge. We want to lead. But before someone can be a good leader, they first have to learn to be a good follower.

That is true in life, and it is true when it comes to followers of Jesus. In this lesson, the children will learn some valuable lessons from the story of Elisha being called to follow the prophet, Elijah. If Elisha had not learned to be a good, faithful follower, he never would have become the POWERFUL, godly leader that he became.



“The Spark” Intro Video

Hammer Time



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Meg A. Watt”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Crawl, Hop, Run”



Bible Story

“Elisha Is Called”



Power Verse Video

“...If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.” - Matthew 16:24



Call To Action

“How To Be A Faithful Follower”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

If you want to be a good leader, you have to learn to be a good follower



Power Verse:

“...If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.” - Matthew 16:24



Watt's Up:

“I Will Follow God With All Of My Heart!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Hammer Time” Video

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt’s Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Meg A. Watt” Theme Graphic/Music
- Dog leash

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Crawl, Hop, Run” Graphic
- Two batons
- Two chairs

Bible Story

- “Elisha Is Called” Graphics
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “How To Be A Faithful Follower” Graphics
- A few volunteers

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Pictures
- Bible Story Excerpt
- Follow Me Print Piece
- Empty cup

“The Spark” Intro Video

HammerTime

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”

Character Skit

“Meg A. Watt”

Offering Time

Game On!

“Crawl, Hop, Run”

Bible Story

“Elisha Is Called”

Power Verse Video

“...If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.” - Matthew 16:24

Call To Action

“How To Be A Faithful Follower”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Meg A. Watt” *(a science-loving young lady that is obsessed with anything having to do with electricity)*

MEG: *(rushes the stage, breathless and excited with a dog leash)* I I I I I DID IT! I DID IT! I DID IT! I DID IT! *(to the leader)* Did you hear that, you beautiful little dumpling? I DID IT!!

Leader: What did you do? And more importantly, WHO ARE YOU?

MEG: Dr. Megan Ambrosia Watt, a.k.a. Dr. MEG A. WATT - electrical engineer and scientist, at your service. *(grabs the leader’s hand to shake it)*

Leader: *(yells and jumps away, rubbing their hand)* You just SHOCKED me!

MEG: *(laughs)* Yeah, I did. It’s from the experiments. Cool, huh?

Leader: I wouldn’t call it cool...more like...

MEG: Awesome, amazing, incredible, bodacious, just plain SPIFFY?

Leader: PAINFUL. I was going to say painful.

MEG: *(laughs)* Yeah, that too. *(snaps into serious mode)* ENOUGH. As I was saying earlier - I DID IT!!

Leader: I’m afraid to ask. What did you do?

MEG: My latest and greatest invention, you fluffy, little bunny. *(lifts up the dog leash)* BEHOLD!

Leader: That looks like a dog leash.

MEG: Dog leash?! *(laughs hysterically for a few moments, then goes back to being serious)* It is a dog leash, yes. But I have IMPROVED IT!!! I present to you, the Fiendishly Outstanding Long Leash Operation With Electrical Righteousness, or “F.O.L.L.O.W.E.R.” for short. It will REVOLUTIONIZE how people FOLLOW instructions!

Leader: It’s an invention that helps people FOLLOW? How does it do that?

MEG: Observe! *(snaps the dog leash around the leader’s neck)* C’mon, boy! Follow me! *(starts gently pulling the leader around the stage with the dog leash)* Who’s a good follower? YOU ARE! YES, YOU ARE!

Leader: This is just a normal dog leash! There’s nothing cool about it!
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

MEG: Oh, really? Then why did I install this button hidden right here? *(presses an imaginary “button” on the leash)*

Leader: *(acts like they’re being electrocuted)*

MEG: See? ELECTRICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS!! That way you’ll only go where I want you to! GENIUS!!

Leader: *(rips off the dog leash)* You’re CRAZY! That’s not how you get people to be a FAITHFUL FOLLOWER! You can’t FORCE people to do it!

MEG: You’re saying I should add MORE electricity?

Leader: NO! A faithful follower is COMMITTED. That means they’ll follow no matter what the circumstances - good or bad.

