

Putting God first

**Bible verses:**

1 Kings 16:30–33; 17:1
Ahab king of Israel

**Aim:**

To explore what the Bible says about idols,
and why we choose to put God first

**Today's fruit:**

Self-control



In today's session we meet a king and queen who refused to follow God.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel chose to worship idols instead of God. But the prophet Elijah followed God faithfully and delivered his message. These stories help us understand why God should be first in our lives and how we can love him with all our heart, soul and strength.

Self-control is when we choose to make a good decision, like putting God first instead of other things we might like.

Each child will need:

- Memory verse wristband
- *Hearts* handout – three designs with/without Bible verse
- Coloured paper strips wide/long enough for a sentence and glue sticks
- Pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To create a large-scale 1–10 or use the *Scale* handout
- *Interests* handout
- Blu Tack or tape for the pictures (optional)
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: *Self-control* – download from **Salvationist**

 Start it**Say:**

Today we're going to spend some time thinking about what is important to people in our world today, and what is important to us.

Create a large 1 to 10 scale on the wall/floor with 'Not Important' at 1 and 'Most Important' at 10; or use the *Scale* handout.

Show the children the pictures from the *Interests* handout – keeping the Baal card for later. You may wish to reduce the number used or add different topics. For each picture discuss:

- Where do you think most people would put this on the scale?
- Do you agree, or would you place it somewhere else?

This discussion should highlight that everyone has different interests and priorities.

Let the children take turns placing the pictures on to the scale. Once they have been discussed, then talk about the choices and which one should really take top spot in our lives as Christians.

Say:

Lots of things are important to us, and that's OK! However, the Bible tells us that God should be the most important person in our lives. Today we'll see what happened when King Ahab decided to put someone else in God's place.

 Sing it**Say:**

Our story today is all about King Ahab, a man who refused to follow God's way. We're going to sing a song that reminds us that, as Christians, God is the only king in our lives.

Song

'King of me' (official lyric video) by Rend Co Kids (2:19)

 Share it**Say:**

After King David, there was a long line of kings who succeeded him in two kingdoms – Israel and Judah. Their stories fill four books in the Old Testament of the Bible. But not one of these kings followed God in the way that they needed to, and many of them made other gods more

important in their lives. The nation of Israel, that was once so strong under God's leadership, lost its way and ended up split down the middle. Today's story is found in the first book of Kings during the reign of King Ahab.

Read:

'So Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel. This was during Asa's thirty-eighth year as king of Judah. Ahab ruled Israel in the town of Samaria for 22 years. Ahab did many things that the Lord said were wrong. He did more evil than any of the kings before him. He sinned in the same ways that Jeroboam son of Nebat had sinned. But he did even worse things. He married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal. (Ethbaal was king of the city of Sidon.) Then Ahab began to serve Baal and worship him. He built a temple in Samaria for worshipping Baal. And he put an altar there for Baal. Ahab also made an idol for worshipping Asherah. He did more things to make the Lord, the God of Israel, angry than all the other kings before him.'

(1 Kings 16:29-33 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What did we find out about King Ahab and Queen Jezebel in this Bible reading?
- Was God important to them? Explain how you know.
- Where would King Ahab and Queen Jezebel place God on the 1 to 10 scale? Ask one of the children to place the 'God' label on the scale.
- Where would King Ahab and Queen Jezebel place Baal on the 1 to 10 scale? Ask one of the children to place the 'Baal' label on the scale.

Say:

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel made another god, Baal, their main idol. They even built a special altar for him.

Ask:

What is an idol?

Say:

An idol is anything that we put in God's place – it could be a statue, a person, or even something like a hobby or a video game.

The word idol has two main meanings according to the dictionary:

1. a statue or an image of a god which is used as an object of worship.
2. someone who is loved and respected to a great degree – a hero.

Ask:

- What kind of idol was Baal to King Ahab and Queen Jezebel?
- Was he an image of a god that they worshipped, or a hero they loved and respected?

Say:

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel made Baal an idol because they placed him above the true God in their lives. Although it is good to have people that we admire, like the second meaning of the word idol, no person or thing should take a higher place in our lives than God.

Say:

The other character who is about to join our story knew that God was the most important person in his life.

Read:

‘Now Elijah was a prophet from the town of Tishbe in Gilead. Elijah said to King Ahab, “I serve the Lord, the God of Israel. As surely as the Lord lives, I tell you the truth. No rain or dew will fall during the next few years unless I command it.”’

(1 Kings 17:1 /CB)

Ask:

- What do we find out about Elijah in this Bible reading?
- Was God important to him? Explain how you know.
- Where would Elijah place God on the 1 to 10 scale? Ask one of the children to move the ‘God’ label on the scale. Hopefully, the children will place God at number 10!
- Where would Elijah place the ‘Baal’ label on the scale? Hopefully, the children will place Baal at number 1.

Say:

In our next session, we will find out what happened when Elijah tried to tell the people, including King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, that by worshipping Baal they were serving the wrong god.

Watch the beginning of the following clip to find out more.

Video

God’s Story: Elijah by Crossroads Kids’ Club (5:01)

Watch 0:00–1:19 ‘When the king heard Elijah’s message, he was furious.’
(To be continued in the next session.)

Ask:

- Why was King Ahab furious?
- What do you think will happen next in the story?

Say:

We’ll find out more in our next session.

Remove the ‘Baal’ label from the scale but leave the label for ‘God’ at number 10. This will remind the children of his place in our lives.

 Action it

Display the memory verse and give each child a wristband.

Memory verse

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’

(Deuteronomy 6:5 *NIV*)

Say:

This month’s memory verse is one of the most important verses in the whole Bible! It reminds us that God is not just important: he should be the most important person in our lives.

Give each child a sheet from the *Hearts* handout and ask them to write the memory verse in the centre. Depending on your group, you may want to write the Bible verse in advance or use a sheet with it already included.

Ask the children to think about things they love or spend time doing – you may want to refer back to the pictures in the Start It activity. Provide colourful strips of paper for the group and invite them to write one thing that is important to them on each strip. They can then glue the strips around the edge of the heart and decorate it.

Discuss with the children how it’s good to have things that are important to us, but God remains at the centre of all we do.

Say:

God loves you very much, and he wants to be at the centre of your life. When he’s first, it helps us to enjoy good things in the right way and make wise choices. Your heart will help you to remember to love God first in your life and place him at the centre.

Display the *Self-control* sign.

Say:

Loving God with all our heart, soul and strength means choosing his way, even when other things call for our attention. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can show self-control and make wise choices that help us to keep God in the centre of our lives.

**Pray it****Say:**

You’ve made a heart to remind you that God is at the centre of your life. Let’s spend a few minutes being still, asking him to help us love him first and show self-control in the choices we make.

Ask the group to find a place to lie down quietly on the floor and close their eyes. The clip is over four minutes long – there is no expectation that the children will lie quietly for this amount of time!

Listen

‘Be the centre’ Kids (lyric video) by Shout Praises, video by Camwin128 (4:39)

When you feel the group is losing concentration, lower the music and close your time together in prayer, asking Jesus to be the centre, and most important part, of everyone’s lives.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Putting God first

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Kings 16:30–33:17:1



Aim:

To explore what the Bible says about idols, and why we choose to put God first



Today's fruit:

Self-control



Reflect

Find a quiet space and read this month's memory verse:

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5)

Write the verse on a piece of paper and decorate it however you wish. Stick it somewhere you will see it every day this week. Each time you see it, ask God: 'Help me to love you first today.'



Share

Chat with the people at home about the things that are most important to each of you.

- What are the top three things you all care about the most?
- How could you show that God is number one in your home and in your life together?



Song for the week

'King of me' (official lyric video) by Rend Co Kids (2:19)

