



God's Unfolding Story

Bible Story:
Elisha Healed an Army Captain (2 Kings 5:1-16)

Bible Phrase:
"Give thanks to God for He is good" (Psalm 107:1).
Bible Truth: I will give thanks and praise to God for his goodness to me.



1. God created everything.



2. People disobeyed God.



3. God chose a special people.



4. God sent Jesus to help us.



5. Jesus began the Church.



6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.

Suggested Schedule:

Arrival

- Centers – 25 minutes
- Clean-up Time – 5 minutes
- Bible Story Time – 15 minutes
- Craft Time – 10 minutes
- Snack Time – 10 minutes
- Game Time/Dismissal



Unfolding God's Story for Teachers

The events in 2 Kings 5:1-16 began not in Israel, as have events in our recent studies, but in Syria. God was not just Israel's God but also the God of all nations. It cannot be otherwise, for He is the only true God. His mercy and compassion extend to all who humble themselves before Him.

Naaman was the commander of the army of the king of Aram, or Syria. He had a prestigious but difficult job. We know Naaman was well respected and a brave soldier. His name means, "pleasantness," possibly indicating that people enjoyed being around him. Yet Naaman had leprosy. Since he still was working we can assume the disease was in its early stages, but in the end it would be fatal. A young servant girl, a victim of one of Syria's raids on Israel, lived with Naaman and his wife. She was a believer in God, and though she had been taken from her home, like Joseph she made the best of a difficult situation. Probably the couple treated her with dignity. Having compassion for her master, she entreated him to see the prophet Elisha.

Naaman was willing even to seek an enemies' God. His understanding of this prophet was limited, and he believed his encounter would be more of a business deal than a total healing of the body, soul, and mind. He went prepared to get what he so desperately needed through his position, gifts, and a letter from his king. God's mercies, though, can't be bought or earned. A humble heart, not personal power, gets God's attention.

Israel's king could not heal Naaman; nor could Elisha, for that matter. Naaman had to submit to God. Elisha sent word to Naaman that he would be healed if he would wash seven times in the Jordan River. Initially Naaman refused, but his servants encouraged him to follow these simple

instructions. When Naaman laid down his pride, power, and prestige and entered the waters by faith, the sicknesses of his body and soul were instantly washed away. He left more whole than he was when he was born.

We can't make demands of God, nor can we bring our achievements, wealth, or even benevolence to Him and expect to receive what we want. Sacrifice and offering He does not require, just a humble heart and a bowed knee. Of course, we need to understand that humility before God won't guarantee He will give us what we think we want. Yet when desires aren't granted, humility affirms His way still is best.

Lesson Plan

Arrival

- Greet children at eye level and express how happy you are to see them.
- Be sure each child has a name tag and the security measures of your church are followed.
- Label all coats and personal belongings. Strongly encourage children who have brought items from home, such as toys and books, to place them on a shelf while they are working with other materials. Assure children their items will be safe and they can take them home at the end of the session.
- Help each child make a choice where he or she would like to begin his or her Center Time.

Center Time



Puzzle Center:

Work Puzzles

Supplies:

- Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for children to work.

What to Do: Encourage preschoolers to finish puzzles they begin. Affirm children as they work together to complete the puzzles.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, look for opportunities in conversation to say the Bible phrase or to briefly tell the Bible story.

Bible Learning Center:

Puzzle

Supplies:

- Copies of Activity Page: Puzzle, "Elisha Healed an Army Captain" (Reproducible)
- Child's scissors
- Construction paper, glue

What to Do: Invite children to cut their puzzle along the cutting lines then glue the puzzle together on a piece of construction paper or make an envelope with the paper to place their puzzle pieces.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work use the picture to talk about the Bible story. For instance, "This is a picture of a man named Naaman. Naaman had a disease that caused terrible sores to form on his body. Naaman's young servant girl told Naaman to go and see the prophet Elisha and he would help him to get better. So Naaman went to Elisha. Elisha asked Naaman to dip seven times in the river and he would be healed. Naaman did what Elisha said and after seven times he was healed."

Home Living Center:

Water Play

Supplies: Small rocking chair, sink and stove unit and small table and chairs; plastic dishes, child pots and pans; pretend food items; doll, doll bed, and doll accessories. *Optional:* dish pan, towels, four sealable plastic bags, washable marker

What to Do: Home living items naturally encourage children to act out roles and activities they observe at home. If water play will be provided, cover the area with a towel. Place a small amount of water in a dishpan. Make dots or spots on each of the plastic bags with a washable marker. Have children dip the bags into the water and watch the spots disappear.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work and play together, listen for opportunities to talk about the Bible story. Say, "Our Bible story today is about a man named Naaman who had a terrible disease that caused sores to form on his body. He went to the prophet Elisha, who told him to dip seven times in the muddy river and he would be cured." Dip your bag into the water seven times and watch the spots go away. "Naaman obeyed Elisha and dipped in the water seven times. After seven times his sores went away."