MEG: I’m sorry, but I don’t have time for this. Do you know just how ginormous my brain is? Why else would I have my hair like this? IT BARELY FITS UNDER THERE. A scientist such as myself shouldn’t be wasting my time by listening to you.

Leader: I think you DEFINITELY need to hear this! You sound so prideful! A committed follower is HUMBLE. They’re not full of themselves!

MEG: Me? Be a follower? Of who?

Leader: You should be a follower of God! Today we’re going to learn how faithful followers receive God’s blessings and His POWER.

MEG: Power? Did you say POWER? Like thunderbolts from the fingertips, 1.21 jigawats, awesome POWER? *(thinks for a second)* Yup, I’m in! *(wraps their arm around the leader’s shoulder and squeezes them close)* I can’t wait to see you again. *(nuzzles her nose in their ear)* We’re gonna be BEST BUDDIES! *(to the kids)* Farewell, dumplings! I’ll just lead myself out. *(puts the dog leash around her own neck)* Who’s a good girl? I AM! *(leads herself offstage as her exit music plays)*



GAME ON!

“Crawl, Hop, Run”

Items Needed For Game:

Two batons (anything that can be used for passing between players); two chairs

.....

Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to participate in this game. Place two chairs at the opposite end of the room from where the participants will form a “starting line.”

.....

How To Play:

This is a relay race. The first person in each line starts with the baton for their team. When you say, “Go!”, the first participant will CRABWALK to the chair on the other side of the room and back to their team! They will pass the baton to the next person in line who must HOP to the chair on the other side of the room and back to their team! They will then pass the baton to the last person in line who must RUN to the chair on the other side of the room and back to their team! The first team to have to finish the relay will be declared the winners!



Bible Story

“Elisha Is Called”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in 1 Kings 19:19-21 and 2 Kings 2; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

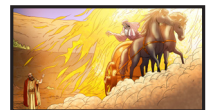
Today’s Bible Story is found in the books of 1 & 2 Kings. Elisha was out working in his field. He was just a regular guy doing regular work. Suddenly, a man showed up. It was the prophet, Elijah. (*show pic*) Elijah walked over and placed his cloak around the shoulders of Elisha, and he told Elisha, “Follow me.” Immediately, Elisha left his farm and started following Elijah.



For many years, Elijah taught Elisha what it meant to be faithful to God. One day, Elijah knew that his time on Earth was coming to an end. He and Elisha passed by some young prophets in the town of Bethel. The young prophets called out to Elisha, “Hey! Don’t you know that God is going to take your master from you today?” They knew that God was coming to get Elijah and they were basically telling Elisha, “Hey, come join us! Your master isn’t going to be around much longer.” (*show pic*) Elisha turned to Elijah and said, “I will not leave you!”



So, Elijah asked Elisha, “What can I do for you before the Lord takes me from you.” (*show pic*) Elisha answered, “I want a double portion of the spirit God placed on you.” That meant that Elisha was asking for God to give him TWO TIMES the amount of anointing and power He had given Elijah. WOW! Elijah was one of the most powerful prophets of all time, and Elisha was asking God to make him TWICE as powerful.



Elijah responded, “You have asked a hard thing. But, if you are with me when I am taken away, then God will do it for you.” As they began walking a bit further, suddenly (*show pic*) a chariot of fire appeared from Heaven. It scooped up Elijah and carried him to Heaven. On his way up to Heaven, Elijah’s cloak fell off of him and landed on the ground. Elisha picked up the cloak, walked over to the Jordan river nearby, and hit the water with Elijah’s cloak. The young prophets from earlier were standing on the other side of the river watching this. (*show pic*) Suddenly, when the cloak hit the water, the water split down the middle, and Elisha walked across on dry land. Isn’t that amazing?



Upon seeing this, (*show pic*) the entire group of young prophets rushed to meet Elisha. They bowed before him and said, “The spirit of Elijah is now resting on Elisha!” The same guys who were telling him to leave Elijah and follow them—now THEY were following HIM. Pretty amazing! Today, you are going to learn some important lessons from Elisha. You’re going to learn all about the importance of being a faithful follower.



