

WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

UP IN THE AIR

THE BIG IDEA

I can dream big with God.

THE BIBLE

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

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 | 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.

ACTIVITY | Cloud Dough

- **Have you ever wondered what clouds feel like?** Let's imagine that we grabbed some clouds and turned them into dough!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a volunteer at each table to lead the kids in making this recipe: 1) Measure 1/2 cup of lotion and pour it into the mixing bowl; 2) Add 1 cup of cornstarch into the mixing bowl; 3) Drop food coloring into it and mix well. Give each kid a little piece of the dough to play with on their own tray or parchment paper.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Prepare a batch of dough in advance for kids to play with using [cloud-shaped cookie cutters](#).

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?**
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider adding questions that talk more about daring dreams such as, "Would you rather skydive or hang glide?" or "Would you rather fly a jet or operate a hot air balloon?" Have fun discussing their responses!

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

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. To tie in to the theme, you can pretend that you are floating in the sky as you tell this story by standing on a ladder (use the rungs for support) and have the kids lie on their backs and look up at you!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** When you tell the story, consider nicknaming Elijah, "JAH," and Elisha, "SHA," and referring to them using these names. It's a silly way to make the teaching more casual and help kids distinguish between the two prophets. You can give the volunteers baseball caps with "JAH" and "SHA" printed on them, too.
- 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!

BIG IDEA | I can dream big with God.

- **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!**

VIDEO | Up in the Air, Episode 1

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

STORY | My Dream

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a personal story about a time you had a dream that came true. It can be something small or it can be something big. Tell how your dream coming true positively impacted your life.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens get into pairs or groups of three and share about something they wished for that came true for them. If they can't think of any, have them share about a dream they might have for the future.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have kids draw out a dream of theirs using art supplies. They can do this on regular paper or you can get creative and have them do it on something like [this](#).

- We all have dreams that we hold closely inside our hearts. Trust God with your dreams and remind yourself, **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!**

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.
- 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.

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

REFLECTION | Dream It, Do It

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a posterboard or dry erase board to take notes as kids share their ideas.
- There is a famous quote that's credited to Walt Disney that goes, "If you can dream it, you can do it." So the important part is making sure that you dream.
- I know thinking about dreams for ourselves can be a little challenging so let's start with a dream we can think about and work toward together.

- What is a big dream for our ministry?
- What are some steps we could take?
- When do you think we should start taking them?

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?

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.

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.*
- Let’s practice this month’s memory verse together!
- **“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”**