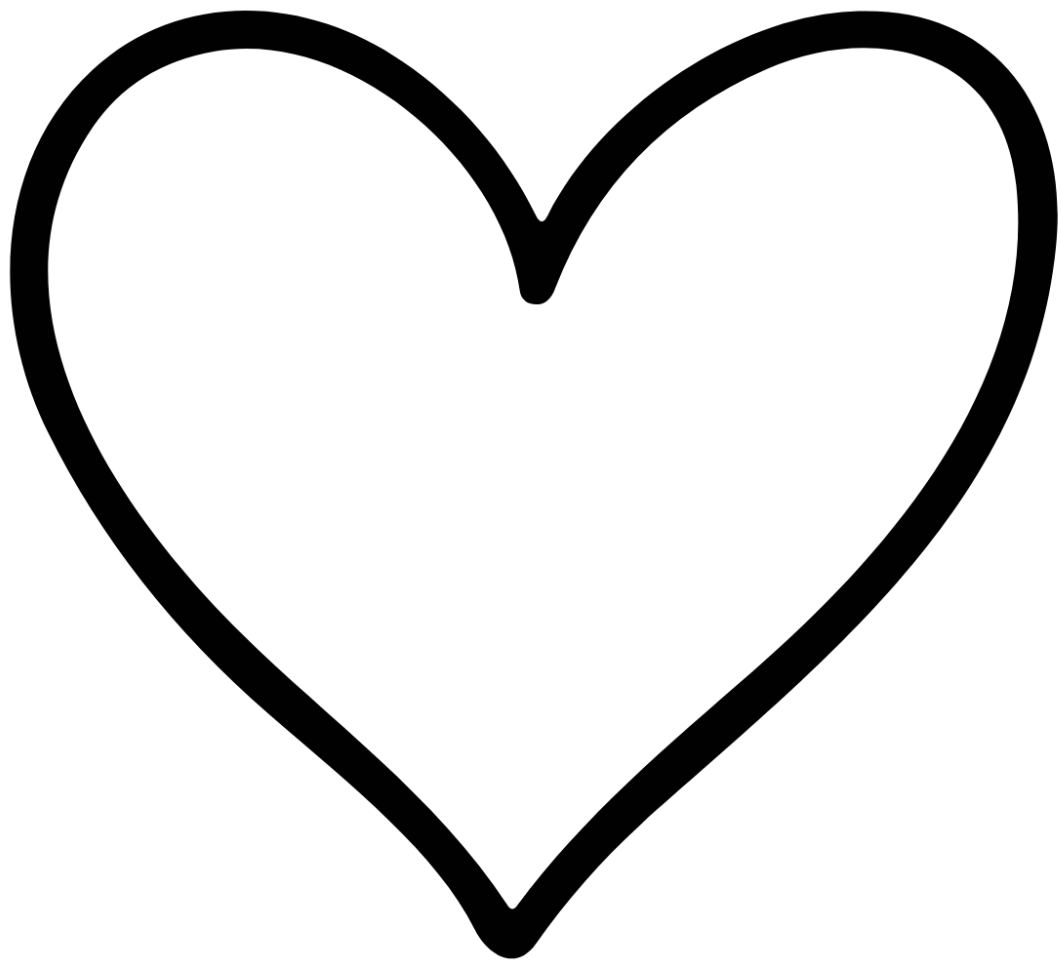


Memory verse

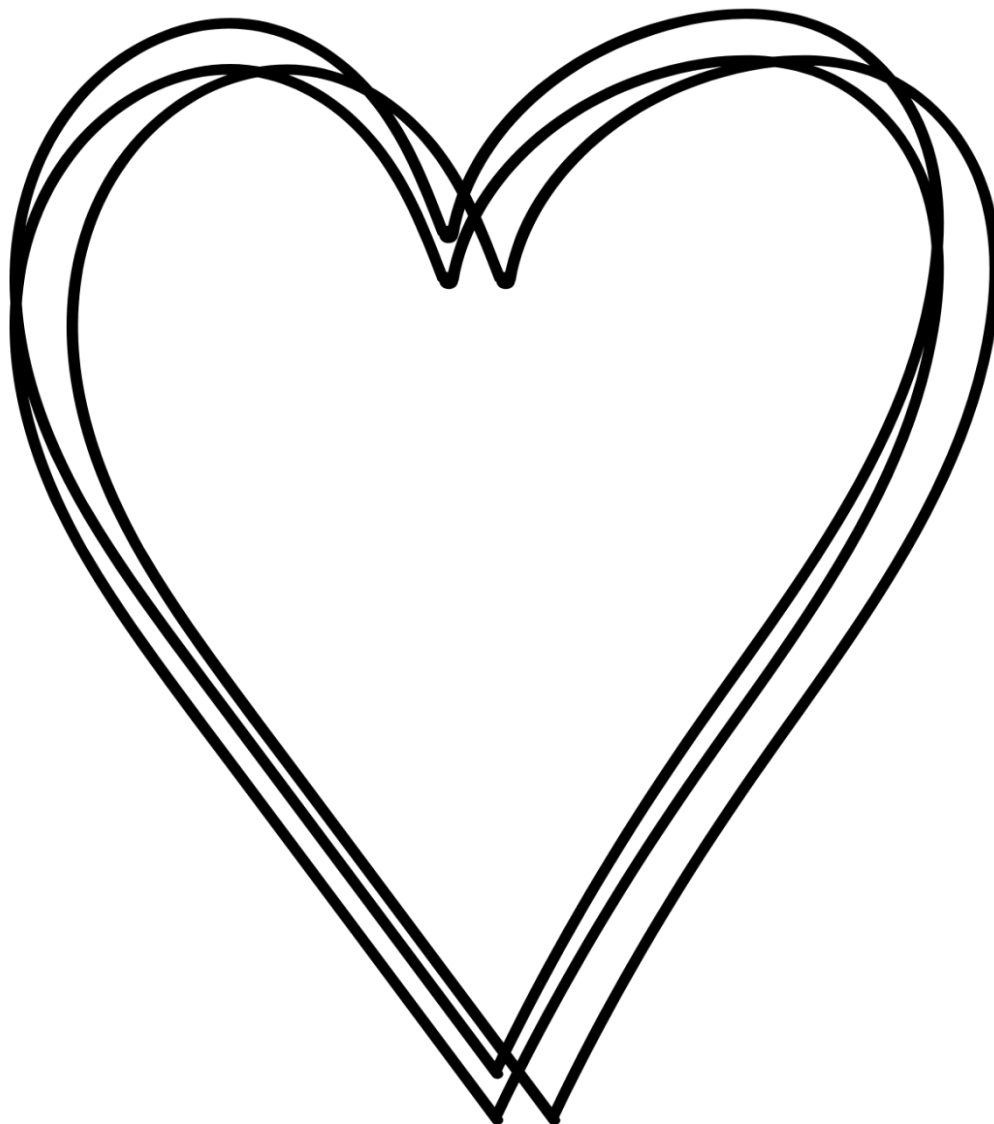
'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV)

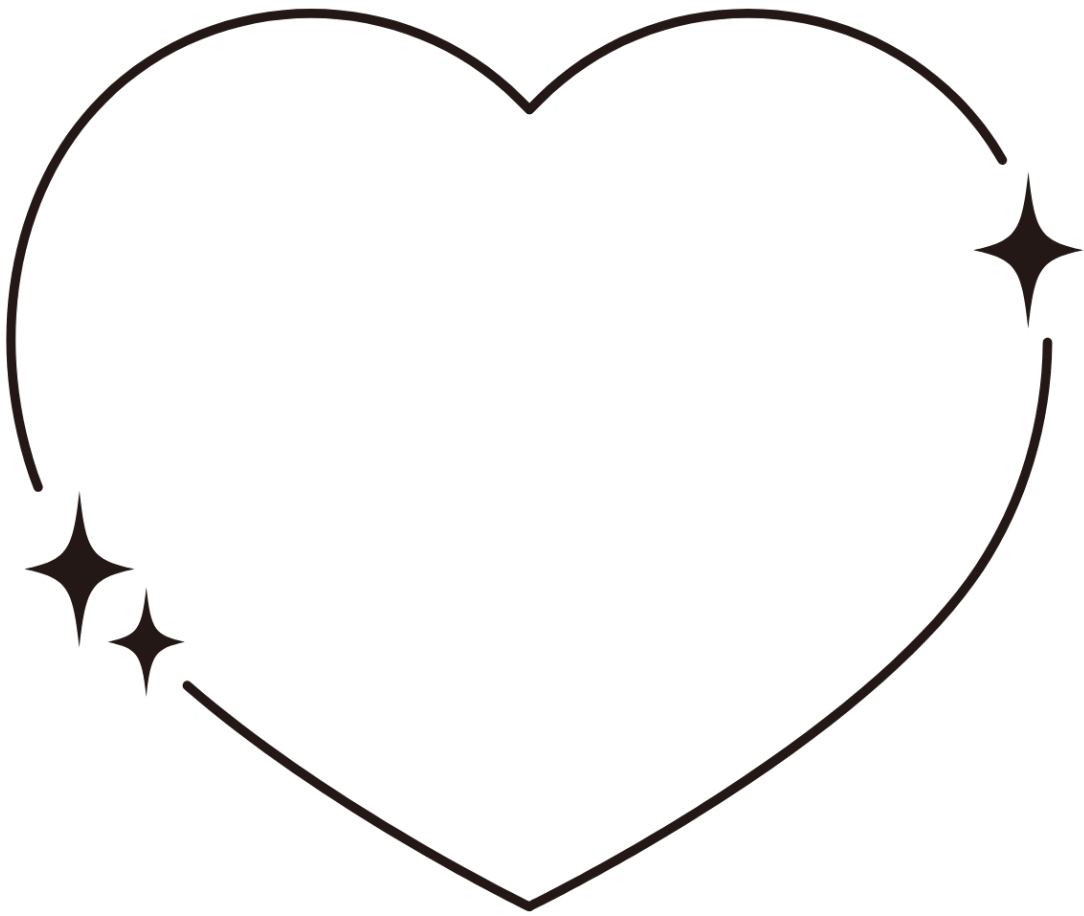
Explore it



Explore it



Explore it



Explore it



‘Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and
with all your soul and
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(Deuteronomy 6:5)

