

YEAR A | QUARTER 4

8

Elijah's Hand-Me-Down Cloak

Grace
We extend God's grace to others.

POWER TEXT

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Kings 2:1-15
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 17, pp. 217-228
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 55-60
- Student lesson on page 92 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 5, The Holy Spirit
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that through His grace God provides all they need to live for Him.
- **Feel** a sense of God's call to live and work for Him empowered through His grace.
- **Respond** by praising God for the gift of His Spirit and power.



God's Spirit gives us the power to live and work for Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Elijah, the most important prophet in Israel since Moses, has done a great work fighting idolatry and turning the people back to God. Now Elijah is old, and God has revealed to both Elijah and Elisha, his younger helper and disciple, that Elijah is about to be taken to heaven.

When Elijah had called Elisha to be his helper he had thrown his cloak over the younger man's shoulders (1 Kings 19:19-21). Now, before he leaves, Elijah asks Elisha to make one request, and Elisha asks for a double portion of God's Spirit. As Elijah is taken to heaven in a chariot of fire, that same cloak falls to the ground, signifying that Elisha's request has been granted.

This is a lesson about grace.

God's power is a gift of grace. When God calls us to do His work, He also gives us the gift of His Spirit and the power to do as He asks.

Teacher Enrichment

"As Elijah was about to take leave of his faithful servant and disciple, he gave Elisha the privilege of asking for whatever was in his heart. Elisha might have asked for temporal or material favor—riches, fame, wisdom, worldly honor and glory, a place among the great leaders of earth, or a life of ease and pleasure as contrasted with Elijah's life of hardship and privation. But he asked for none of these. What he wanted most was to carry on the same work that Elijah had carried on, and in the same spirit and power. To do that he would need the same grace and the same help of the Spirit of God" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 851).

"The words 'when I am' [2 Kings 2:10, KJV] are not in the Hebrew and would be best omitted. The meaning is 'if you see me being taken.' If Elisha would be a witness of Elijah's translation, then he would know that the Lord had seen fit to grant his request" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 852).

If I had one request to ask God, what would it be?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Tied in Knots*	a piece of string for each student
		B. Amazing Balloon Blowup	a bottle and balloon for each student, vinegar, baking soda, a funnel (optional)
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 87. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	slips of paper, pencils
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenarios*	scenarios on slips of paper
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Sweet Victory**	fruits
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

* Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ a piece of string about a yard (meter) long for each student in class

Tied in Knots

Hand each student a piece of string and tell them you need them to tie it in a knot without letting go of the ends. Give them several minutes to attempt this, then demonstrate how: Lay the string on a table or on the floor, cross your arms across your chest as if you are angry, and lean over and grab one end of the string in each hand without uncrossing your arms. Then uncross your arms without letting go of the ends of the string. Allow the students to try it.

Debriefing

Ask: **How possible did this seem? What things does God ask us to do that seem impossible? God doesn't ask us to work for Him without also giving us the grace and the power that we need to do what He has asked. Just as you could tie a knot in the string without letting go of the ends after you had been shown how, God will give you what you need to do what He asks.**

Let's say the power text together, Acts 1:8:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Our power point reminds us that

God's Spirit gives us the power to live and work for Him.

B

YOU NEED:

For each student

- ☐ a bottle with a small opening (such as a soda bottle)
- ☐ a balloon with an opening that will fit snugly over the bottle top
- ☐ about ¼ cup of vinegar
- ☐ about 1 tablespoon of baking soda
- ☐ a funnel (optional)

Amazing Balloon Blowup

Give each student a balloon and ask them to blow it up without putting their lips on it. Give them a minute to attempt this. Then give each student a bottle into which you have poured or will pour the vinegar. Next, pour a tablespoon of baking soda into each balloon. (A funnel will come in handy.) Shake the baking soda down into the fat part of the balloon. Then, without letting the baking soda fall down toward the mouth, slip the balloon over the opening of the bottle. When the seal is snug, tip the balloon up so the baking soda falls into the vinegar. The chemical reaction of the baking soda mixing with the vinegar will blow up the balloon.

Debriefing

Ask: **How many ways are there to blow up a balloon? Would any other tools help you? What kinds of things does God ask us to do that we think can't be done? What extra tools does God give us when He asks us to work for Him? Let's see what His Word tells us in Acts 1:8. Let's say the power text together, Acts 1:8:**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Our power point reminds us of what we need from God. Let's say it together:

God's Spirit gives us the power to live and work for Him.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Seek Ye First" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 83)
"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 100)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students mark with pushpins the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Remind students that our offerings go to help others understand that God is ready to give them the power of His Spirit so that they may live for Him. Have a student volunteer collect the offering.

