LESSON 4

ELISHA AND THE BLIND ARMY



Aim: **To show the children that Elisha not only trusted in God to overcome his enemies; he also was not interested in revenge. As God forgives us, we should forgive those who sin against us and leave judgment to God.**

Scripture Reading: **2 Kings 6:18-23 Read verses 8-17, too, to review the background of today's reading.**

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:4 (the Ten Commandments) "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below."**

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

What do you think does a person need in order to be a good soldier? Possible answers: a strong body, good training, good eyesight, obedience to commanding officers.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Elisha was facing the king of Syria's powerful army – one man against a strong fighting force that had come to take him prisoner. What could he do? Elisha did the best and most powerful thing he could. He prayed to God. He asked God to make the Syrian soldiers blind, and God did (2 Ki 6:18).
2. **Show Picture 4.** Blind soldiers are useless, no matter how strong or well trained they are. **Describe how Elisha tricked these Syrian soldiers, who now couldn't see where they were going, and led them straight to Samaria, the capital city of Israel (6:19).**
3. Elisha prayed again and God restored the Syrian soldiers' sight (6:20). How ashamed and frightened these soldiers must have been!
4. The king of Israel immediately wanted to kill them, but he listened to Elisha's wise words. God had worked miracles in that war through Elisha, and Israel had been spared. Now they should in their turn spare those Syrian soldiers and take no revenge (6:21-22).
5. To their great surprise the Syrian soldiers were given a feast and then sent home. As a result the Syrians stopped attacking Israel (6:23). Killing those soldiers, on the other hand, would have prolonged the war.

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Our Response to the Story

Elisha's God is our God, too. He is greater than any enemy we may encounter.

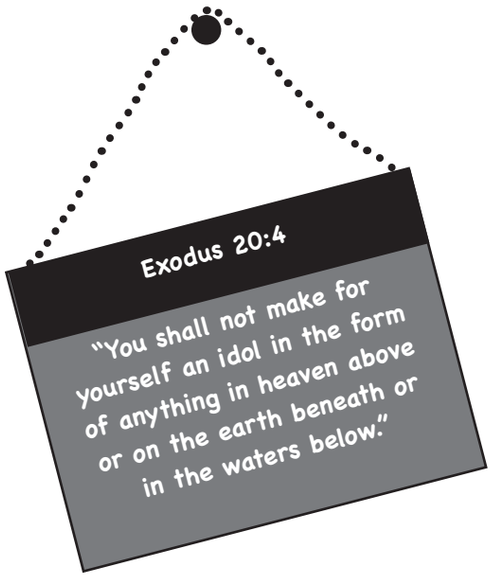
Those who trust in the living God should not seek revenge. The New Testament has some very practical advice about how we should treat our enemies. **Read Matthew 5:44 aloud.**

When I read you the next few verses, keep in mind that the Roman government was persecuting the Christians when Paul wrote these words to the church in Rome: **Read Romans 12:17-21 out loud.**

How do you treat people who treat you badly or are against you? Do you look for an opportunity to take some kind of revenge or perhaps say bad things about them? This is the way of the world, not the way Jesus Christ wants his followers to live.

Instil the Memory Verse

Review all the verses of Exodus 20 learnt so far.



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