Art Center:

Sticky Dot Picture

Supplies:

- Construction paper – (1 sheet per child)
- Colorful self-adhesive sticky dots
- Crayons and washable markers

What to Do: Print today's Bible Phrase, "Give thanks to God for He is good" (Psalm 107:1) on each paper. Invite children to make a picture using the sticky dots, crayons and markers.

Link to the Bible Story: As preschoolers work say something like, "In our Bible story today, a man named Naaman had a terrible disease that caused sores on his body. Naaman went to the prophet Elisha, and God helped Elisha know how the man could be cured. Elisha told Naaman to dip seven times in the river and his sores would be gone. Naaman obeyed Elisha, and his sores went away. Naaman thanked God that he was healed."

Block Center:

Build with Blocks

Supplies:

- Wooden blocks

What to Do: Provide a small carpet if possible. Blocks are best located in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow.

Link to the Bible Story: While children are engaged in building with the blocks, listen for opportunities to share part of the Bible story, Bible phrase or Bible truth.

Clean-up Time

Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.



Bible Story Time

Supplies: • Bible • Teaching Picture "Elisha Healed an Army Captain" (Reproducible)
• God's Unfolding Story Cube (Reproducible/Cardstock)

Introduction

- Show the God's Unfolding Story Cube. Express to the boys and girls that even though we find many stories in the Bible, the Bible really tells one big story, and all the little stories are a part of the big one we can call God's Unfolding Story. Tell children that each picture represents a chapter in God's Unfolding Story. Turn the cube and talk about each part of the story. (Refer to page 1.) Express that every story from the Bible is from one of these main chapters in God's Unfolding Story. Today's story is from the third chapter, God chose a special people.

- Introduce the story by saying something like, "We have been learning about the prophet Elisha. Elisha loved God, and God used Elisha to do many wonderful things. One day Elisha helped a very sick man who did not know about the one true God. Listen to hear how Elisha helped."

Bible Story Elisha Healed an Army Captain (2 Kings 5:1-16)

In a land called Syria, there lived a captain of the king's army named Naaman. Naaman was a brave soldier who had won many battles for his king. Naaman lived with his wife and a young servant girl. One day, Naaman got sick with a disease called leprosy. The leprosy brought sores to his body.

Naaman was not an Israelite, and he did not believe in the one true God, but the young servant girl did. One day the young girl went to Naaman's wife and said, "Tell Naaman to go to the prophet Elisha in Samaria, and he will heal him of his disease." Naaman's wife told her husband, and he decided to go and see the prophet Elisha.

Naaman first went to the king of Israel, who could not help. Elisha heard about Naaman and asked the king to send him to his home. When Naaman arrived at Elisha's house, Elisha sent a servant out to tell him, "Dip seven times in the Jordan River and then you will be cured."

Naaman became angry that Elisha would have him do something so silly. Naaman said, "I will not dip myself in that dirty, muddy river!" But his servant begged him to do this simple thing.

Naaman went to the river and began to dip. [Invite the children to count with you to the number 6.] One, two, three, four, five, six!

Six times Naaman dipped into the river, but he still had the awful sores on his body. Then he dipped one more time, and when he came up, his skin was smooth and clear. He no longer had the sores.

Naaman was so happy. He went back to the prophet Elisha and said, "I know there is only one true God." Naaman knew that God had healed him of the terrible disease. Naaman was thankful for what God had done.

Talk Time

1. Show the teaching picture for today's Bible story. Review by using these or similar questions. "What was wrong with Naaman? What did the young servant girl suggest that Naaman do? Did Naaman want to do what Elisha asked him to do? Who healed Naaman?"
2. Read the Bible phrase on the teaching picture. Say the phrase together, "Give thanks to God for He is good" (Psalm 107:1). Explain, "God continues to heal people when they are sick. Sometimes He uses medicines other times He just heals. Sometimes we don't understand why someone who trusts God doesn't get better, but God knows best. God is good to us in other ways, too. He gives us food to eat, clothes to wear, and a family to take care of us. We have many things for which to be thankful. Let's say our Bible phrase again, 'Give thanks to God for He is good' (Psalm 107:1)."
3. Close the Bible Story Time by inviting children to join you in prayer. Ask children if they would like to say a prayer of thanks, or have them name things for which they are thankful and lead a prayer of thanksgiving based on what they have said.

