

UP IN THE AIR (PRESCHOOL)

WEEK 1

BIG IDEA

I can dream big with God.

Bible

Elijah Taken Up to Heaven: II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Soarin' Songs

- **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!](#)*
 - "When I Look" (Kidspring)
 - "Fly" (Lifetree Kids)
 - "Do Not Give Up" (Kidspring)
 - "When We Serve" (Yancy)
 - "Free as a Bee" (Hillsong Jr.)

ACTIVITY | Puffy Clouds

- Hi kids! Welcome to *Up in the Air*, where we are going to learn about all the big dreams God has given us.
- We are going to start today by making puffy clouds, like the ones in the sky!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In this activity, kids will make puffy clouds in the sky. In a large bowl, mix together equal parts foam shaving cream and liquid glue. Stir in a few drops of blue food coloring to reach desired color. Scoop small amounts of the mixture into individual bowls or cups. Each kid will need a white or blue piece of construction paper for the "sky" on which they will paint the puffy clouds. When the glue/shaving cream mixture dries, it will dry puffy on the paper.*
- I am going to put a small cup of blue puffy paint next to you. You are going to use your fingers to dip in the puffy paint, and finger paint clouds on your paper.

ACTIVITY | Cloud Dough

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will watch a leader demonstrate making "cloud dough" as the leader engages the kids in questions. You can even call up some kids as volunteers to help pour in the ingredients. Kids will then get to play with the cloud dough that was made.
 - **TODDLER HACK:** Make a taste-safe version of cloud dough for toddlers by mixing together one cup of rice cereal and three tablespoons of melted coconut oil. Let toddlers play with the mixture once it cools. It'll be flaky and fun to play with!
- **Today we are going to make cloud dough!**
 - [Measure 1/2 cup of lotion and pour it into the mixing bowl.]
- **Which colors can clouds be?**
 - [Add 1 cup of cornstarch into the mixing bowl.]
- **Have you ever seen shapes or pictures in the clouds?**
 - [Drop food coloring in and mix well.]
- **What do you think clouds feel like?**
 - [Pass out small bits of the cloud dough to each kid to play with.]
- **Today we are going to be talking about dreaming with God.**

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Elijah Taken Up to Heaven

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Bookmark the story from II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 in a preschool Bible or an easy-to-understand Bible translation. Use stick puppets of [Elijah](#) and [Elisha](#) to help you tell the story.
- In today's story, we're going to be talking about two friends Elijah and Elisha. Their names almost sound the same, right? We're going to find out they had a lot more in common!
- [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 told Elisha that he would have to go soon, but Elisha said he would not leave Elijah's side.
- [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?**
- [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 wonderful things for God. Elisha wanted to do what Elijah did, too.
- [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!
- [Read II Kings 2:13-16.]
 - After Elijah left, Elisha was able to do the same thing Elijah had done earlier with the cloak.
- God used Elijah to do really big things, and Elisha dreamed that he could be used by God in the same way. And guess what? He was!

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."*
- Let's say today's Big Idea together: **I can dream big with God!**

VIDEO | Up in the Air, Episode 1

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

ACTIVITY | Rhyming Puppets

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out copies of the puppets you used in the Bible story and help kids make their own. Once they have their puppets, have them act out the following rhyme with you.*
- **Elijah was a prophet who followed God's commands.**
 - *[Move the Elijah puppet up and down and across your body to make a walking motion.]*
- **There also was Elisha who lived in the same land.**
 - *[Walk Elisha puppet from other side to meet Elijah puppet in the middle.]*
- **Then a chariot of fire took Elijah to the sky.**
 - *[Move Elijah puppet in an upward circular motion, as if going up to the sky.]*
- **Now, who would lead the people? Elisha is your guy!**
 - *[Wave Elisha puppet, keep Elijah puppet behind your back.]*

PRAYER

- God, thank you for giving us big dreams. Help us to be like Elisha and believe anything is possible with you! Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Cloud Jello

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a cup of [cloud Jello](#) for each kid. Give examples to help elicit responses to the question below (e.g., Do you dream of having a horse someday? Do you dream of being a rockstar?).
- **What is something you hope or dream for?**
- Today's Big Idea is **I can dream big with God.**
- That means God hears our prayers and cares about our hopes and dreams. We can trust God!

ACTIVITY | Dream Clouds

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each kid will draw on a cloud a picture of something they're dreaming of and you will hang the clouds on a blue bulletin board in your room so it looks like the dream clouds are floating in the sky. You can also hole punch and hang from the ceiling using fishing line.
 - **TODDLER HACK:** Cut a paper plate in half and cover it with glue. Give toddlers cotton balls to paste on to create clouds.
- Everyone has dreams that God wants to know about.
- What dreams do you have? They can be big or small! God hears them all and cares about them.
- Draw a picture of what you are dreaming for on your cloud.
- Remember, **I can dream big with God.**

OBJECT LESSON | Dreams Held

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** In this demonstration, squirt foam shaving cream to cover the full top of the water. Using a blue food coloring dropper, each kid will get to come up and squeeze one drop of the food coloring on top of the shaving cream. As they squeeze out the drop, have them say the Big Idea. The drop is to represent their dream. As the food coloring drops fill up in the shaving cream, they will begin "raining down" into the jar of water below.
- When we hope for something that is special to us, we can trust God with it. By praying, we let God know what is important to us.
- God hears all of our prayers and loves when we share our dreams!
- I want each of you to come up and "drop a dream" into the cloud as you say, **'I can dream big with God!'**
- When it's time, God will send you what you need to make your dreams come true. It'll be like rain coming down from the sky.

MEMORY VERSE | Colossians 3:2 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids stand in a circle. Tell them that the center of the circle is a puddle. Give one kid a balloon "raindrop". Start some music and have the children pass the raindrop around the circle until the music stops. The child holding the raindrop when the music stops will say the Bible verse with you then jump into the puddle. Keep playing until

all the children jump into the puddle. If you have lots of children, use more than one balloon raindrop.

- Let's play a game to help us remember our Bible verse this week!
- **"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea as kids color. Once the kids have finished coloring, write their name on it. Collect and hold on to each week's coloring page until the end of the series. You will help kids put their coloring pages together to build a kite!*

ACTIVITY | Rain and Clouds

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using a shallow, plastic bin, set up a sensory activity with blue water beads and fluffy clouds (Ivory soap). Add in fun toys or items of things you might find in the sky (e.g., rainbows, kites, butterflies, or the sun).*
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *Have toddlers play with a rain toy (like [this one](#)), or make your own by poking holes in the bottom of cups.*

ACTIVITY | Build a Cloud

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Kids will explore different sensory experiences as they build clouds on trays (or wax paper) with a variety of white supplies such as marshmallow fluff, cotton balls, whipped cream, shaving cream, large white sprinkles, beads, marshmallows, etc.*
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *Avoid using small pieces that might pose a choking hazard. Alternatively, you might want to fill a tub with bubble bath soap and let kids play with the foam.*