Explore it

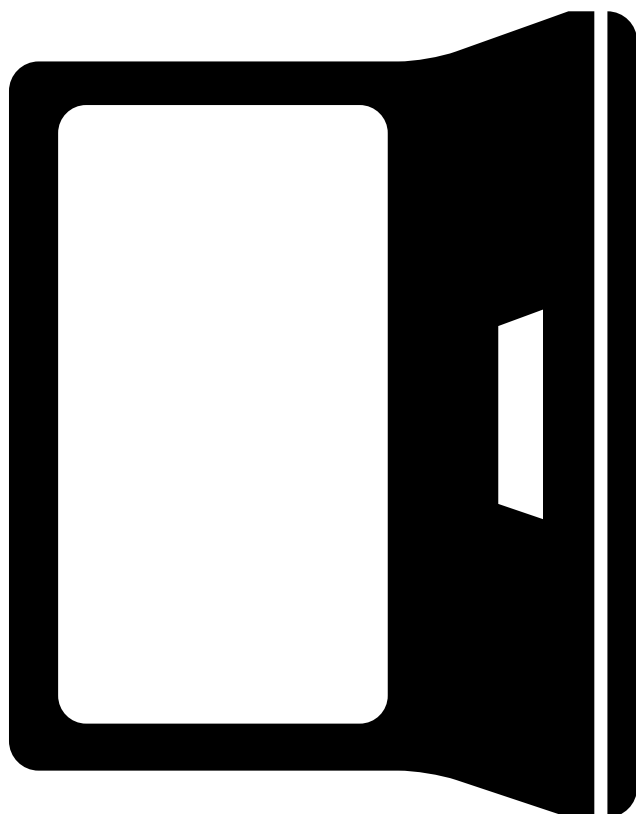
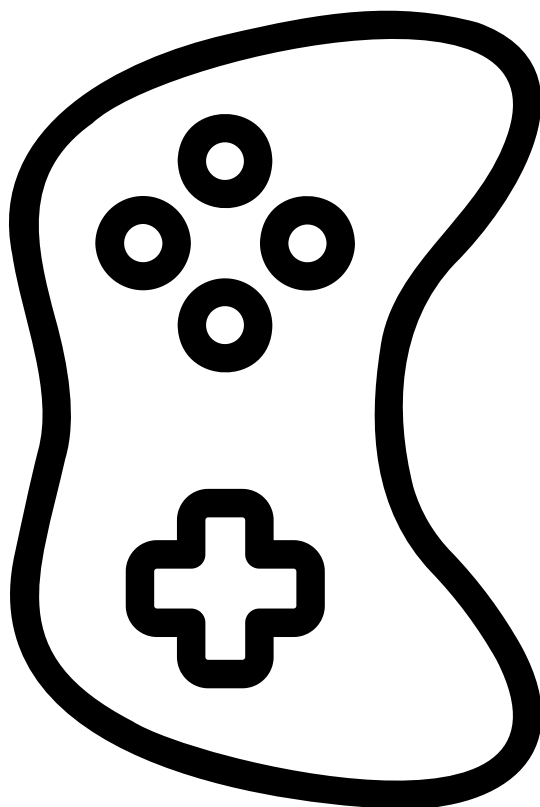