Craft Time: Bible Story Scene

Supplies:

- Copies of "Bible Story Scene"
(Reproducible, cardstock recommended, 1 copy for every child)
- Crayons or markers
- Craft sticks – 1 per child
- Tape

What to Do: Cut out the puppets and water scenes. Cut a slit in each water scene where indicated. Invite children to color their Naaman puppet and the water scene. Tape a craft stick to the back of each puppet. Demonstrate to each child how to insert the stick of his or her puppet into the slit. Children can move the Naaman puppet up and down to show Naaman dipping in the water.

Link to the Bible Story: Read the Bible phrase and ask children why Naaman was thankful.

Snack Time

Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack. When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

Game Time / Dismissal: Thankful Game

Supplies: Beanbag

What to Do: Arrange children in a circle to play. Begin tossing the beanbag around the circle and have the children count to seven. When the count reaches seven, ask the child holding the beanbag to name something for which he or she is thankful. Continue playing until all the children have had a chance to name something.

At the close of the game say today's Bible phrase, "Give thanks to God for He is good" (Psalm 107:1).

Dismiss children as parents arrive. Be sure to follow the security procedures of your church.





Resources and Supplies

Old Testament Unit 11: Elijah, Elisha and Jonah
Lesson 3: Elisha Healed an Army Captain

Standard Art Supplies

(Supplies that are generally in the room)

- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Child scissors
- Playdough and accessories
- Drawing paper
- Easel (optional)
- Glue/glue sticks
- Tempera paint, 4 colors
- Tape/masking tape
- Pencils/colored pencils
- Hole punch
- Teacher scissors
- Stapler/staples
- Permanent markers
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Yarn

Standard Equipment

(Equipment that is generally in the room)

- Bible
- Small beanbag for Bible Story Time
- Assorted wooden/cardboard puzzles
- Set of wooden blocks
- Small cars and trucks
- Doll bed
- Baby doll (soft plastic)
- Stove/sink unit
- Play dishes/pots and pans
- Small table and chairs
- Small carpet for block area
- Play food items
- Storage shelf for blocks
- Tables and chairs for art, puzzles, and Bible Learning Center
- CD player/Children's Worship CDs

Reproducibles

(Included with the lesson plan downloads)

- Activity Page: Puzzle, "Elisha Healed an Army Captain" (1 copy per child)
- "Bible Story Scene" (1 copy for every child)
- Teaching Picture: "Elisha Healed an Army Captain" (1 copy per class)
- God's Unfolding Story Cube (Cardstock—1 copy per class)
- Parent Page (1 copy per child)
- Coloring Page, "Elisha Healed an Army Captain"

Additional Art Materials

- Construction paper—(1 sheet per child)
- Colorful self-adhesive sticky dots

Additional Bible Learning Materials

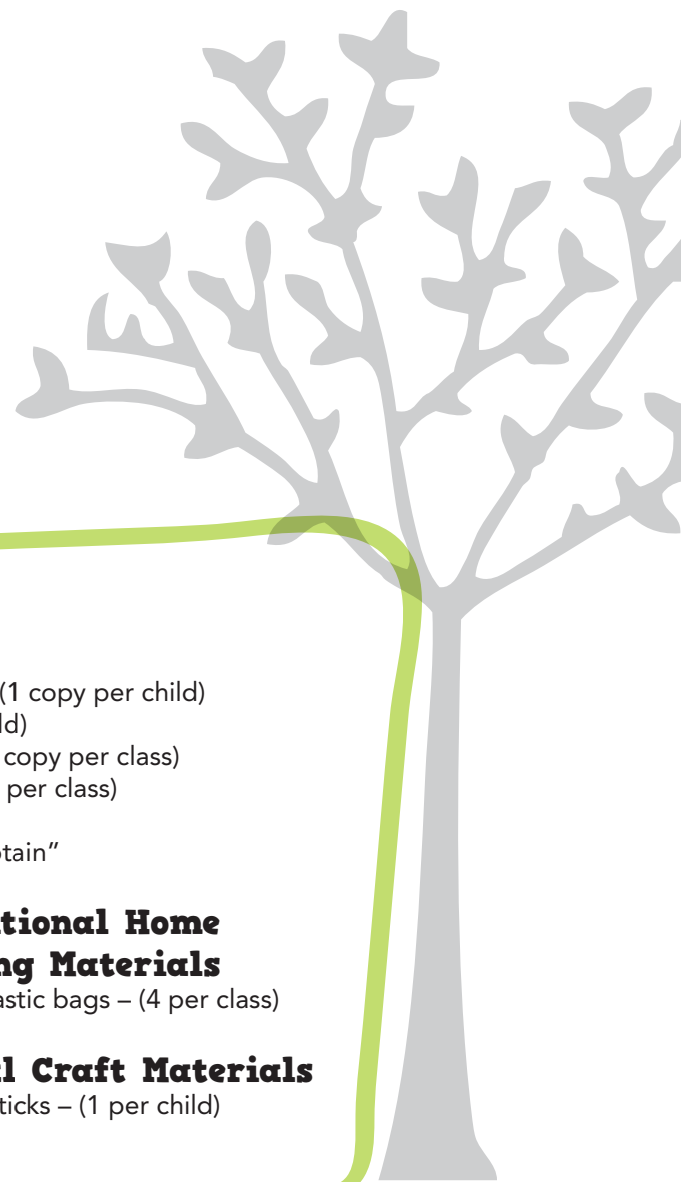
- Construction paper – (1 sheet per child)

