

# UP IN THE AIR--Elementary

## WEEK 1

### ***BIG IDEA***

I can dream big with God.

### ***Bible***

Elijah Taken Up to Heaven: II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 66:1-9

## *Small Group Time*

QUESTION | What is something that you hope for or dream about?

- When someone has big, seemingly unrealistic dreams, people like to say they have their "head in the clouds." It means that their dreams appear to be so lofty and unreachable that it's as though they're not on the ground.
- When it comes to the things God can do, however, there is no limit! That means God can also help us do things we never thought imaginable, too.
- **What is something that you hope for or dream about?**

## *Large Group: Welcome*

ACTIVITY | Cloud Toss

- Hi kids! Welcome to *Up in the Air*, where we are going to learn about all the big dreams God has given us and helps us achieve!
- Before we begin, do you know what the forecast for today is? Something tells me it's going to be *cloudy!*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Dump out a bunch of cotton balls over a line in the middle of the room, and divide the group evenly to stand on either side of the line. When you give the signal, have kids try to toss as many cotton balls out of their side of the line to the other team's side. After one minute, have everyone freeze. The team with the fewest clouds (cotton balls) on their side wins!*
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Use white balloons and have kids use only their feet to bop them over to the opposing team's side of the room.*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** 2-3 upbeat worship songs

## Large Group: Bible Story

### BIBLE STORY | Elijah Taken Up to Heaven

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Bookmark II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 in your Bible and read the passage in small chunks as you tell the Bible story.*
- In today's story, we're going to be talking about someone who walked with — and dreamed with — God, all the way to the end.
- *[Read II Kings 2:1-2, 6.]*
  - God was about to take the prophet Elijah up to heaven. A prophet was kind of like a messenger for God.
  - Elijah was traveling with his friend and fellow prophet, Elisha. Elijah told him to stay behind because God wanted Elijah to travel to different places before it was time for him to go.
  - But Elisha said he would not leave Elijah's side.
  - **Why do you think Elisha wanted to stay close to Elijah?**
- *[Read II Kings 2:7-8.]*
  - Soon Elijah and Elisha came to the Jordan River. Before crossing, Elijah does something unusual with his cloak - **what was it?**
  - **How can we tell from this part of the story that God was with Elijah?**
- *[Read II Kings 2:9-10.]*
  - When Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for him before he had to go, Elisha asked for a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit.
  - What that meant was that Elisha wanted to continue doing what Elijah did. Now Elijah had done some remarkable things in his lifetime. By asking for a double portion, Elisha was saying he was ready to carry on God's work.
- *[Read II Kings 2:11-12.]*
  - This was a very big thing for Elisha to ask for. Elijah promised that if Elisha saw Elijah going up into heaven, he would get what he asked for. And that is exactly what happened!
  - **Why do you think Elisha tore his garment in two when he saw Elijah disappear into the clouds?**
- *[Read II Kings 2:13-16.]*
  - **Based on these verses, did Elisha get what he had asked for? How do we know?**
- It might have seemed like an impossibly big dream for Elisha to think he could do the things Elijah did. But he really wanted to do great things for God and, guess what? God wanted Elisha to do great things, too!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Take a large white poster board and write the Big Idea in white wax crayon. When revealing the Big Idea, shade in the sky with a blue washable marker. The white crayon will be visible through the marker as if "written in the clouds."*
- Elisha asked a really big thing of God when he said he wanted to be used like his friend Elijah, but he knew God could handle it. Elisha dreamed big, and so can we.
- With God all things are possible and we can trust God with our hopes and our dreams. That's why today's Big Idea is **I can dream big with God!**

#### OBJECT LESSON | Dreams Held

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In this demonstration, pour shaving cream to fully cover the top of a cup of water. Using a food coloring dropper, as you talk, place drops of coloring on top of the shaving cream. As the food coloring drops fill the shaving cream, they will begin "raining down."*
- When we hope for something that is special to us, we can trust God with it. We can tell God all about it when we pray. God hears all of our prayers and loves when we share our dreams!
- Just like a cloud that rains down the water inside of it at the perfect time, God will "rain down" blessings and promises for us at the perfect time.
- **I can dream big with God!**