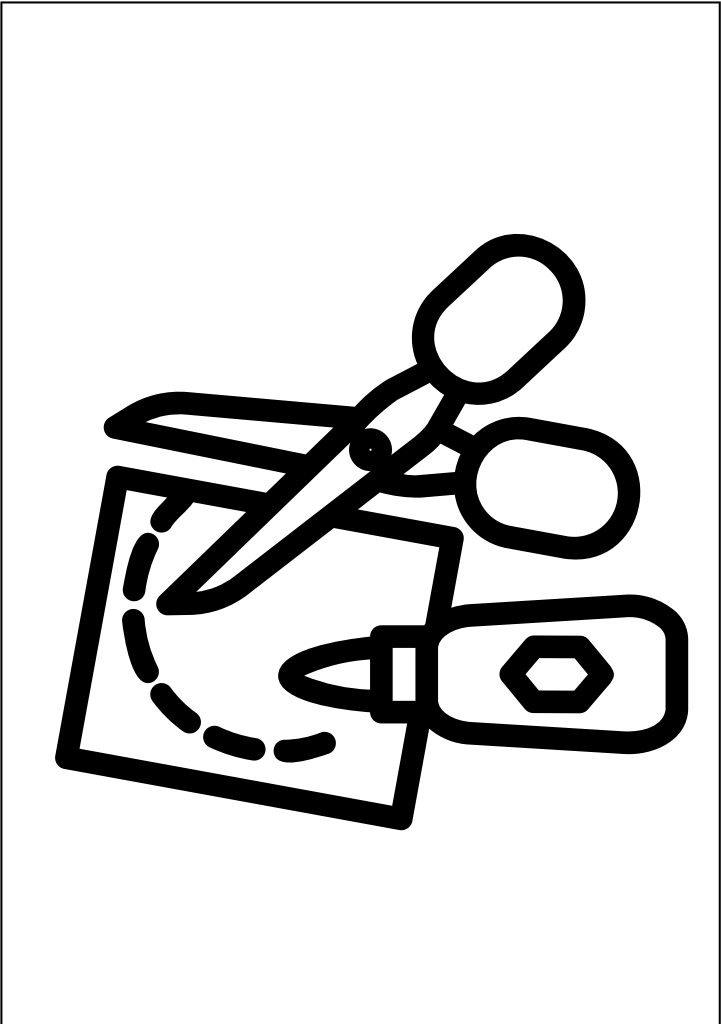
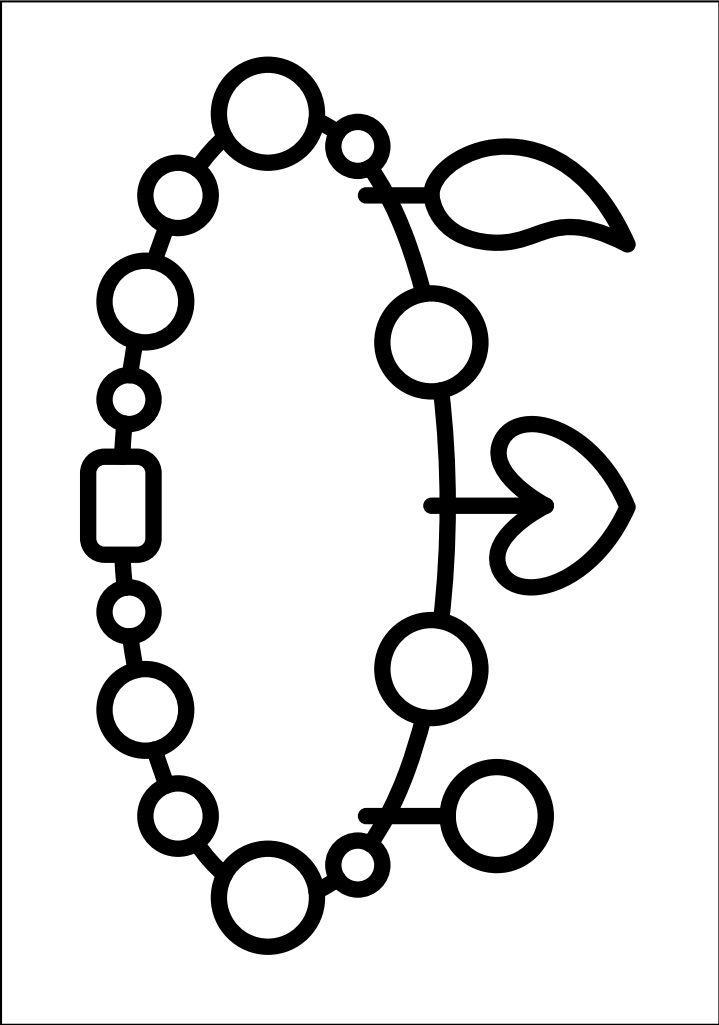
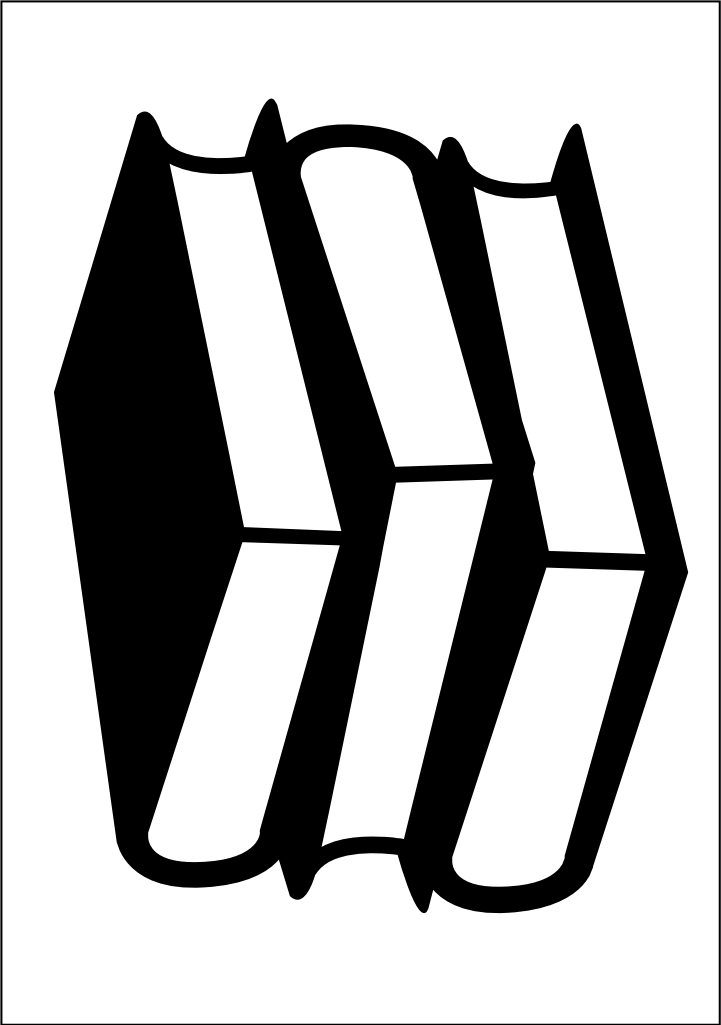
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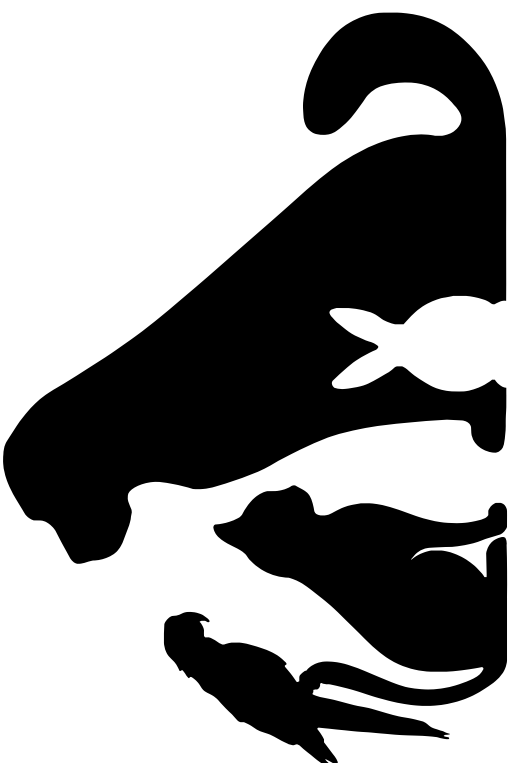
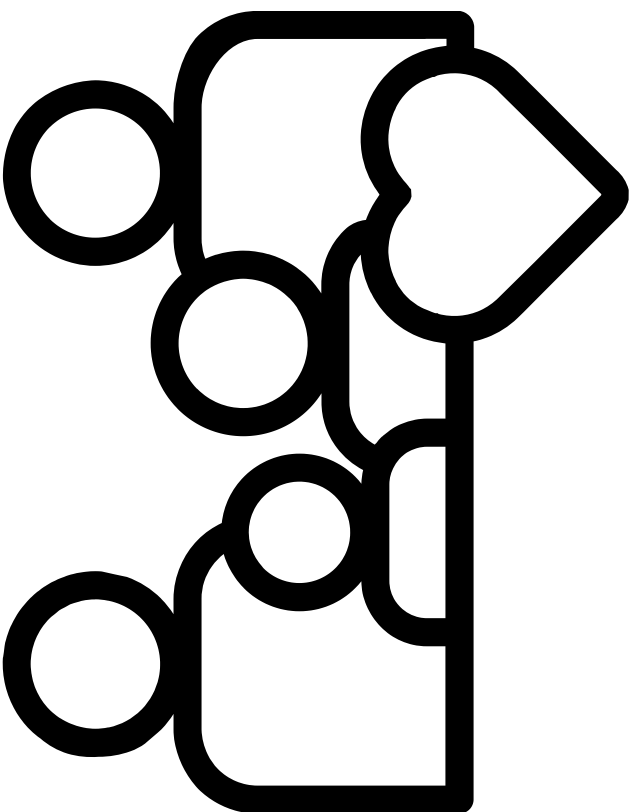
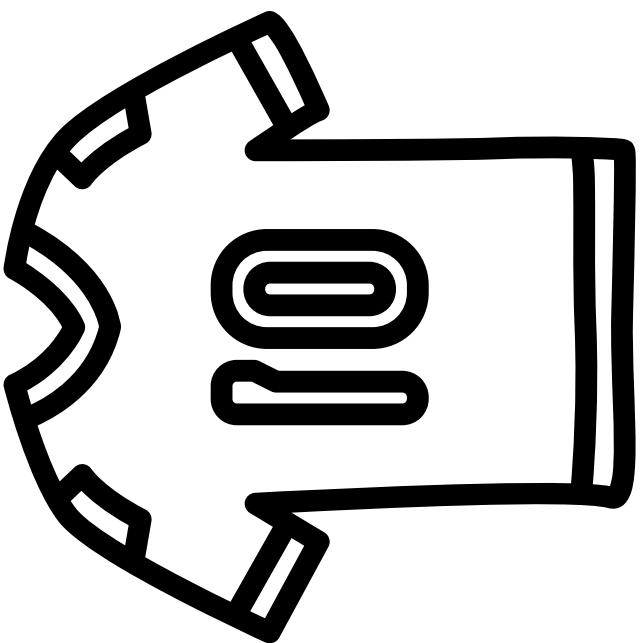
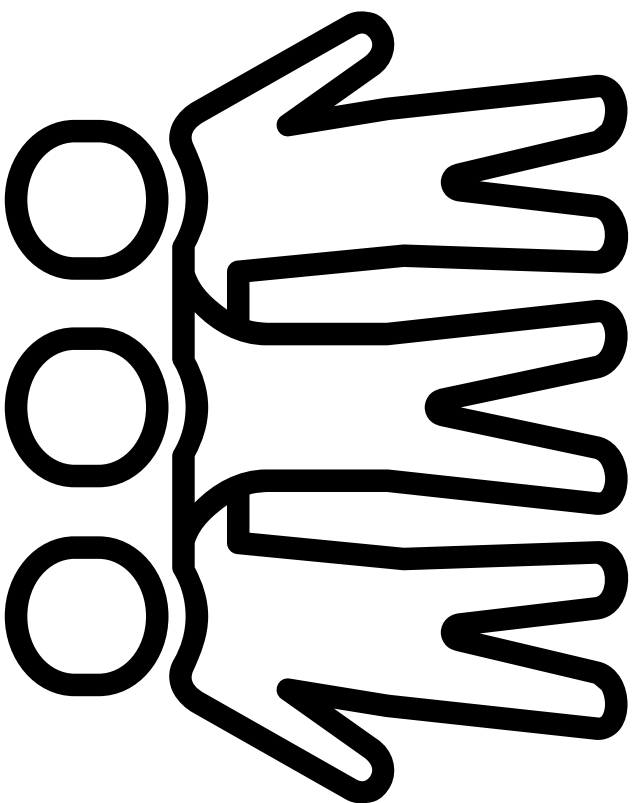


