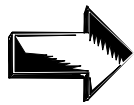


Old Testament

God whispers to Elijah 1 Kings 19:1-16

Younger Verse Love your enemies. Matthew 5:44

Older Verse Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever had someone whisper something in your ear? You really have to listen to hear what they are saying. God spoke to Elijah too. Let's see how He did it.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned how God did an amazing thing. God told Elijah to challenge the king and show him that God was the only true God. The people saw for themselves that God was real and true. After a three year time with no rain, God brought rain to the land.

When the king told his wife, Jezebel, the news, she was furious. Instead of believing God, she was upset about the people who worshiped a statue. She sent a message to Elijah telling him that he would die.

Elijah should have trusted God, who had taken care of Him and protected him. Instead, he ran away into the desert. He laid down by a broom tree and went to sleep. He was feeling sorry for himself.

Suddenly, an angel touched him and told him to get up and eat. He looked up and in front of him was bread and a jar of water. Elijah ate the food and laid down again.

Again, an angel came back and asked Elijah to eat. Elijah ate and felt much better. Then, he traveled 40 days and 40 nights to get to Horeb, the mountain of God. This is the same mountain where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments (It is also called Mt. Sinai).

Elijah found a cave in the mountain and spent the night.

Lesson Goals

God loves us. He does not want us to feel sorry for ourselves because things don't go our way
Trust God to help you in hard times
Learn how to listen to God

Then, God called to Elijah, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Elijah told God how all his friends that loved God were killed and how the king’s wife was trying to kill him.

God wanted to encourage Elijah. He asked Elijah to stand on the mountain because He was about to pass by.

First, there was a mighty wind that shattered the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. Next, there was a violent earthquake that shook the mountain. However, God was not in the earthquake. Then, there was a roaring fire that blazed through the mountain. But, God was not in the fire either.

Then, there was a very, quiet whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his coat over his face and stood at the front of the cave. He knew that the whisper was God.

Again, God asked Elijah, “What are you doing here?”

Again, Elijah told God how all his friends that loved God were killed and how the king’s wife was trying to kill him.

God told Elijah to go back home. He told him to go to the desert of Damascus and appoint two new kings. He also told Elijah that Elisha would take his place and be the next prophet (messenger) for God. Then, he told Elijah that there were 7,000 people who loved Him and worshiped Him.

Elijah was encouraged with this good news. He followed God and obeyed Him.

God helped Elijah when he felt sorry for himself. God helped Elijah see that He would take care of everything. Elijah did not have to worry about what would happen to him. God promised to take care of him. When we begin to feel sorry for ourselves, instead of running away or pouting, we should talk to God and ask for His help. He will encourage us like He encouraged Elijah.

Things did not go exactly like Elijah thought. Instead of being accepted when the rain came, he was an outlaw who was running for his life. God knew what was happening and helped Elijah see that He was in control. There was another time in the Bible when things didn’t happen exactly like everyone thought. Jesus’ friends thought that He would be the next king of the land. When He was arrested, Jesus’ friends ran away. Even though Jesus did nothing wrong, He was nailed to a cross. It seemed crazy for God to let His only Son die like that. However, God had a plan. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for all the wrongs that WE have done. He died for our sin. The best news is that three days later, Jesus came back to life! Because Jesus lives, we have a way to get to heaven. If we believe in Jesus in our hearts, He will erase our sin and make us clean on the inside. He will help us do things God’s way and take us to Heaven one day. If you want to know more about Jesus, let us know.

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids learn a lesson for the story.

Memory Verse Activities

To put the verse into practice, have the kids make a valentine for someone that they would consider an “enemy.” This activity may be hard for them. Share how Jesus wants us to be kind instead of mean to our enemies.

Prayer Time

Thank God for listening to us and hearing our prayers. Ask Him to help us be kind to people and love our “enemies.”

Snack Time/CleanUp

Look around and see how you can improve your facility. Make it look nice and clean. Help the kids learn responsibility by helping and cleaning.

Planning for Lesson 59
Naboth’s Vineyard
1 Kings 21:1-28

Preschool Lesson
For
God whispers to Elijah

Use sound effects for today's story.

Last week we saw how God brought rain and helped the people see that He was the only true God.

When the queen heard what happened, she was very angry. She sent a message to Elijah that she was going to kill him. Elijah was very scared. Instead of trusting God, he ran away to hide.

Elijah went into the hot desert and sat down by a tree. God knew what Elijah had done. He sent an angel to give him bread and water. God sent the angel back again to give Elijah more bread and water. Then, Elijah went to God's special mountain and found a cave to spend the night.

Then, God called to Elijah, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah told God that he felt so alone.

God wanted to help Elijah. He asked Elijah to stand on the mountain because He was about to pass by.

First, there was a mighty wind (make a blowing wind noise) that shattered the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. Next, there was a violent earthquake that shook the mountain (pretend like the earth is moving and shaking). However, God was not in the earthquake. Then, there was a roaring fire that blazed through the mountain (make sizzle noises). But, God was not in the fire either.

Then, there was a very, quiet whisper (whisper as you say this). When Elijah heard it, he pulled his coat over his face and stood at the front of the cave. He knew that the whisper was God.

Again, God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?"

Again, Elijah told God that he felt so alone.

God told Elijah to go back home. He told him to go to the desert of Damascus and appoint two new kings. He also told Elijah that Elisha would take his place and be the next prophet (messenger) for God. Then, he told Elijah that there were many people who loved Him and worshiped Him.

Elijah was happy about this good news. He followed God and obeyed Him.

God showed Elijah that He would take care of him. God loves us too and wants to take care of us.

Hands-On Activities
For
God whispers to Elijah

Play a whisper game. Whisper something to the first person and they whisper the sentence to the next person etc. Usually by the end of the circle the sentence has changed. For fun, use the verse and say words in Spanish or another language!

Make a snack cave. Hollow out a chocolate muffin (or something similar). Add a gingerbread person as Elijah.

Make a plaster mountain or clay mountain. Make a mold of Elijah too.

God does not want us to run away or make excuses for things. He wants to help us be responsible. God helped Elijah see that HE would take care of him and help him through any problem he had. Play a three-legged race and talk about how God is the person beside you helping you through the day.

Sometimes we may feel alone like Elijah. God helped him see that there were over 7,000 people who believed in God. That encouraged Elijah and helped him see that God was in control of the situation and knew what was going on.

Make snacks using spray cheese and crackers. Let the kids listen to the squirting sound the cheese makes.

Here are two fun games from Gospel Light related to this lesson. Bring tape to mark off half of the room. Choose someone to be "it." The kids will stand on one side of the line and "it" stands on the other side. Children must quietly sneak over the line and try to tag "it." "It" will have their back to the kids so they cannot see who is coming. When they "sense" that someone is coming, they can turn around and try to tag the person before they cross the taped line. If the person is tagged, they become "it."

Have one person sit blindfolded in a chair. Let someone come behind him and whisper. Let the blindfolded person try to guess who whispered.