Additional Home Living Materials

- Sealable plastic bags – (4 per class)

Additional Craft Materials

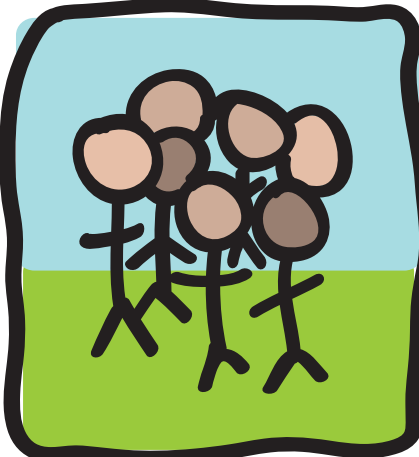
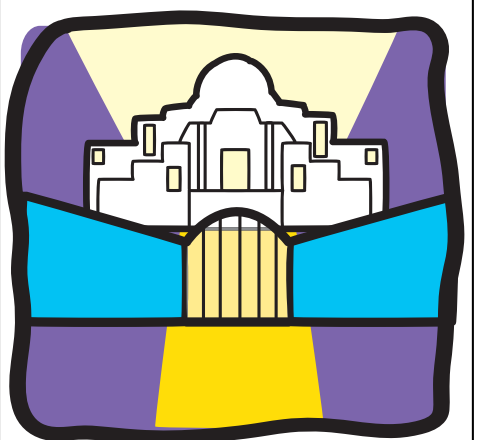
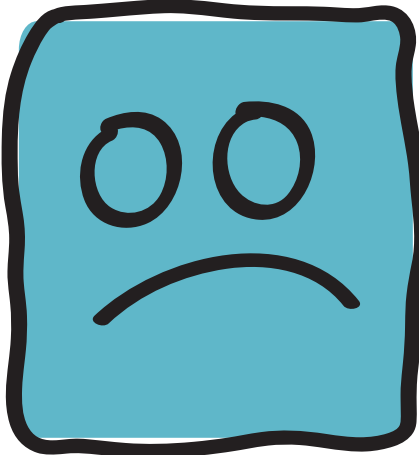
- Craft sticks – (1 per child)



Psalm 107:1 to God for He Give thanks is good.

