

LESSON PLAN

ELISHA BLINDS THE SYRIANS

2 Kings 6

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 34:7 “The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear Him and delivers them.”

Lesson Aim: Trust in the Lord for His protection from all your enemies.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever been close to a mother dog with new-born puppies? What will the mother dog do if you try to pet or touch a new-born pup? She will nip at you, won't she? She is protecting her puppies from someone she thinks might hurt them.

In our story for today you will see how God protected Elisha from an enemy army. God protects those who trust His Son for salvation. He will protect, if you have received Jesus as your Savior.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us how the Lord protects Christians who depend upon (“fear”) Him. He camps all around them so that they are protected on every side. Our enemy is Satan and he uses demons and evil people to work for him. But the Lord is stronger than Satan and all of his workers and He will keep them from being captured (“delivers them”) by Satan.

Words and phrases to explain in the verse:

“**The angel of the Lord**” -- This term refers to Christ in the Old Testament before He became a man.

“**Encamps round about**” – Christ is all around believers to protect them from their enemies.

“**That fear Him**” – Those who respect the mighty power of Christ and put their trust in Him

“**Delivers them**” – Christ keeps believers from being captured by Satan

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In this lesson we will learn how God protected Elisha and the nation of Israel from an enemy nation. This enemy nation tried to hurt Israel, and then it tried to capture Elisha. This wicked nation was working for Satan.

I. The Plans of Syria (2 Kings 6:8-14)

Syria, an enemy nation, decided to fight against Israel. The king called his servants and advisers together. They planned how their army should secretly camp at a certain place and have a surprise attack against Israel. However, God loved Israel and He protected her from this enemy! He told Elisha, who was His prophet in Israel, about Syria's plans for war and the place where the Syrian army would attack Israel. When Elisha heard about this, he told the king of Israel not to go to that place with his army. The king of Israel sent some men to check it out, and it was exactly as Elisha had said. The army of Israel was protected by God from a surprise attack. This happened several times and God protected Israel each time. Naturally, this made the king of Syria angry. He thought one of his servants was telling his plans to the Israelites. So he called them all together and asked them about it. But one of the servants said something like this, “We did not tell the Israelites anything, O king. It is Elisha, the prophet, who has given your secrets to the king of Israel. He even knows what you say in your bedroom.” The king of Syria then commanded that the servants go and find out where Elisha lived so he could be captured. When Elisha was found, the king of Syria sent horses, and surrounded the entire city. It looked like Elisha was in danger because he had told the king of Israel about the secret plans of the Syrian king. The Syrian army would have left him alone, but he had to be faithful to God. God had revealed these plans to him so that he would tell the king about this danger. It would have been wrong for Elisha to keep silent.

WE: Sometimes we will have problems, too, when we do what God tells us in the Bible. Our friends will not like us when we warn them about their sin. It is often easier to keep quiet about it. But if we do keep quiet, we will disappoint God and they may be captured by Satan by falling into deep sin. We must tell them what is right and what is wrong. God wants us to be His witnesses.

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II. The Protection of God (2 Kings 6:15-17)

The servant of Elisha got up early the next morning, but to his surprise, he saw the city completely surrounded by soldiers from the Syrian army. In fear, he cried out and said to Elisha something like this, "Help, my master! What shall we do?" But Elisha calmly answered, "Do not be afraid, because those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed that God would allow his servant to see the armies of angels that God had sent to protect them. When the servant's eyes were opened, he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire which God had sent to protect them.

WE: We must be like Elisha. He trusted in the Lord for protection. We notice that he did not pray for help; he knew he already had God's help. We can know that, too, by believing Psalm 34:7. Even when people do not like us and try to hurt us, God will protect us from them, unless He has a better plan for us. Trust Him to protect you. He loves you and will always do what is best for you.

2. The Prayers of Elisha (2 Kings 6:18-23)

The Syrian army came into the city to get Elisha, but Elisha prayed that God would blind the eyes of the Syrians. God answered Elisha's prayer. Then Elisha went up to the Syrians and told them that he would take them to the right city to find the man that they wanted. So he led the Syrians right into the middle of the city of Samaria, the capital of Israel. Then Elisha prayed that God would give back the sight to the men of the Syrian army. And God did! When their eyes were opened, they saw that they were in Samaria, the city of the king of Israel. Now the Syrians did not dare to capture Elisha in this city, so Elisha was safe. Instead of killing these soldiers, Elisha ordered that the army be fed and allowed to go home. It was a great testimony of God's power when the whole Syrian army was captured by one man. It also was a great testimony of God's mercy to those soldiers, when he let the army go free. Maybe some of those soldiers began to fear God's power and trust in His mercy. Elisha was certainly a good witness for God, wasn't he? He did not fight with a sword, but he fought his enemy with the power of God.

WE: When we trust and serve God, people may call us names, laugh at us or even try to hurt us. We may want to fight back in our own power, but if we do, we are not depending on God to protect us. We need to trust in God's power to deliver us. Then we will be a good witness for the Lord and maybe some of our enemies will get saved.

BE (for Action): What were the plans of the king of Syria? (First, to attack Israel and later to capture Elisha) How did God protect Elisha? (By horses and chariots of fire) How did God deliver Elisha from his enemies? (By blinding the Syrian army)

If you want God to protect you, what is the **first** thing you must do? (Trust in Jesus to be your Savior.) God does not promise He will protect those who are not Christians. Do trust Jesus to cleanse you from all your sins so He can let you into Heaven? What is the **second** thing you must do? (Do not cause fights, but do good things to others.) Your enemies may want to fight you, but you are to live a godly life and show them mercy. You will want to memorize our memory verse (Psalm 34:7) to help you remember that God will protect you. If you plan to memorize this verse by next Sunday, raise your hand. I will give you a card with a check list. Every day you should recite the verse five times; then put a mark in the box for that day. Next Sunday, bring your card back and we will see how well you did. Perhaps you can also tell us how God protected you. (Close in prayer and ask God to protect them and you from Satan's attacks.)