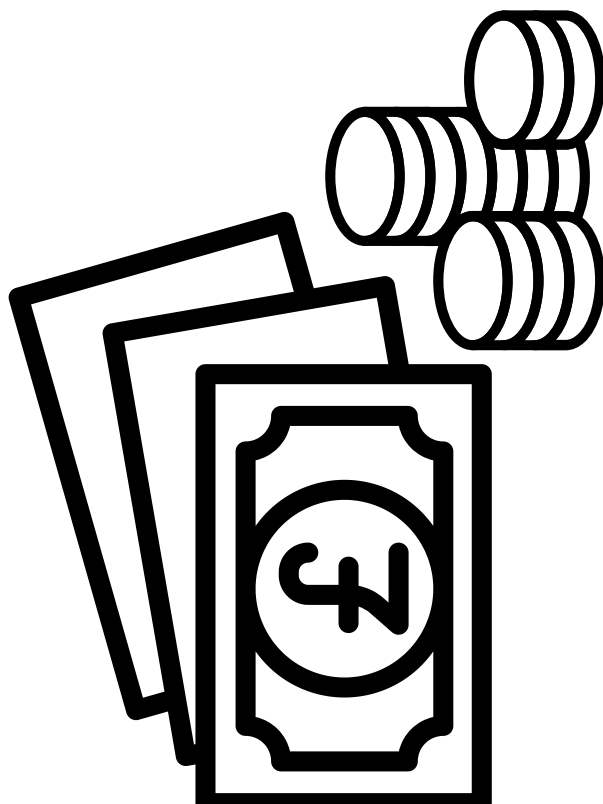
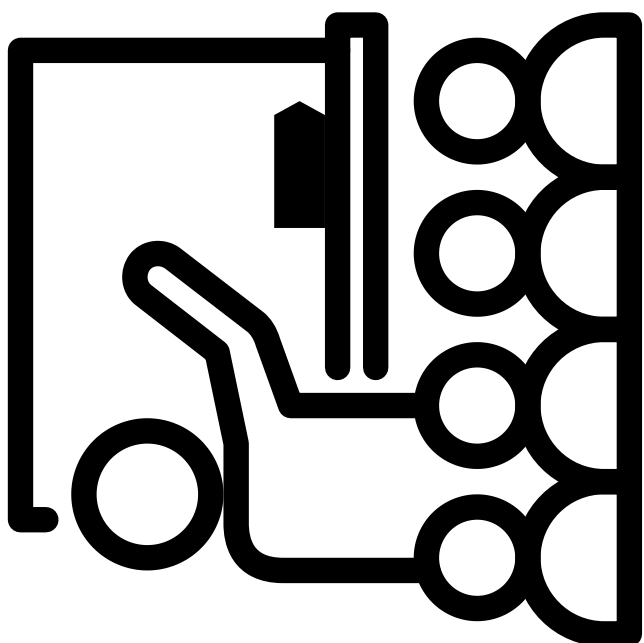
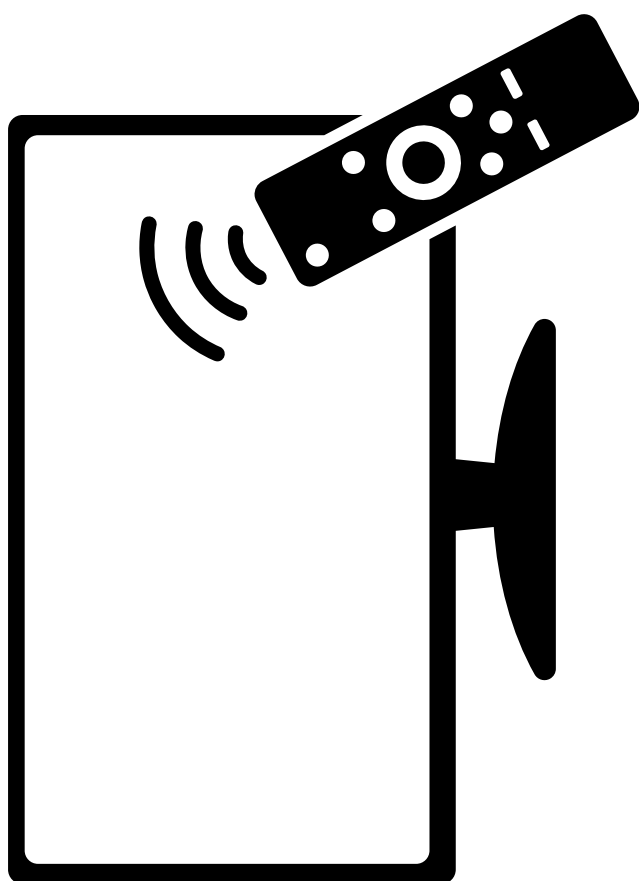
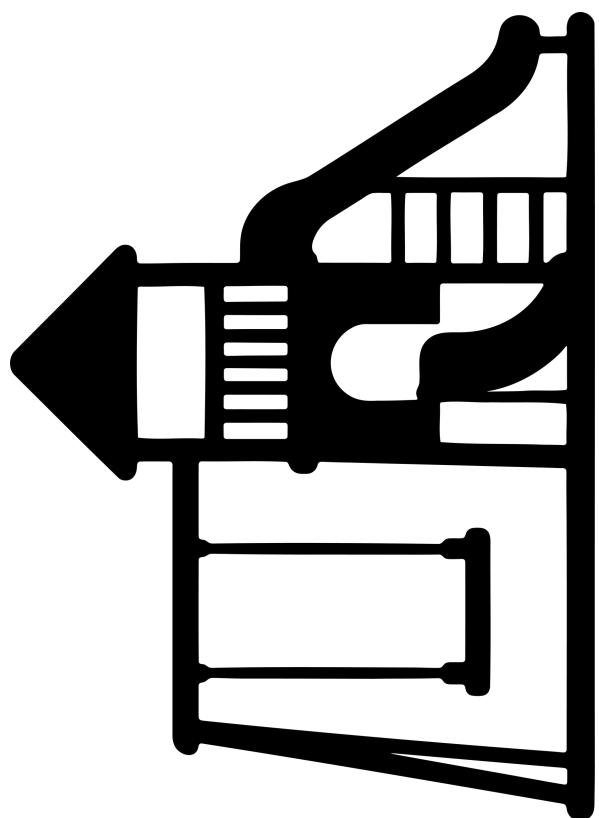
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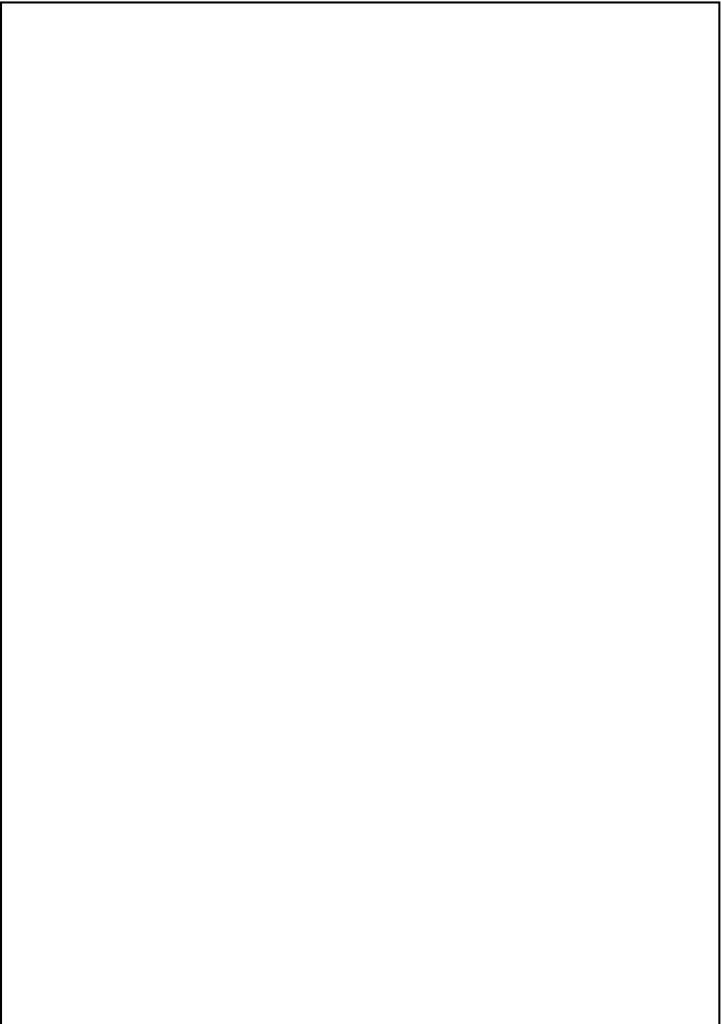
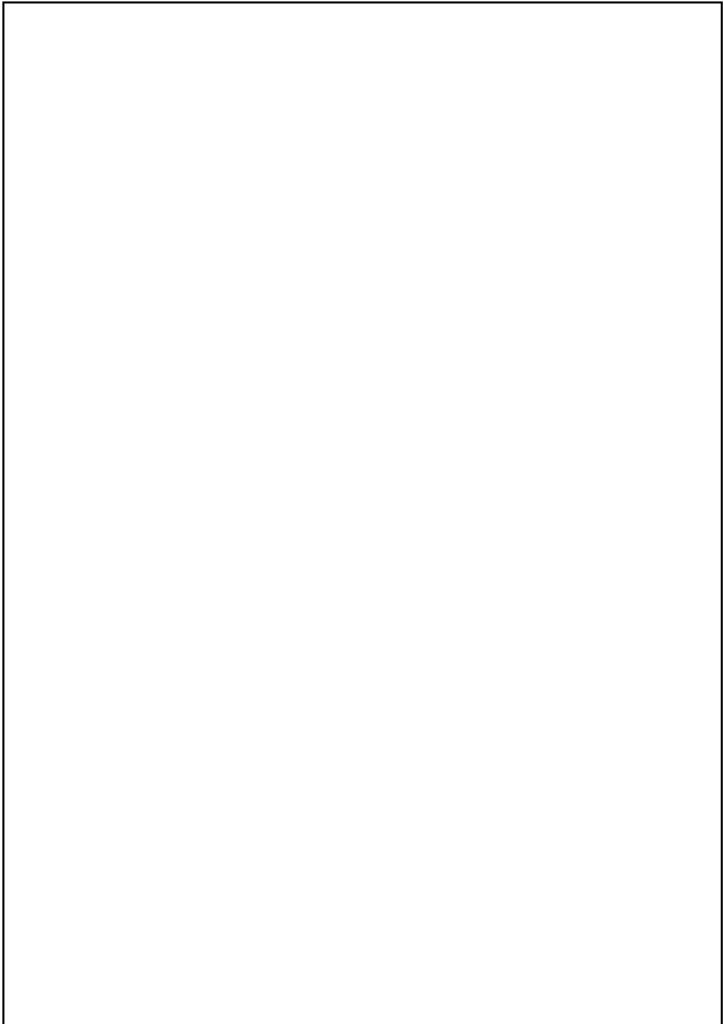
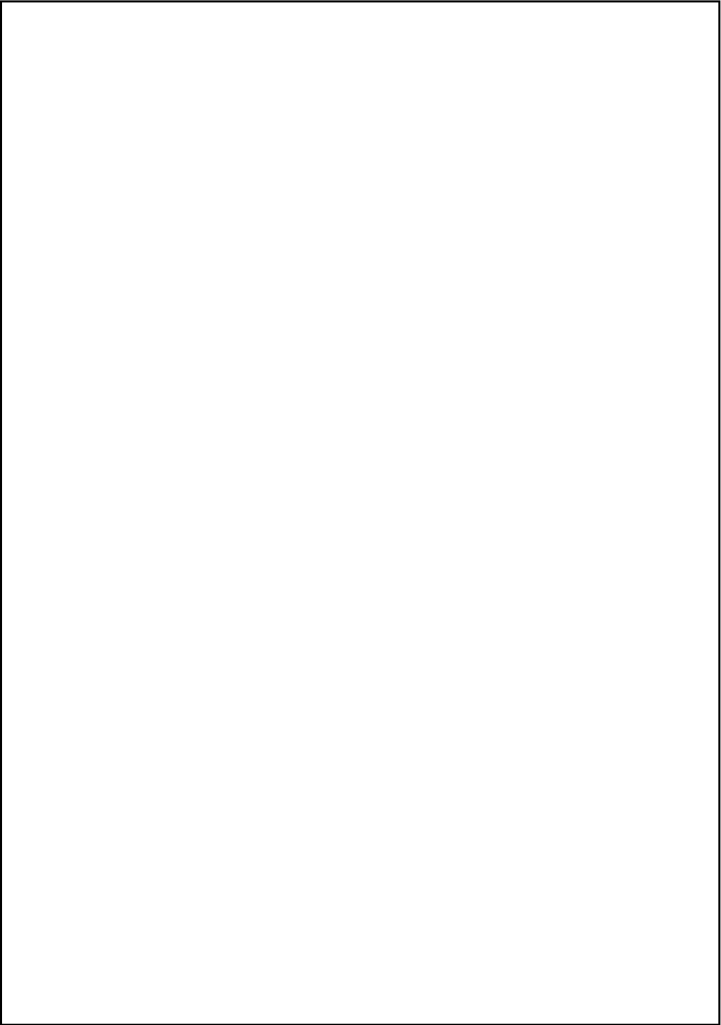
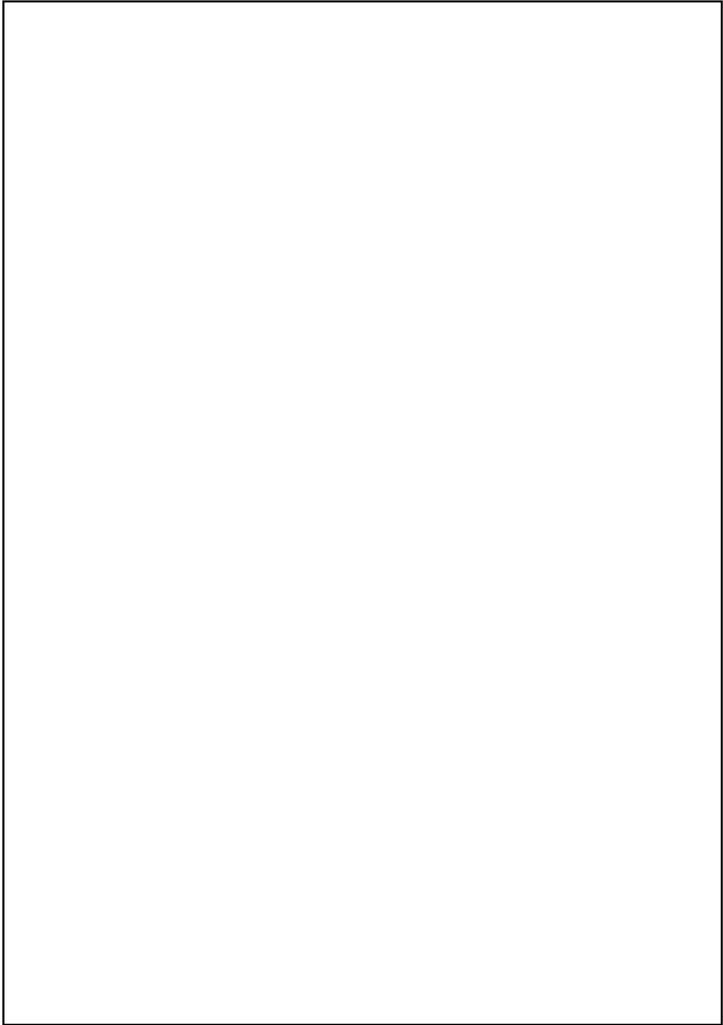