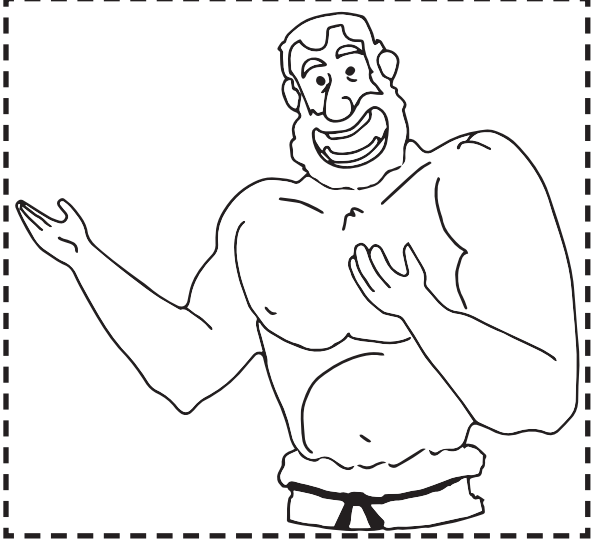
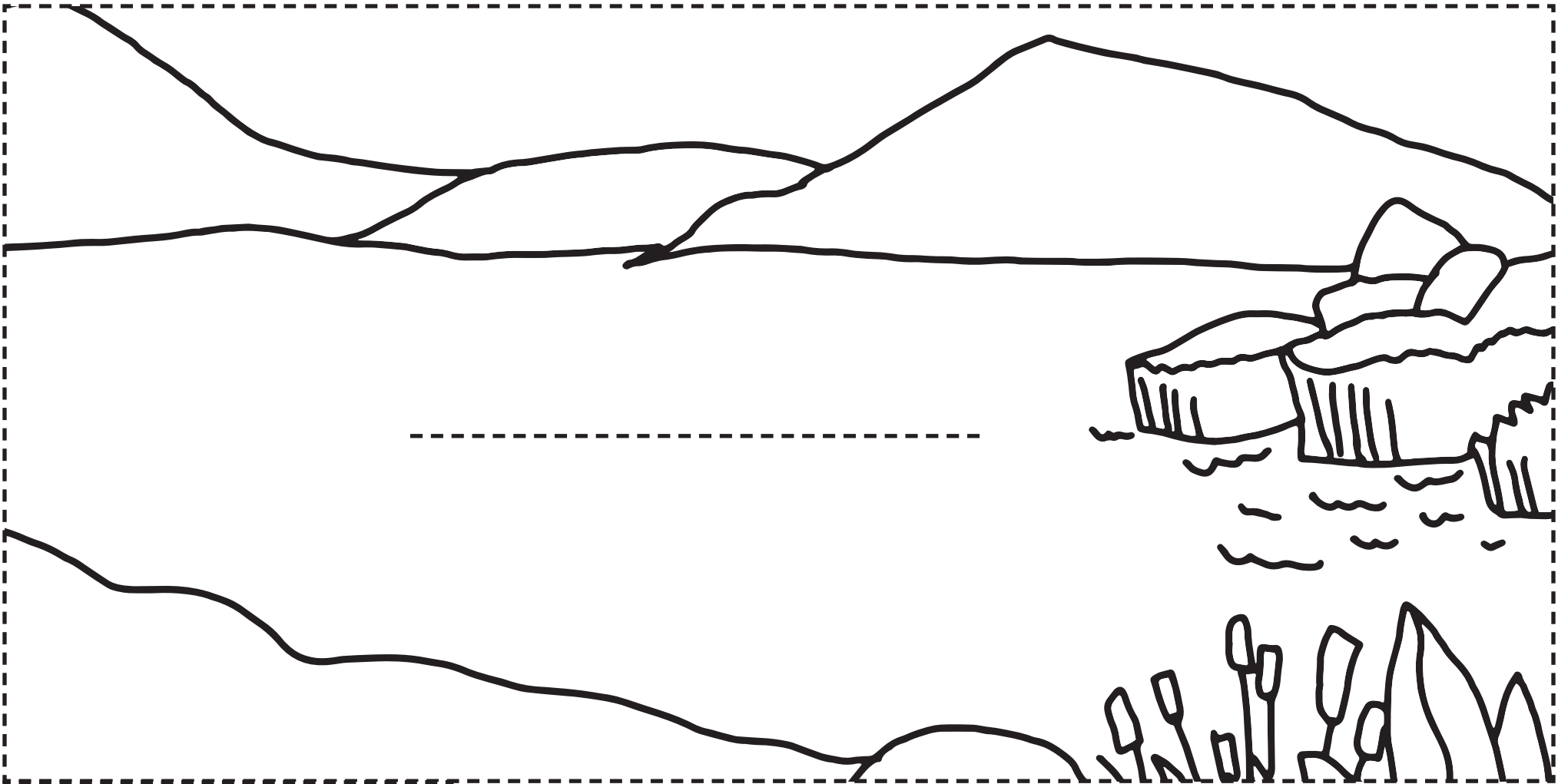


Bible Learning Center: Activity Page: Puzzle, "Elisha Healed an Army Captain"
Instructions: One copy per child. Cut along the cutting lines and glue the puzzle back together on a sheet of construction paper or place pieces in an envelope.



God's Story Cube

Instructions: Cut out on dotted lines, fold on solid lines. Glue or tape to form a cube.



Craft Time: "Bible Story Scene"
Instructions: Copy 1 sheet for every child, cardstock recommended. Cut out the puppet and water scene. Make a slit in the water scene where indicated. Color the puppet and the water scene. Tape a craft stick to the puppet and insert into the slit.



Give thanks to God for He is good. Psalm 107:1

Coloring Page, "Elisha Healed an Army Captain"
Instructions: One copy per child. Use water color paints to
paint the Bible story picture.

OT11 Lesson 3 Hour B Art
God's Unfolding Story for Older Preschoolers, Copyright © 2014 - SundaySchoolZone.com