

## WEEK 2

### ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

## UP IN THE AIR

### THE BIG IDEA

I can have faith in God.

### THE BIBLE

**Elisha and the Widow's Oil:** II Kings 4:1-7;  
Colossians 1:3-14

## LARGE GROUP TIME

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
  - "Trust In You" (Lauren Daigle)
  - "Promises" (Maverick City Music)
  - "For All My Days" (Gateway Kids Worship)
  - "All of Me" (Gateway Kids Worship)
  - "We Shine" (Vineyard Kids)

### ACTIVITY | Airplane Aerobics

- Welcome aboard *Up in the Air!* That's right, we're on an airplane today, and we are continuing to learn about our big God who allows us to do big things!
- Let's try a few in-flight exercises to get ready for take-off!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead kids in a series of in-chair exercises and stretches (e.g., neck rolls, shoulder rolls, forward bend to touch their toes, leg lifts, etc.).*

### ACTIVITY | Speed Planes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In this activity, kids will have an airplane-making and throwing competition [Make a few in advance](#) as examples. When the timer starts, everyone has two minutes to make the very best paper airplane they can using the materials provided. After the timer stops, have everyone stand at the starting line with their planes and throw them to see which airplane sails the farthest distance.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Prepare already-made paper airplanes for kids to choose from as their plane to enter in the flying contest rather than having them build their own.*
- When we watch our paper airplanes soar, we can imagine how far God can carry us!

### QUESTION | Distance Traveler

- **Have you ever traveled on an airplane? If so, where did you go?**
- **If you could fly anywhere in the world, where would you like to go? Why?**
- **Why do you think people prefer to travel by airplane versus other ways of travel, when they are going far distances?**

**SO WHAT?** *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

### BIBLE STORY | Elisha and the Widow's Oil

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Bookmark II Kings 4:1–7 in your Bible and read the passage in small chunks as you tell the Bible story. Have kids pretend they are sitting in an airplane – you can set up chairs like the inside of a plane cabin with rows of three chairs on either side of an aisle. Feel free to get creative and dress up like a flight attendant and go over things like safety instructions and emergency exits before you begin!*
- Last week we heard about two guys, Elijah and Elisha. Elijah was Elisha's mentor – someone who taught and guided him – until he was taken up into heaven.
- This week, we'll hear a story from Elisha's life after his friend was gone.
- **Have you ever had to do something that you thought was impossible?**
- Today's story is about having faith in what God can do . . . and God can do a LOT!
- *[Read II Kings 4:1–4.]*
  - The woman said that she had nothing except a small jar of olive oil. She thought that it wasn't enough, but Elisha knew that God could do something big for her!
  - She had to have faith to do what Elisha told her to do! Let's see what the widow's faith did for her!
- *[Read II Kings 4:5–7.]*
  - Isn't it amazing what happened because she had faith and did what Elisha told her to do?
  - The woman was worried about the really big problem that she was facing, but God used Elisha to show the woman that she could have faith in God!
- What God did through Elisha and the woman is what we call a miracle, something that happens that we can't really explain. All we know is that God used something so small like oil to solve a really big problem for the woman and her family.

- When we need help and don't know what to do, we can have faith that God will take care of us, too!
- **When can you have faith in God?**

### BIG IDEA | I can have faith in God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write one word each of the Big Idea on six pieces of construction paper. Then, fold each paper into an airplane. To introduce this Big Idea, fly in one paper airplane at a time. Have different kids catch each airplane, open them, and read each word.
- Most people are comfortable flying in airplanes because they are confident that the airplane will take off through the air and take them where they need to go. They have faith that the plane will fly.
- The Bible tells us faith is when we are hundred percent confident in something, especially things we can't see. We put our faith in many things, like airplanes, but the most deserving of our faith is God!
- Let's say today's Big Idea together: **I can have faith in God.**

### VIDEO | Up in the Air, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

### OBJECT LESSON | Pouring the Oil

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a jar or pitcher of olive oil (or any oil) and pour it into small cups as you teach. Cover the container so you can't see inside.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a variety of jars and oil for kids to pour for themselves to better understand the story.
- In our story today, we read about a woman who had a need. She did what God's messenger Elisha told her to do when she kept pouring oil into jars.
  - [Take one of the small cups and pour some oil into it then set it aside. Keep going until you fill all the cups.]
  - Elisha, the woman, and her son kept filling jars with oil until there were no more jars left to fill because the oil kept flowing.
- Sometimes we forget just how big and powerful God is and think God can only do a little bit. But just like how that jar of olive oil didn't stop flowing until there was nothing more to fill, God's love for us never ends!
- So next time you're not sure who you can turn to with a problem, remember to say **I can have faith in God.**

### ACTIVITY | Oily Relay Race

- In today's story, just when the woman might have thought the oil would run out, it kept flowing until she had more than enough to fix her problem!
- Let's play a game where we get to fill up our own jars with oil as fast as we can!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the kids into two teams for this relay race. Using a small cup, team members should take turns getting "oil" (water) from the big bucket, running down the playing area, and pouring it into their team's bucket. The first team to pour enough oil to reach the line on their team's bucket wins!

