

WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

UP IN THE AIR

THE BIG IDEA

I can ask God for what I need.

THE BIBLE

Elisha and the Famine:
II Kings 4:38-44; Luke 11:1-9

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 | Balloon Basketball

- Up, up, and away we go into another week of *Up in the Air!*
- Let's kick things off with a game that will require us to keep balloons – you guessed it – up in the air!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the kids into two teams. Place three balloons in the middle of the floor. When you say "Go," kids will stay on their knees and use only their hands to pass the balloons about and try to score. The game doesn't stop, so have a volunteer at each goal keep track of goals scored. After about five minutes, end the game, and tally points. The team with the most goals wins!*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Make this game more challenging for kids by having preteens sit and “walk” on their hands and only use their feet to pass the balloons.

- **Can you name some things you would have needed to make this game easier?**

ACTIVITY | Balloons on Baskets

- So we just played a game of balloon basketball together. **Can you think of anything else that has both a basket and a balloon?** Yes! A hot air balloon!
- For this next activity, you’re going to work with your team to “make” hot air balloons.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Line up red and blue plastic cups on opposite sides of the room, then divide kids into two teams. Put inflated balloons in the center of the room making sure there are more balloons than cups. Give kids one minute to grab a balloon from the middle and place it on one of their team’s “baskets” (cups). When time’s up, whichever team has the most amount of completed hot air balloons still standing wins.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Create a more chaotic version of this game for preteens by placing blue and red cups in a random arrangement around the room. Kids will have to locate their team’s cups to put a balloon on top. Additionally, allow kids to knock balloons off the other team’s cups (but they’re allowed to pick it up and put it back).

- If you were in a hot air balloon, you’d be able to see so much more from way up in the sky.
- Today we’re going to talk about how God can see everything, including everything we need!

QUESTION | Travel by Hot Air Balloon

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this [video](#) of hot air balloons.
- **If you could go anywhere in a hot air balloon, where would you go? Why?**

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

BIBLE STORY | Elisha and the Famine

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Bookmark II Kings 4:38–44 in your Bible and read the passage in small chunks as you tell the Bible story. For this week’s storytelling setup, consider setting up chairs in a circle and attach a helium-filled balloon to each chair. Stand in the middle as you teach and rotate every so often so that you see every kid.
- Hi everyone! We are continuing to find out some cool things God did through the prophet Elisha. In today’s story, we find out how Elisha and company were able to survive during a famine.
- [Read II Kings 4:38–41.]
 - In this first part of the story, we learned that Elisha and a group of prophets were hungry, but the stew they were eating would have made them sick.
 - Elisha was able to fix it by throwing flour into the pot. This was not a normal fix to the problem they had.
 - God knew what Elisha and his friends needed, so God provided it for them!
- [Read II Kings 4:42–44.]

- In the second part of the story, a man came to Elisha with twenty loaves of bread, but he was expected to hand out enough to feed a hundred people.
- That made no sense! But Elisha reassured everyone that God told him that everyone will be able to eat and, as a matter of fact, there would be leftovers!
- **If Elisha had to fix either of these problems without God’s help, how might he have tried to solve them?**
- Whatever he would have tried, it would not have been successful. The stew in the pot was inedible and there just wasn’t enough bread to satisfy a hundred hungry people.
- But Elisha was no ordinary person. He trusted in God, and he knew that God would help him. Even though the Bible doesn’t tell us what exactly Elisha said to God, we know he asked God for help because Elisha had answers that only God could give!

BIG IDEA | I can ask God for what I need.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write out the Big Idea on individual pieces of paper and put one paper into each balloon. Have the balloons filled with helium and put them at the front of the room. If you don’t have helium, you can hang each balloon at the front. To reveal the Big Idea, pop each balloon one at a time with a thumbtack and read the words found in the balloon.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** To accommodate kids who might be sensitive to balloon popping sounds, modify this activity by writing the words of the Big Idea on the backs of colorful paper plates and let string hang down from them. Flip the plates over to reveal the Big Idea.
- Today, we learned about how God took care of the people by having enough stew and bread for everyone. Nothing is too small for God to take care of for you.
- Let’s say our Big Idea together: **I can ask God for what I need.**

VIDEO | Up in the Air, Episode 4

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

STORY | God Came Through for Me

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell about a personal time when you needed something and God made a way. This story can either be about a time when you were a kid or something more recent.

