



Youth Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team

#19 7/29/2020

Candletime Online

Opening Game Charades and the category is -Favorite Character in a book, tv show, or movie. Ask everyone to choose their favorite character and write it down on a piece of paper. Leader chooses a person to act out their character. When the character is guessed correctly the person holds up the piece of paper. Then choose another person. For fun, ask everyone to rename themselves as their character in their zoom box.

Depart to Breakout Groups

Ask? Who is your favorite character in the Bible and why?

Share Most of us think of characters in Bible as either sinners or saints, good or bad. At least that's how Bible stories are presented to children. In this video, we'll explore the ways biblical authors present characters as more complex and morally compromised than we usually imagine.

Watch <https://bibleproject.com/videos/character-biblical-narrative/>

Ask? What did you learn from the video? Did anything surprise you?

Ask? How will you study a story or character differently in the Bible now?

Read Listen for details on Elisha

1 Kings 19:19-20 NRSV

¹⁹ So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰ He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹ He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

2 Kings 2:1-25 NRSV

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as

you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

¹³He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." They came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. ¹⁶They said to him, "See now, we have fifty strong men among your servants; please let them go and seek your master; it may be that the spirit of the LORD has caught him up and thrown him down on some mountain or into some valley." He responded, "No, do not send them." ¹⁷But when they urged him until he was ashamed, he said, "Send them." So they sent fifty men who searched for three days but did not find him. ¹⁸When they came back to him (he had remained at Jericho), he said to them, "Did I not say to you, Do not go?"

¹⁹Now the people of the city said to Elisha, "The location of this city is good, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful." ²⁰He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. ²¹Then he went to

the spring of water and threw the salt into it, and said, "Thus says the LORD, I have made this water wholesome; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it." ²² So the water has been wholesome to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

²³ He went up from there to Bethel; and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go away, baldhead! Go away, baldhead!" ²⁴ When he turned around and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two she-bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys. ²⁵ From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and then returned to Samaria.

Ask? What did you learn about Elisha?

Ask? What were the turning points in Elisha's story?

Ask? Has there been a moment or event in your life when you knew you had been changed? Please explain.

Ask? Have you ever thought of yourself as a character in God's story? If Bible stories were still being written today, and you were a character, how would you want to be portrayed and what would your story be about?

Share There have been many modern day people who aren't in the Bible but who've been part of God's story like Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, Martin Luther King, Natalie Boltz Weber. Can you name others?

We are God's characters too! We were perfectly created by God! And what we say and do helps tell the story of love and grace to our neighbors and the rest of the world.

Bonus challenge Spend time this week writing out your own story including the past, present, and your thoughts for the future as a character in God's story.

Prayer Ask everyone to **Light** a candle or candles as a symbol that Christ's light shines around you and hears your prayers. Take a moment to **pause** in silence. Feel God's presence with you. **Ask** What prayers do you have for God. Who or what is on your heart to pray for? **Pray together** Ask everyone to share one petition.

Return to the Large Group

Closing Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for all you have done for us and we give thanks for all you continue to do in our lives. We pray that in these days you will be with those who are sick and will be sick. Please be with the first responders and keep them safe. Give wisdom to the researchers who are working on and help them find a vaccine for the Covid-19 Virus soon. Lord as your characters in your story, help us to become all you intend us to be. Assure us you are in control, that you are

holding us in the palm of your hands, and that you have a plan for us to make all things work together for good. All these things we ask in your son's name. Amen.

Bless one another by marking the sign on the cross on your hand and raising it towards your camera.

Now receive the blessing.

May you always heal and be healed.

May you not be afraid to act when you see suffering and wrong.

May you take pride in the gifts God has given you and use them humbly with the world.

And may those who know you find deep compassion and love in your heart.

Now Go and be a character that shares God's love and grace in the world.