Baal

COOL





 Explore it

**‘Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your
strength.’**

(Deuteronomy 6:5)



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10

The biggest deal!

9

One of the biggest things!

8

Really matters a lot!

7

Take notice!

6

This matters?

5

Maybe?

4

Matters a little

3

Hardly important

2

Not a big deal

1

Not important at all

Is God there?

**Bible verses:**

1 Kings 18:22-27

Elijah and the prophets of Baal

**Aim:**

To learn that God always hears our prayers,
even when the answers take time

**Today's fruit:**

Peace



In today's session Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal, who prayed all day but received no answer.

Elijah trusted the one true God, who was listening and would answer at just the right time. Sometimes it can be frustrating when we're praying to God, and it feels like he isn't answering. Today's story helps us to understand that God is always listening and his answers to prayer are always worth the wait.

We can show and feel peace in our lives when we are confident in God's plan and power.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- News suitable for children, eg *First News* or *CBBC Newsround*
- A flipchart and pens
- Materials for creating a prayer display, leaflet or prayer station (optional)
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: *Peace* - download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Ask:

- What are you like at waiting for things?

- Does your family have any games that you play together when you are waiting in a queue or sat in traffic? Share them with the group.

Option one

Play one of the games suggested by the children.

Option two

Depending on the size of the group, work together or in smaller groups to come up with a game to play while they are waiting for something. Give them five minutes to create the game and then have a go at playing together.

Say:

We now have some games to play while we and our family are waiting for something. As the people in today's Bible story will tell you, waiting can be very frustrating.

**Sing it****Say:**

In the next part of our story, Elijah and the people had been waiting a long time for God to send rain. Many of the people continued to pray to Baal, the god worshipped by King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.

Say:

Elijah, on the other hand, continued to trust in God. Today's song reminds us how important it is to trust in God while we are waiting for him to answer our prayers.

Song

'Waiting here for you' (lyric video) by Kid's Praise Company, video by Marantha! Music (5:45)

If you would like a shorter version of the song, then a natural stopping point is 2:45. 'And it's you we adore, singing alleluia.'

**Share it****Say:**

In the last session we met the prophet Elijah, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.

Ask:

- Who was the most important god in King Ahab and Queen Jezebel's life?
- Who was the most important God in Elijah's life?

Say:

When the king heard Elijah's message that there would be no rain, he was furious. You made some predictions about what would happen next in the story. Let's find out if you were right.

Video

God's Story: *Elijah* by Crossroads Kids' Club (5:01)

Watch 0:00-2:29 'They both prayed for fire, and then waited to see whose god brought it first.'

Discuss

- What did God tell Elijah to say to King Ahab and Queen Jezebel?
- How do you think the people felt about there being no rain for their crops?
- How did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel react to Elijah's news about the drought?
- How long had the people been waiting for the rain to come?
- What challenge did Elijah set for King Ahab in the third year of the drought?

Say:

The story of the challenge is found in 1 Kings 18:20-25.

Read:

'So Ahab called all the Israelites and those prophets to Mount Carmel. Elijah stood before the people. He said, "How long will you try to serve both Baal and the Lord? If the Lord is the true God, follow him. But if Baal is the true God, follow him!"'

'But the people said nothing.

'Elijah said, "I am the only prophet of the Lord here. But there are 450 prophets of Baal. So bring two bulls. Let the prophets of Baal choose one bull. Let them kill it and cut it into pieces. Then let them put the meat on the wood. But they are not to set fire to it. Then I will do the same with the other bull. And I will put it on the wood. But I will not set fire to it. You prophets of Baal, pray to your god. And I will pray to the Lord. The god who answers the prayer will set fire to his wood. He is the true God."

'All the people agreed that this was a good idea.

'Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "There are many of you. So you go first. Choose a bull and prepare it. Pray to your god, but don't start the fire.

'So they took the bull that was given to them and prepared it. They prayed to Baal from morning until noon. They shouted, "Baal, answer us!" But there was no sound. No one answered. They danced around the altar they had built."

(1 Kings 18:20-25 *ICB*)

Say:

The prophets of Baal kept praying all day for their god to send rain, but nothing happened.

Read:

‘At noon Elijah began to make fun of them. He said, “Pray louder! If Baal really is a god, perhaps he is thinking. Or perhaps he is busy or travelling! Perhaps he is sleeping so you will have to wake him!”’

(1 Kings 18:27 *ICB*)

Say:

The prophets must have felt so frustrated as Elijah made fun of them.

Ask:

We won’t find out the next part of the story until next week, but what do you think happened next?



Action it

Share the memory verse together.

Memory verse

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’

(Deuteronomy 6:5 *NIV*)

Say:

Elijah trusted God completely, even when it felt like nothing was happening. We can trust him too. He loves and hears our prayers, even when answers take time. That’s what it means to love God with all our heart, soul and strength: we bring him everything we care about.

Say:

Our activity today focuses on bringing our worries and concerns about the world to God in prayer.

Share some child-friendly news, eg

- Watch the latest episode of **Newsround**
- Explore the **Newsround website**
- Read a children’s newspaper together (like *First News*).

Ask the children to look for situations or people that need our prayers.

Discuss the situations that have been going on for a while and jot down some of them on a flipchart.