## Large Group: Reflection and Prayer

#### BIBLE | Psalm 66:1-9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Psalm 66:1-9 or recruit a few readers to help you.*
- This psalm shows us that **I can dream big with God** because God can do — and has already done — big things!
- The text says in verses 3 and 5 that God has done "awesome deeds," deeds like turning the sea into dry land.
- **Can you think of some other examples of awesome things God has done?**
- Those are wonderful examples! This psalm also tells us what our response should be to all the awesome things God has done, and that is to shout out our praises to God. This verse mentions
- The awesome-est thing God has ever done for us is sending Jesus! Jesus came to earth not only to save us from the power of sin and being separated from God, he showed us how to live our lives the way God wants us to.
- When we have a relationship with God, it's no surprise that God wants the best things for us and allows us to have big dreams.

#### REFLECTION | Dream It, Do It

- After reading Psalm 66:1-9 above, ask the kids to think of something amazing that they have seen God do in their lives. Have them write these things on the cloud handouts

#### RESPONSE | Dream Clouds

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will cut the clouds out and stick them on a blue bulletin board in your room so it looks like the dream clouds are floating in the sky. Additionally, you could choose to grab copies of books [like these](#) and share a couple of these stories to get kids thinking about big dreams.
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** Have kids check out a list (like [this one](#)) of kid dreamers that became doers. Lead preteens into discussing which of the stories they found most inspiring and how they challenge them to dream big in a specific way.
- **Write or draw one thing you are dreaming about.**
- God hears you and cares about what you care about. We will put these clouds up in our space so that each time you see it here, you can remember, **I can dream big with God.**

#### MEMORY VERSE | Cloudy Memories

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use copies of the blank printable from the "Dream Clouds" module to write one word of the memory verse on each cloud. Create two sets. Set up two blue poster boards on the opposite end of the room. Have kids repeat the memory verse after you a few times. Then separate the kids into two teams and give them mixed-up clouds. Have a relay race for kids to tape the memory verse in order on the blue poster boards.
  - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** In case you have kids who cannot move quickly, make this a collaborative activity with the posterboard in the middle of a circle of kids and have kids work together to put the clouds in order.
- **"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." Colossians 3:2 (NIV)**

#### PRAYER

- God, you know me and you hear my prayers and my dreams. I'm so glad that the things that are important to me are also important to you. Help me to trust you with my hopes and remind me that I can dream big with you. Thank you for showing us none of our dreams are out of reach when they come from you. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

#### DISCUSSION

- **Before Elijah went to heaven, what did he ask Elisha?**
- **What did Elisha ask for? What might you have asked for if you were Elisha?**
- **How do we know that Elisha's big dream came true?**
- **Read Psalm 66:5-6. How do these verses remind you of today's Bible story?**
- **What is a dream you have that some people might think are too big?**
- **What would it take to make your dream come true?**
- **Why can we trust God with our dreams?**

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."**

ACTIVITY | Sky is the Limit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids follow the directions below to make their own dream mobile.*
  - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Print out emojis or provide stickers in case someone cannot scribe.*
- God is bigger than our dreams and powerful enough to help us fulfill the right ones. These mobiles will be a great way to remember that **I can dream big with God!**
  1. On the printable, write the dreams you have – big or small – on each cloud.
  2. Overlap the printable with a second piece of paper and cut out the clouds together so that you have two of each cloud.
  3. Glue or staple pairs of clouds together and stuff a piece of cotton inside.
  4. Attach a piece of string to the top of each cloud.
  5. Take two sticks and cross them in an "X" shape. Tape or glue the "X" shape in place.
  6. Then, hang your dream clouds from the ends of the "X" to make a mobile.

*Return to Large Group*

Talk

Wrap up the day's lesson by reminding kids of the Big Idea and updating the ping pong ball count.

Remind kids of the expectation that they sit in the middle of the room and wait for their name to be called for dismissal

VIDEO | Up in the Air, Episode 1

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