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *To make this more challenging, move this game outside! Poke some holes in the cups which will challenge preteens to move fast to get more in their team's bucket.*

### BIBLE | Colossians 1:3–14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Colossians 1:3-14 or recruit a few readers to help you.*
- In this letter to the followers of God in Colossae, the apostle Paul is telling them he is thankful for their faith in Jesus.
- **How did he know they had faith?**
  - For one thing, they believed in what Jesus had done even though they had not seen it with their own eyes.
  - Because of this, their actions followed suit. They told others the same good news they had heard and they showed God's love to everyone.
- Paul told his friends that he was always praying for them that they would have the strength to keep living out their faith in God.
- A part of having faith in God is to help others have faith, too. And the best way to do that is if we live in the way Paul told his friends to in verse 10: please God in every way, do good work, and grow in the knowledge of God!

**NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?*

### REFLECTION | Fly High!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read aloud the book "[Fly High!: The Story of Bessie Coleman](#)" by Louise Borden and talk about what made Bessie such a heroic figure in history. You could also choose to show a biographical video (like [this one](#)).*
- **How did flying an airplane change Bessie's life?**
- **How did Bessie flying an airplane positively change the world?**
- **What are the different things Bessie had to have faith in so that she could reach her dream?**
- Because Bessie had faith in her dreams, she worked really hard to make them a reality.
- Having faith in God doesn't mean we just sit around and wait for things to happen. We have to work toward the things God has planned for us!
- Bessie's story reminds me that **I can have faith in God**, and so can you!

### ACTIVITY | Unconventional Flying Machines

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids create the best flying airplane that they can using unusual methods and materials (see your Shop & Prep List for ideas). Then have an airplane flying contest to see which planes fly the farthest. In addition, to fit the theme, you can have unconventional categories like coolest, biggest, smallest, longest, most time spent in the air, most materials used, etc.*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have kids ball up some pieces of paper with a penny inside and use those to "fly." This will give those who cannot create the airplanes a chance to participate.*

- Just like airplanes can help us soar to greater heights than we could on our own, when we have faith in God, God helps us do more than we could ever with our own strength.
- The best part is, it doesn't matter that we are all different. We each have our own strengths, purpose, and unique design (like planes) but all of us can have faith in God.

### MEMORY VERSE | Catching Air

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids take turns jumping rope and saying one word of the memory verse at a time.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACKS:** If possible, have preteens try to recite as much of the verse with each jump on a pogo stick!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Write one word of the memory verse on foam fliers like [these](#). Kids will have to put themselves in the correct order of the memory verse, flying their plane only when it comes to the word written on their plane, as the group says the memory verse together.

### PRAYER

- God, thank you for reminding us that we can have faith in you. Even though we cannot see you, we know you are always there for us and we can trust you to take care of us. Help us to grow our faith and share it with others, too. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- Why was the woman in the Bible story sad?
- What did Elisha tell her to do?
- How did God provide for her?
- Read Colossians 1:13-14. What has God done for us that shows we can have faith?
- What does having faith mean to you?
- Think of someone else in the Bible who had faith in God. How did their faith help them?
- What is one thing you can do this week to show you have faith in God?

### ACTIVITY | Faithful Fliers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Walk kids through how to build the model airplanes using the materials in your Shop & Prep List. Follow [these instructions](#) or you can [purchase kits](#).
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Set up a tablet or computer with a flight simulator app for preteens to try out!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have a few of these pre-made for kids with dexterity concerns. Allow them to paint or glitter-ize while everyone else is building.
- Faith in God can help us soar above our problems, even if they feel as big as mountains and as wide as an ocean.

- Whenever you see this airplane (or any plane in the sky), pause and say it out loud . . . **I can have faith in God!**

**MEMORY VERSE | Colossians 3:2 (NIV)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Colossians3-2](http://growcurriculum.org/Colossians3-2).
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."**