Call To Action

“How To Be A Faithful Follower”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; a few volunteers

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “How To Be A Faithful Follower”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Have you ever played the game, “Follow The Leader?” *(choose some children to come up and demonstrate how the game is played for a few moments)* When I was a kid, every time we played “Follow The Leader”, everyone wanted to be the leader. They wanted to be the one that led everyone else around. They wanted to be the one who made all of the choices and had all of the other players follow them. It was amazing that no one ever wanted to be the follower. They always wanted to be the leader.

It’s that way in life, also. Many people want to be “the leader.” They want to tell others what to do, set the path for others, and have other people follow their lead. It is a lot of fun being the leader. But the truth is - if you want to be a good leader, you have to FIRST learn to be a good follower.

Elisha was a POWERFUL prophet. He was a great leader. But he first learned how to be a great follower. Let’s look at some of the characteristics that Elisha displayed in order for us to learn what it means to be a faithful follower...

Faithful Followers Are Committed *(slide)*



Elisha was fully committed to Elijah. He followed Elijah through all of the ups and downs of ministry. Elijah gave Elisha several opportunities to leave him, but Elisha said, “I will not leave you.” Even when the other prophets made fun of Elisha, he chose to stick by his leader, Elijah.

If you are going to be a faithful follower of God, then you have to be committed. There will be many opportunities to quit. Tough times will come. People may even make fun of you for following God. Don’t quit! Stay committed to following God! If you do, God will reward you!

Another characteristic of a faithful follower that Elisha displayed was...

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



Call To Action (Continued)



Faithful Followers Are Humble *(slide)*

Even when it was getting close to the end of Elijah’s time on Earth, Elisha remained his humble follower. Remember when the young group of prophets were teasing Elisha? They said, “Don’t you know that your master is leaving today? Stop following him! Come over here with us and be THE MAN!” But Elisha did not leave Elijah. He did not stop following so that he could become THE MAN. He continued to be a faithful, humble follower.

After all of that, do you remember what God did for Elisha? When the chariot of fire came to take Elijah to Heaven, the cloak that Elijah had worn fell down into the arms of Elisha. At that moment, Elisha went from being the faithful follower to being God’s Powerful Prophet! He took that cloak and parted the river with it. From then on, God did some incredible miracles through him. What does that tell us about faithful followers?



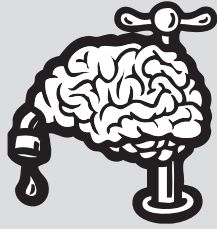
Faithful Followers Receive God’s Blessings And His Power *(slide)*

It’s true! When you are faithful as a follower, God can elevate you as a leader. Jesus taught in Matthew 25 that when you are “faithful over a little, God will make you ruler over much.” When you follow God and follow the leaders He has placed in your life - your parents, your pastors, your small group leaders and Sunday School Teachers - God will give you His blessings and His power.

Elisha received a “double portion” of God’s power. He didn’t receive this because he was cute and special. He received this because He was a faithful follower. If you follow God and follow your spiritual leaders, God can bless you and use you as well.

Altar Response: *(play soft music)*

Pray for each child to be a faithful follower. Challenge them to be humble, not thinking of themselves more highly than they should. Challenge them to be committed to God even through the tough times. Pray that as they are “faithful over a little, God will make them ruler over much.”



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Will Follow God With All Of My Heart!”

2. What is the name of the prophet we are studying in this series?

Answer: Elisha

3. Who was the prophet that Elisha was following in our Bible Story?

Answer: Elijah

4. What was Elisha doing when Elijah called him to follow?

Answer: Working In The Fields

5. How was Elijah taken up to Heaven?

Answer: Chariot Of Fire

6. What fell upon Elisha as Elijah was taken to Heaven?

Answer: Elijah’s Cloak

7. According to our lesson today, “Faithful Followers Are _____.”

Answer: Committed

8. According to our lesson today, “Faithful Followers Are _____.”

Answer: Humble

9. According to our lesson today, “Faithful Followers Receive God’s _____ And His _____.”

Answer: Blessings, Power

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Matthew 16:24

(This page intentionally left blank)