Say:

Thousands of Christians around the world have prayed for these situations repeatedly, and yet we are still waiting for our prayers to be answered.

Ask:

- What prayers are still waiting for answers?
- Why do you think God hasn't answered these prayers yet?
- What does it feel like to wait for God to answer prayer?

Say:

It can be hard when we feel like God isn't answering our prayers, especially when people are facing such horrible circumstances. We can be reassured that God always listens to our prayers, but what we ask for won't always happen in the way we ask. God understands everything far better than we can, so sometimes things will happen that we can't understand. We can still trust that God is good and keep praying to him.

Ask:

As you look at all the situations we have seen in the news, which ones still need prayer?

Choose one of the ideas below, or create your own, to give the children the opportunity to share with the rest of the church the world issues they are praying for. This will help remind our whole church family to keep praying as well.

- Plan and set up a prayer station in the church with prompts for people to pray for specific topics.
- Help the children plan a prayer time that they can lead for the whole church.
- Create a prayer leaflet for the rest of the church.

Say:

One thing that we learn from Elijah is how important it is to keep praying. Just like Elijah, we don't know what happens next in the story.



Pray it

Say:

In today's story the prophets of Baal shouted and danced all day, but their god never answered. Elijah prayed to the one true God, and even though he had to wait, he knew God was listening.

Display the *Peace* sign.

Say:

Sometimes it feels like God is silent or slow to answer our prayers; but unlike Baal, our God is

alive. He loves us and hears every word we pray. We can show and feel peace in our lives when we are confident in God's plan and power. He may sometimes keep us waiting, but his answers are always worth the wait.

Give the children the opportunity to pray for one of the situations they have explored. Give each child some quiet time to choose one of the situations that needs prayer today. Ask them to write a one-sentence prayer for that topic. While they do this, you may want to play the song from today's 'Sing It' section.

Afterwards gather together and invite the children to read their prayers. After everyone has finished, close the time in prayer.

Key dates (optional)

8 November: Remembrance Sunday

This Sunday we take time to honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts and reflect on the importance of peace and compassion. Explore It resources are available on Salvationist.org.uk/resources/discipleship/explore-it.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Is God there?

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
1 Kings 18:22-27



Aim:
To learn that God always hears our prayers, even when the answers take time



Today's fruit:
Peace



Create

In today's session you thought of different ways to share your prayer requests with the rest of the church. Are there any of these ideas that you could adapt to remind you to pray regularly at home?

Create your own way of remembering to pray for the situations that are on your heart.

You could:

- set up a prayer space in your room.
- create a prayer journal with different topics to explore and pray for.
- set up a prayer noticeboard and put newspaper clippings and prayer ideas on it.



Pray

In today's story the people were in the third year of a very long drought. There was no water for crops and no grass for their animals. They were getting desperate and didn't know what to do.

There are still lots of people across the world struggling without clean water to drink. Watch the clip with someone at home and spend time praying for the young people who have to miss school to collect water for their families to drink.

The girls who turned to water by WaterAid
Is there anything else you could do to help as a family?



Song for the week

'Waiting here for you' (lyric video) by Kid's Praise Company, video by Marantha! Music



Memory verse

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV)

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

A Spectacular God


Bible verses:

1 Kings 18:33–46

Elijah and the prophets of Baal


Aim:

To explore God's spectacular power and why our prayers should point to him


Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



In today's session God answered Elijah's prayer in a spectacular way, proving he is the one true God.

Elijah prayed with faith and obedience, and God showed his power to turn people back to him. This story helps us see that God is always faithful, and we can trust him and pray in ways that point others to his greatness.

When we decide to trust God and do what is right, we show faithfulness.

Each child will need:

- A strip from the *So that prayers* handout – or more!
- Pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Stickers, each with half of a word written on them – see Start It
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: *Faithfulness* – download from **Salvationist**
- A large sheet of paper with 'Thank you, God, for ...' at the top and 'SPECTACULAR' written vertically down the left-hand side

Start it

Write half of a word on a sticker, one for each child. You may want to add more words or do some repeats. (You may want to use the same colour for each word, if your group needs support with reading.)

Ama- -zing

Remar- -kable

Breath- -taking

Wonder- -ful

Shock- -ing

Awe- -some

Stun- -ning

Eye- -catching

Aston- -ishing

Marvel- -lous

Let the children read their sticker before attaching it to themselves. See how quickly they can find their 'other half'. Each pair reads out the word they've made (or newly created!). Ask if they can spot any common themes with the words. Every word describes something really great, something spectacular.

Ask:

- What's the most spectacular thing that you've ever seen? It might be something you've seen in real life or on television, but it needs to be something that left you feeling absolutely flabbergasted and amazed!
- What makes something spectacular?

Say:

Thank you, God, for the spectacular world you have created. Help us to remember just how amazing you are yesterday, today and for ever. Amen.

Sing it

Say:

Today's song reminds us of the great God that we serve. He is the one who answers our prayers.

Song

'Great God' (lyric video) by Tasha Cobbs, video by KEN-B TV (4:24)





Share it

Say:

In the last session we left Elijah and King Ahab on the top of a mountain. They had each set up an altar, and the prophets of Baal were praying all day for their god to send fire. But nothing happened. Elijah even teased them because their god never answered!

Say:

Watch the clip to find out what happened next in the story.

Video

Elijah and the contest on Mount Carmel by LifeKids (2:41)

Ask:

- Did the story turn out how you expected?
- What did Elijah do to show that he worshipped the true, spectacular God?

Read:

'Elijah put the wood on the altar. He cut the bull into pieces and laid them on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four jars with water. Put the water on the meat and on the wood."

'Then Elijah said, "Do it again." And they did it again.

'Then he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it the third time. So the water ran off of the altar and filled the ditch [around the altar].'

(1 Kings 18:33-35 *ICB*)

Say:

Let's read Elijah's prayer.

Read:

'It was time for the evening sacrifice. So the prophet Elijah went near the altar. He prayed, "Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. I ask you now to prove that you are the God of Israel, and that I am your servant. Show these people that you commanded me to do all these things. Lord, answer my prayer. Show these people that you, Lord, are God. Then the people will know that you are bringing them back to you."'

(1 Kings 18:36-37 *ICB*)

Say:

Elijah prayed that God would show his power so that the people would know he was real and turn back to him – not to make Elijah look good.

Ask:

If Elijah had wanted to show off, what do you think his prayer might have sounded like?

Say:

Now let's hear what God did next.

Read:

'Then fire from the Lord came down. It burned the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the ground around the altar. It also dried up the water in the ditch. When all the people saw this, they fell down to the ground. They cried, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!"'

(1 Kings 18:38-39 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Why do you think Elijah poured water over his altar first?
- Why did that make God's answer even more spectacular?
- How would you have felt if you'd seen this incredible event?
- Would it have made you believe in God? Why or why not?

Say:

Many people turned back to God that day because of what they saw, but sadly King Ahab and Queen Jezebel still refused to follow him.

Ask:

- Why might someone turn away from God even after seeing his power?
- What amazing answers to prayer or spectacular things has God done in your life or the lives of others?

Say:

Elijah's story reminds us that God is real and powerful, and his answers always point people back to him. We can trust him, pray boldly, and share stories of what he's done to help others know him too.

Action it

Share the memory verse together.

Memory verse

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5 *NIV*)

Say:

Elijah's prayer showed how much he loved God. He wanted everyone to see how spectacular God is! When we pray, it's important to remember that God is the most important person in our



lives. Our prayers should always point towards our willingness to follow what God wants for us.

Ask:

- When you pray, what are some things you often ask God for?
- Do your prayers usually focus on what you want or on what God wants?

Say:

Here are two prayers for the same situation:

Example one:

Dear God, please help me to do well in my test tomorrow so that everyone will think I'm clever.

Example two:

Dear God, please help me to do well in my test tomorrow so that I can show everything I have learned this term.

Ask:

Which one do you think comes from a place of wanting to live how God wants?

Say:

There are no 'wrong' prayers, but it's important for us to think about our motivation when we pray. A good way to check our prayers is to add the words 'so that ...' and see who they point to – us, or God. Let's have a go!

Give out the *So that prayers* strips. Ask the children to write two prayers for each – one that shows the wrong motivation, and one that shows the right motivation – putting God first.

Example prompts:

- Please let the teacher notice I'm struggling in maths so that ...
- Please let Ayesha play with me at break-time so that ...
- Please help me get the lead part in the play so that ...

Once finished, ask children to share some of their 'God-first' prayers.

Say:

Elijah's prayer was powerful because it put God first. This week, try making your own 'so that' prayers that point to God's greatness. He is a spectacular God, and when we love him with all our heart, soul and strength, our prayers can help others see how amazing he is.

 Pray it**Say:**

We have spent lots of time thinking of our spectacular God today, so let's finish with a spectacular prayer of thanksgiving.

Show the large sheet of paper with 'Thank you, God, for ...' at the top and SPECTACULAR written vertically down the left-hand side. Ask the group to come up with one thing they are thankful for, for each letter of the word 'SPECTACULAR'. You can write more than one thing next to each letter.

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Say:

We've spent time thanking God for all the spectacular things he has done and remembering how he showed his power through Elijah's prayer. God is just as faithful today as he has always been.