Prayer

Ask your students to think of something they feel God wants them to do, but for which they feel unprepared, unworthy, frightened, or inadequate. Pray that God's Spirit will fill them with power and enable them to live and work for Him. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ slips of paper
- ☐ pencils

Introducing the Bible Story

Hand out slips of paper to each student. Ask each to write down something other people might want to talk about that they wouldn't want to discuss. (Suggestions: a parent losing a job, an illness or death in the family, having to move, a bad haircut, etc.)

Ask: **Why wouldn't you want to talk about these things? How would you feel if you knew you were going to lose someone or something important to you? How would you prepare?** Take answers. **Our story today is about someone who knew he was about to lose someone who was important to him. He didn't want to talk about it either, but he did the right thing to get ready.**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have the students find the story in 2 Kings 2:1-15. Ask for three volunteers to read the parts of a narrator, Elijah, and Elisha. Everyone else will read the part of the company of prophets. The narrator will begin with verse 1 and read everything that is not in quotation marks. The parts in quotation marks will be read by those who have been assigned that part. Encourage the students to read expressively. You might want to give them a few minutes to read it to themselves before you begin.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did Elijah, Elisha, and the company of prophets know that Elijah was going to be taken to heaven? How did they feel about this? What did Elisha do to prepare for Elijah's leaving? Why do you think the prophets did what they did in verse 7? Do you think Elisha was ready for Elijah to leave? Why or why not?**

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **There are parts of this story that have some special significance.** Have the students look up and determine the significance in:

1. 1 Kings 19:19-21 and 2 Kings 1:1-8 (The cloak Elijah left behind was the same one he had used to call Elisha. It was almost like passing down a family heirloom. King Ahaziah recognized Elijah by the description of his cloak. Elijah's cloak was recognized as belonging to a man of God.)
2. Exodus 14:21 and Joshua 3:13-17 (God had twice parted waters for His people as a show of His power. When Elisha used Elijah's cloak to part the Jordan River, it confirmed that he had received the Spirit and power of God he had requested. It was God's way of showing Elisha and the other prophets that Elisha was prepared to do Elijah's work.)

Ask: **Was there anything special about Elijah's coat?** (The cloak itself wasn't special. It was a symbol of the power Elijah possessed through the Spirit of God.) **What was the first thing Elisha did with the cloak?** (He used it to perform a miracle that showed God's power, like crossing the Red Sea and the Jordan.) **What was the effect on the watching prophets?** (2 Kings 2:15. They realized that the spirit of God was with Elisha.) **By this point Elisha knew that God had granted his request and given him the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let's say together the power text, Acts 1:8:**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Let's repeat our power point together:

God's Spirit gives us the power to live and work for Him.

Accommodations for students with special needs

You may wish to consider preparing in advance a handout listing the Bible passages for any students in your class who may benefit from it.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ scenarios on slips of paper

Scenarios

Divide your class into three groups and give each group one of the following scenarios to read and discuss as a group. Give the groups three minutes, then call them back together to read the scenario and report their answers to the whole class.

1. **David has always wanted to help people when he grows up, and it seems to him that being a doctor is the best way to do that. He thinks God wants him to be a doctor, but he gets queasy at the sight of blood. How can God's Spirit give David the power to live and work for Him?**
2. **Stella knows she's working for God when she helps her mother with her three younger brothers and sisters. But some days they get on her nerves so badly she just wants to lock herself in her room. Other times she can't go with her friends and do what she wants because she has to help out at home. This makes her angry. How can God's Spirit give Stella the power to live and work for Him?**
3. **Michael goes to church with his mother because his dad isn't a Christian. Sometimes his dad tries to get him to skip church by offering to do something special with him instead if he stays home. How can God's Spirit give Michael the power to live and work for Him?**

Debriefing

Ask: **How many different ways are there to live and work for God? How many different ways are there for God to give us power? What did Elisha have to do to get the gift of God's power?** (He had to ask for it.)

Say: **Let's remember to apply the principle we learned from our power point this week:**

God's Spirit gives us the power to live and work for Him.

4 SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ fruits

*Sweet Victory**

Allow time for students to share what they did during the past week to tell someone about the victories God has given them. What experiences did they share? How did the people with whom they shared how God has led them respond?

Pass around a bowl of fruits. As the students take one, ask them to name something in their own lives for which they need God's power. If they are uncomfortable naming something from their own life, ask them to think of something for which a young person like them might need God's power. Ask them to think of things that make them feel frightened, unworthy, sad, or overwhelmed.

Debriefing

Ask: **How will other people know when God's Spirit gives you power, or victory, over those things in your life? What will be the effect on those people?** Ask the students to commit to sharing with someone the good news of God's enabling power.

Let's repeat our power point one more time:

God's Spirit gives us the power to live and work for Him.

* Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that God will send His Spirit to give your students power over the things in their lives they don't want to talk about, particularly the things that leave them feeling frightened, insecure, or inadequate. Ask God to help them live their lives in such a way that they would honor Him.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **A widow pays her debts with oil. God's grace never ends.**

Notes

Student lesson

Elijah's Hand-Me-Down Cloak

Have you ever had to say goodbye to a good friend? Did you want to talk about it? Did you do anything to prepare for what you knew was going to happen?

