LESSON 3

ELISHA AND THE ARMY OF GOD



Aim: **To show the children how God protected Elisha in a supernatural way. God still protects us today. Often in unexpected ways.**

Scripture Reading: **2 Kings 6:8–17**

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:3 (the Ten Commandments) "You shall have no other gods before me."**

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Soldiers are very familiar to children in Africa. Talk about the different jobs soldiers do. Some belong to the artillery division. They fire the guns. Others drive tanks or are engineers. One of the most dangerous jobs in the army is to be a spy or a scout. You have to be among the enemy to find out what their plans are, and then report back to your own side.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Syria and Israel were at war with each other. The king of Syria could not understand why each time he planned a surprise attack against the army of Israel, it failed. He accused his officers of being spies for the king of Israel (2 Ki 6:8, 10–11).
2. The king of Syria's officers told him there was no spy among them. It was the prophet Elisha who kept warning the Israelites. Like a spy he knew the king of Syria's plans and reported them to the Israelite army. God, who knows all things, even the secrets of our hearts, revealed the king of Syria's plans to Elisha (6:9, 12).
3. Immediately the king of Syria found out where Elisha was living. He sent a large, powerful army to surround the town during the night so that they could take Elisha prisoner (6:13–14).
4. Elisha's servant was terrified when he woke up the next morning and saw the powerful Syrian army surrounding the town. "What shall we do?" he asked his master in fear (6:15).
5. **Learn by heart Elisha's reply to the servant and Elisha's prayer for his servant's eyes to be opened. These are powerful and dramatic words; convey that when you repeat them to the children.** God had sent his own army to protect Elisha! They were much more powerful than even the great Syrian force (6:16–17).
   Show Picture 3.

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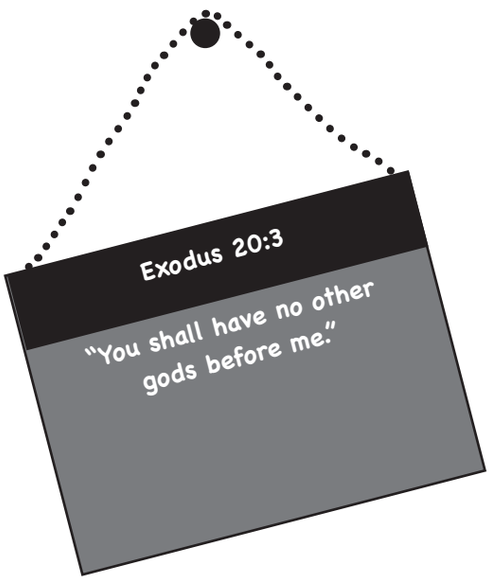
Our Response to the Story

Elisha's servant was very frightened and thought they were about to die. War is terrifying, as we have heard and seen on TV and the radio. In wartime families become separated, homes and possessions are lost, people go hungry and many die. However, many believers do experience the most wonderful deliverances, often from danger and death. **Perhaps you have a story to share here.**

God has an army of angels to protect us. Just because we cannot see them, it does not mean that we have to rely on our own fighting power. God is the Creator of all and the source of all power. The Lord Jesus has defeated all the evil powers in the whole world. One day we shall see his final victory with our own eyes – when God establishes his rule in the new heaven and on the new earth (2 Pet 3:13).

Instil the Memory Verse

Review all the verses of Exodus 20 learnt so far.



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