ACTIVITY | Vantage Point

- A vantage point is a place where you can get a good view of something. I feel like if you wanted to see what our neighborhood looked like from the sky, a hot air balloon would make an excellent vantage point.
- A better vantage point is seeing things God’s way. God sees everything and so knows everything we need. But that doesn’t mean we should just sit around and wait for God to just drop it out of the sky for us. I find it helpful to know that **I can ask God for what I need**, and God will hear me when I pray.
- Let’s create this fun visual of us on a hot air balloon looking down at the world to remember that God is watching over us and takes care of our needs.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids decorate a white coffee filter like a hot air balloon using markers and crayons then glue it to blue construction paper. Below the balloon, they can draw a picture of themselves in a basket.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** You could try trending up this craft by having them make something somewhat three-dimensional [like this](#).
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Make a tasty treat instead by having kids decorate homemade [hot air balloon cookies](#) (be aware of any allergies to ingredients you use).

BIBLE | Luke 11:1–9

- **Can you remember another story in the Bible where someone had to feed a large crowd with only a little food?**
- Great job! I was also immediately reminded of the time when Jesus had to feed over five thousand people with just five loaves of bread and two fish.
- Before that miracle happened, the Bible tells us Jesus prayed. In fact, Jesus prayed a lot . . . so much so that one day, his friends asked him to teach them how to pray.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Luke 11:1-9 or recruit a few readers to help you.
- [Read Luke 11:1–4.]
 - This prayer is also known as the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus taught his disciples to follow his example when praying to God.
 - The words in this prayer show us that when we pray, we can acknowledge how great God is, but then also ask for the things we need every day and for help to live the way God wants us to.
- [Read Luke 11:5–9.]
 - After teaching them how to pray, Jesus told his friends a story about a man who needed help. That man had to ask so that he could get what he needed. Then Jesus said that the man’s friend would help just because he had asked so boldly.
- God doesn’t want us to shy away from asking for the things we need. Maybe we don’t get everything we ask for, but God still wants to hear from you. Talking to God in prayer is the way we know if we are even asking for the right things!
- Remember, **I can ask God for what I need.**

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

REFLECTION | “Up”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this clip](#) from the movie “Up.”
- In this scene, Mr. Fredricksen, or Carl, blows up so many balloons that he makes his house fly! He wanted to keep a promise he once made to his wife Ellie to build a home together in Paradise Falls. Carl and Ellie had been saving up money to go to Paradise Falls one day but they kept having to use the money for other, more urgent things and never got to go.
- Let’s pretend we are all in this flying house, too.
 - **What are some things we would need?**

- What are some things we would want?
- What is the difference between those two things?

RESPONSE | Needs vs. Wants

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a column labeled “wants” and another “needs” on a poster board or dry erase board. Have kids call out suggestions for each, write them out and put them in the appropriate columns.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Print out some images of common needs and wants kids might have and have them place them on the board.
- What are some needs we have?
- What are some wants we might have?
- Is there anything here that might be both?
- Today’s Big Idea says **I can ask God for what I need.** Sometimes we spend a lot of time praying for the things we want, but forget that they are not what we need.
- When we know the difference, we can learn to be happy with what we already have.

MEMORY VERSE | Balloon Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids stand in a circle. Recite the memory verse a couple of times with the group. Then say the first word of the memory verse and lob the balloon to a kid in the circle. That kid has to say the word that comes next. Keep going until the entire verse is said. If the balloon falls at any time, start from the beginning.
- **“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” Colossians 3:2 (NIV)**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for watching over us and providing for us. Even though you already know everything, we’re so glad we can ask you for the things we need. Help us to trust that you know what’s best for us and to be patient while we wait for you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did God do to help Elisha when the stew in the pot was spoiled?
- What did God do to help Elisha feed the crowd of a hundred?
- How do you know Elisha asked God for help?
- Read Luke 11:9. What does the Bible say you can expect when you pray and ask for what you need?
- What is one thing you really want right now?
- What is one thing you really need right now?
- What are some needs that you can ask God for on behalf of others?

ACTIVITY | Fill a Need

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids fold a piece of cardstock paper in half to create a card and glue a deflated balloon on the front (opening facing down). Have them draw strings and a basket underneath to create a hot air balloon. Have them spread apart some cotton balls to create clouds and glue them on the front as well. Provide additional materials for them to decorate their card.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids who might have latex allergies, consider printing out an [image of a hot air balloon](#) and creating cards they can decorate instead.
- Our Big Idea says **I can ask God for what I need**, but sometimes what we need is to ask God for something that others need. Just like this balloon on the front of the card needs to be filled with air, we can ask God to fill all of our needs.
- Think of someone in your life that we can pray for together. Then we're going to make a card to let that person know you are praying for them!

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."**