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the amazing things you've done. But most of all, thank you for who you are.

You are faithful, and we can trust you with all our heart, soul and strength.

Help us to love you, follow you, and share with others how spectacular you are.

Amen.

 Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



A Spectacular God

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Kings 18:33-46



Aim:

To explore God's spectacular power and why our prayers should point to him



Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



Draw

Using nature as your inspiration, draw something spectacular! Stick it up on your wall at home to remind you of the spectacular God that we worship.



Create

In the prayer time for today's session, we created a prayer of thanks based on the word 'spectacular'. Find a big piece of paper and write 'Thank you, God, for ...' at the top. Write 'SPECTACULAR' vertically down the left-hand side of the sheet. Stick the poster up somewhere at home where everyone can see it.

Ask your family to add ideas of what they are thankful for next to each letter of the word.



Song for the week

'Great God' by (lyric video) by Tasha Cobbs, video by KEN-B TV



Memory verse

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV)



Explore it

So that prayers

Dear God,
Please let the teacher notice that I am struggling in
maths so that ...

Dear God,
Please let Ayesha play with me at break-time
so that ...

Dear God,
Please let me get the lead part in the play
so that ...

Dear God,
Please stop Andrew saying unkind things to me
so that...

Dear God,
Please let the teacher forget to give out our homework
tomorrow so that ...

A Gentle God



Bible verses:

1 Kings 19:4-14

Elijah at Mount Sinai



Aim:

To explore how God meets us with gentleness and patience, and teaches us to rest in his presence



Today's fruit:

Patience



In today's session God meets Elijah in a gentle whisper when he was tired and afraid.

God cared for Elijah, giving him food, rest and encouragement, and showed his patience and love. This story reminds us of the importance of resting in God's presence, listening for his voice, and trusting him with all our heart, soul and strength.

We need patience, as sometimes we need to wait for God's perfect timing.

Each child will need:

- Spend time with a gentle God handout
- Pens/pencils
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- Some fun music
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: *Patience* - download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Play a version of musical statues. Play some fun music and ask the children to dance or run about. When the music stops, ask the children to complete an action depending on the word you shout out.

The words are:

- wind
- earthquake
- fire
- whisper

You can either show them an action that you have already created, or you can agree as a group on an action for each word. Then start the music and play the game.

Say:

In our story today, God uses the wind, an earthquake and fire – and finally a gentle whisper, in which he speaks to Elijah. Make sure that you remember the actions for each one, as you will need them later in today's session.



Sing it

Say:

In today's story Elijah is very fed up, even after the spectacular victory on Mount Carmel. He cannot hear God's voice, and he doesn't understand why everything is going wrong. But God sends an angel to Elijah to give him hope. Today's song is a message of hope for any one who is feeling fed up at the moment.

Song

'Hope' by Allstars Kids Club (3:50)



Share it

Ask:

- Who can give us all a quick recap on Elijah's story so far?
- What happened on top of the mountain and why did it make King Ahab and Queen Jezebel so angry?

Say:

Today we are going to find out the next part of the story. God had turned up for Elijah and showed all the people his power by turning the wet pile of wood on the altar into burning fire.

Ask:

How do you think Elijah felt after that happened?

Say:

You may think that Elijah was full of joy. But instead, he became afraid and thoroughly fed up.

Display the *Patience* sign.



Say:

God didn't rush Elijah or get angry with him. He was patient with Elijah, giving him time to rest, eat, and hear his voice. There are times when we need to wait patiently to see what God will do next. Let's watch the clip to find out what happened.

Video

Elijah in the Wilderness by Saddleback Kids (2:35)

Ask:

- Why do you think Elijah was so fed up?
- What did Queen Jezebel want to do to Elijah?
- How does it make you feel that someone as faithful to God as Elijah still found it difficult sometimes? Does it give you hope?
- How did God look after Elijah while he was feeling hopeless?

Say:

We are going to find out what happened in the final part of the story. Let's see if you have remembered the actions for wind, earthquake, fire and whisper.

Give the children the chance to try out the action after each word.

Say:

As I read the final part of the story, you need to do the correct action whenever you hear the words wind, earthquake, fire or whisper.

The *International Children's Bible* describes the whisper as a 'quiet, gentle voice'. The word 'voice' has been changed to 'whisper' for the purposes of this activity.

Read:

'Elijah answered, "Lord, God of Heaven's armies, I have always served you the best I could. But the people of Israel have broken their agreement with you. They have destroyed your altars. They have killed your prophets with swords. I am the only prophet left. And now they are trying to kill me, too!"

'Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go. Stand in front of me on the mountain. I will pass by you." Then a very strong **wind** blew. It caused the mountains to break apart. It broke apart large rocks in front of the Lord. But the Lord was not in the **wind**. After the **wind**, there was an **earthquake**. But the Lord was not in the **earthquake**. After the **earthquake**, there was a **fire**. But the Lord was not in the **fire**. After the **fire**, there was a quiet, gentle [*whisper*]. When Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his coat. He went out and stood at the entrance to the cave.

'Then a voice said to him, "Elijah! Why are you here?"

'Elijah answered, "Lord, God of Heaven's armies, I have always served you the best I could. But the people of Israel have broken their agreement with you. They have destroyed your

altars. They have killed your prophets with swords. I am the only prophet left. And now they are trying to kill me, too.”

(1 Kings 19:10–14 *ICB*)

Say:

God asks Elijah, ‘Why are you here?’

Ask:

Where do you think God wants Elijah to be?



Say:

Sometimes, just like Elijah, we feel like we want to give up. Following God may seem difficult, or someone might be being unkind to us. If you’ve ever felt like that, then remember Elijah’s story and how God came to him in a gentle whisper because he is a gentle God.

Action it

Share the memory verse together.

Memory verse

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’

(Deuteronomy 6:5 *NIV*)

Say:

Elijah loved God with all his heart, soul and strength, even when he felt scared and tired. This verse reminds us that loving God means trusting him, resting in him and listening for his voice.

Explain that the children will be looking at Elijah’s time in the wilderness to see how God used it to restore and strengthen him. Give each child a *Spend time with a gentle God* sheet and talk through each section using the prompts below. Give the children time to reflect on their own situation.

Tell God how you feel

Elijah said, ‘I’ve had enough, Lord.’ Elijah knew that God loved him even when he was tired and fed up. What difficult feelings would you like to share with God?

Eat well

God provided a delicious meal for Elijah to eat. What is your favourite meal? Draw it in the section of the handout. Try and choose a meal that will help you to grow stronger.

Rest

Elijah had been very busy doing lots of things for God and he was exhausted. What do you do to relax? What helps you to recharge your batteries after you have been serving God? Write or draw your ideas on your sheet.

Listen

Sometimes we feel like God isn't there or we can't hear him. The story of Elijah shows us that God is always with us and is willing to try to communicate with us in lots of different ways. God sent Elijah the wind, an earthquake and a fire. But it was only when Elijah was quiet enough that he was able to hear God whisper. Write down ways that you could be quiet in God's presence this week.

Say:

We have seen how God is both spectacular and gentle in this story.

Ask:

Which do you prefer?

Say:

Maybe this week you could take some time to be quiet, rest in God and listen for his quiet whisper.

**Pray it****Say:**

Today we've seen how God met Elijah in a gentle whisper when he was tired and afraid. God cared for Elijah and gave him time to rest, because he is a patient and loving Father.

Say:

In the creation story we read that on the seventh day God rested. God didn't need to rest, but he chose to show us how important rest is, for our minds, bodies and hearts. Rest helps us to slow down, hear God's voice and feel his peace.

Ask:

- How does resting help us?
- Why is it important to have a special day of rest, a Sabbath?
- How could you make time this week to slow down and listen for God's voice?

Say:

Let's practise resting in God's love now. Find a comfy spot, lie down if you want to, close your eyes, and listen to this song as we spend time with our gentle God.

Listen

'Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus' (feat. Fernando Ortega) by Audrey Assad (2:35)

Lower the music gently when attention fades. Close with this prayer.

Pray:

God, thank you for being a gentle and patient Father.

Just like you cared for Elijah, you care for us and meet us when we're tired.

Teach us to rest in you, to be patient, and to trust your timing.

Help us make space this week to slow down, listen for your voice, and be filled with your peace.

Amen.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

A Gentle God

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
1 Kings 19:4-14



Aim:
To explore how God meets us with gentleness and patience, and teaches us to rest in his presence



Today's fruit:
Patience



Watch

In the first two sessions we started to watch a clip all about the life of Elijah but we never got to the end. Watch the whole of the clip to discover Elijah's story.

You could write your own version of the story or even turn it into a comic strip.

God's Story: Elijah by Crossroads Kids' Club



Play

Elijah listened to God's quiet whisper. He was quiet and calm and able to hear God's voice. Watch the clip to work out how to play the *Whisper Challenge* and then have a go with the people at home. You could make up your own phrases linked to a film that your family loves.

Star Wars whisper challenge with Daisy Ridley by *The Tonight Show* starring Jimmy Fallon



Song for the week

'Hope' by Allstars Kids Club



Memory verse

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

(Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV)

Explore it

Tell God how you feel

Eat well

**Spend time with a
gentle God**

Rest

Listen

November 2025 session 4



Children
& Youth