The early morning sun brightened the path for the two travelers walking briskly along the dusty highway. The old man who strode firmly was the prophet Elijah. Following him was Elisha, whom God had appointed to succeed Elijah as a prophet and spiritual leader in Israel.

Elisha knew that his master would be taken to heaven that day. What an absolutely awesome thought!

Suddenly Elijah stopped. He looked at his friend and said to him, "Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha was determined not to leave Elijah on his very last day on earth! "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live," he said, "I will not leave you."

When they arrived in Bethel, some of the students from the school of the prophets surrounded Elisha. "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?" they asked.

"Yes, I know," Elisha answered. The crowd jostled him, but his eyes never left Elijah.

Soon Elijah pulled Elisha aside. "Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho."

"As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you," answered Elisha.

The two travelers set out again. The sun was higher and brighter now. When Elijah and Elisha arrived in the bustling city of Jericho, a group of students from the school of the prophets there surrounded Elisha, asking, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, his eyes fixed on Elijah. He was not going to miss seeing this miracle!

Elijah took Elisha aside. "Stay here," he said. "The Lord has sent me to the Jordan."

Elisha shook his head and replied, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you."

When they arrived at the Jordan River, Elijah stopped at the water's edge. He took off his camel-hair cloak and struck the water with it.

Elisha had seen many miracles since he had been called to follow Elijah. Now he watched the water of the river divide—just as when his ancestors had crossed this very same river to enter the Promised Land. Elisha followed Elijah across the river.

On the other side of the river, Elijah turned to the younger prophet and asked him, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

Elisha already knew. He wanted to be treated as elder sons were treated. The custom was that the firstborn son's birthright was to inherit two-thirds of the father's property. He wanted a double portion. Not a double portion of riches. Elijah had no riches. But Elijah had God's Spirit upon him. Elisha knew that only with a double portion of God's Spirit would he be able to carry on God's work of spiritual reform that was begun by the prophet Elijah.

"You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah answered, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."

So they walked on and talked together. Suddenly a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire separated the two travelers from each other, taking Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind.

As his master was being taken to heaven, Elisha cried, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!"

Elisha stood gazing into the sky even when there was nothing to see anymore. Finally he picked up Elijah's familiar cloak. He turned and retraced his steps to the river. Elisha trusted that God's Spirit now rested on him and would guide him with wisdom and power. Elisha expected that God would accomplish great things through him, just as He had done through Elijah. So he stepped out in faith, empowered by God's Spirit. When he struck the Jordan River with Elijah's cloak, the water parted, and he crossed to the other side on dry land (see 2 Kings 2:1-14).

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Kings 2:1-15
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 17, pp. 217-228
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 55-60
- Our Beliefs, nos. 5, 17, 14

POWER TEXT

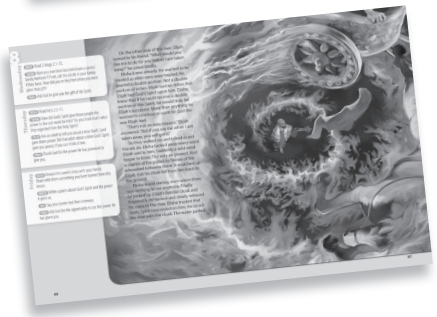
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

POWER POINT

God's Spirit gives us the power to live and work for Him.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 61.

Sunday

READ Read 2 Kings 2:1-8 and this week's lesson, "Elijah's Hand-Me-Down Cloak."

MAKE Use markers or glitter to write the power text. Place it where you will see it often.

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

PRAY Ask God for power in your life to live for Him.

Monday

READ Read 2 Kings 2:9-15.

REVIEW Review the power text.

THINK How can you model to others a Spirit-filled life?

PRAY Ask God to fill you up with His Holy Spirit.

Tuesday

READ Read Psalm 68:17.

THINK What was the chariot that came for Elijah?

SHARE Tell someone about the victories God has won for you. Describe specific experiences.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray as you think Elisha might have prayed.

Wednesday

READ Read Revelation 5:11.

THINK Have you ever been handed down a special family heirloom? If not, ask the adults in your family if they have. How did it feel to receive that gift?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the gift of His Spirit.

Thursday

READ Read Acts 2:2-11.

THINK How did God's Spirit give those people the power to live and work for Him? Do you think that's what they expected from the Holy Spirit?

TALK Ask an adult to tell you about a time God's Spirit gave them power. Discuss what was the evidence of the Holy Spirit's power.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the promise of His power.

Friday

READ Read John 14:26, 27.

SHARE Share with your family something you have learned from this week's story.

WRITE Write a poem about the power of God's Spirit.

SAY Say your power text from memory.

PRAY Ask God for the opportunity to reach out to others in His power with the message of His grace.