

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



---

### WHAT IS AN IDOL?

---

1 Kings 16:29-33; 1 Kings 17:1

Find out about a bad king called Ahab who served a false god called Baal, even building a temple and altar for him. This week we explore the idols we have in our lives and whether they make us happy.

We also think about what it feels like when you tell others that you believe in God. What is the difference between having an idol and having God in your life?

Each child will need:

→ A sheet of paper, scissors, Blu Tack, pens/pencils

You will need:

→ A set of labels – see Labels sheet

→ Lay out a large 1-10 scale on the floor or on the wall, ideally made of paper, card or cardboard. Place the label 'Not important' next to the 1, and 'Extremely important' next to the 10.

→ Corgi Game sheet (you may wish to enlarge to A3), Blu Tack and a scarf/blindfold – see Start It section

→ Images from the Jubilee – see Start It section

## Start It

Play a game of *Stick the Crown on the Corgi*. Cut out the corgi in the rectangle and the crown shape. Stick the corgi on to a wall and put Blu Tack on the back of the crown. Ask the children to take turns spinning three times with a blindfold on or with their eyes closed, and see if they can stick the crown close to the corgi's head.

#### Ask:

→ Did you watch or attend any of the Jubilee celebrations back in June?

→ What was your favourite part?

● **Say:** There were lots of people who came to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70-year reign. Some of them came because it was a fun day out and others came because they were superfans of the Queen.

Show and discuss the following pictures with the children and ask them to place the corresponding label on the scale.

**Ask:** On a scale of 1-10, how important is the Queen to the people in each picture?

**The crowd on The Mall** – These people may have come for a good day out and to be part of the celebrations. They may like the Queen (or not) and coming to The Mall was about joining in the fun.

**Camping on The Mall** - These people set up their tents and camped on The Mall for two days before the celebrations to make sure they had the best spot ready for the parade.

**Margaret Tyler** - Although this isn't a picture of Margaret at the Jubilee, she is one of the Queen's biggest fans. She has a whole room in her house dedicated to the Queen with thousands of plates, books and trinkets collected over the years.

- **Say:** We all have different likes and interests but, as we've just seen, likes and interests can have a different level of importance to different people.

Remove the name labels from the scale.

## Sing It

- **Say:** We have used today's song recently, but it has been chosen again on purpose. Hopefully you will be able to sing along with the words that remind us that the most important monarch in our lives is God, our King. Have a go at the actions in this version.

'King of me' by Rend Collective – YoYo's Actions (2 mins 21 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbRQBlaY5yw>

## Tell It

- **Say:** There are two books in the Old Testament of the Bible that tell the story of the long line of kings succeeding the throne after King David. Not one of them 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 1 Kings 16:29-33 (ICB)

**'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.'**

**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 1-10 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 1-10 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:** 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 1 Kings 17:1 (ICB).

**‘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.”’**

**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 1-10 scale?

Ask one of the children to move the ‘God’ label on the scale.

- ➔ Where would Elijah place Baal on the 1-10 scale?

Ask one of the children to move the ‘Baal’ label on the scale. Hopefully the children will place God at number 10!

🗨️ **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.

## Video

Watch the video from the beginning to 1 min 19 secs – ‘He was furious!’

Don’t watch the whole clip just yet!

*God’s Story: Elijah* by Crossroads Kids’ Club (stop at 1 min 19 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T5gAXoerjw>

**Ask:** King Ahab was furious. What do you think will happen next in the story of Elijah, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel?

🗨️ **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.

## Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Everybody has a special person or something that is very important to us. It might be a family member, friend, celebrity, hobby or athlete. Just like Margaret Tyler, we might have a collection or special place in our house to show our interest.

## Drawing activity

🗨️ **Say:** Today we are going to think of four people or things that are really important to us.

Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to fold it into four, making four sections. Ask the children to draw a picture of four things/people that are really important to them. These could be hobbies, celebrities, family members or people they admire. Once they have completed their pictures, ask them to cut them out.

Ask each member of the group to share the things that are important to them and place them on the scale. Encourage discussion about why they have chosen that particular place. The label for ‘God’ should have remained at number 10 so encourage discussion about where the other items are placed in comparison to God.

You may also like to bring into the discussion the two meanings of the word idol:

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.

The children’s pictures can be stuck down after the session and kept on display.

- **Say:** Today we have discovered that it is OK to have things and people that are very important to us. We just need to be careful that we do not make the same mistake as King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, and place other things above God in our lives.

## Pray It

- **Say:** For our prayer time we are going to have a time of peace and quiet where we shut out all the other important things in our lives and concentrate on God.

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 lay quietly for this amount of time!

### Relaxation video

'Be the centre' by Shout Praises Kids (lyric video) (4 min 39 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDPBv9DFU7g>

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 Ideas

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

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

### FOR ME



#### Discover

In today's session we met King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and Elijah. There is a fascinating story found in the same chapter of 1 Kings that we didn't get chance to look at in the session.

It tells the story of the prophet Elijah and a poor widow. They both trusted in God to provide everything they needed. Watch the clip to discover more and tell your group about the story in the next session.

*Elijah and the Widow* by James River Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzulJuvfyW0>

### TOGETHER



#### Share

Watch the clip of Royal superfan Margaret Tyler who we mentioned in today's session.

*Margaret Tyler: royal superfan and collector* by BBC London

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BkKPBSqmV0>

Discuss these questions with the people at home.

- ➔ Is there anything that you are or were a superfan of?
- ➔ How did people know that you are or were a superfan?
- ➔ If God is the most important person in our lives, then how should others be able to see that in the way we live?



#### Song for the week

'King of me' by Rend Collective – YoYo's Actions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbRQBlaY5yw>

#### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.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!





**Not important**

**Extremely important**

**The crowd on The Mall**

**The campers on The Mall**

**Margaret Tyler**

**Baal**

**God**



# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



---

### IS GOD EVEN THERE?

---

1 Kings 18:22-24, 25-27

Elijah goes head-to-head with Ahab and Jezebel. In a dramatic contest, Elijah's opponents pray frantically to their god Baal without an answer, and Elijah taunts them by saying that Baal seemed to be 'sleeping so you will have to wake him'. Sometimes we may be tempted to feel our God is sleeping like this. So this week we explore what we do when God feels absent.

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

→ A children's newspaper like *First News* (optional) – see Action It section

## 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.

Last week's *For Me* activity invited the children to learn more about the story of Elijah and the widow. If required, give the children an opportunity to share what they discovered.

## 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.

'Waiting here for you' by Kid's Praise Company (Lyric Video) (5 mins 45 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hTq6BvZAh0>

If you would like a shorter version of the song, then a natural stopping point is 2 mins 45 secs.

## Tell It

● **Say:** In the last session we met 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:** Last session you made predictions about what would happen next in the story. Let's find out if you were right.

## Video

Watch the clip from the beginning, recapping last session and stop it at 2 mins 29 secs – 'They both prayed for fire, and then waited to see whose god brought it first.'

*God's Story: Elijah* by Crossroads Kids' Club (stop at 2 mins 29 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T5gAXoerjw>

## 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?

The story of the challenge is found in 1 Kings 18:20-27 (*ICB*).

**'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.**

**'At noon Elijah began to make fun of them. He said, "Pray louder! If Baal really is a god, maybe he is thinking. Or maybe he is busy or traveling! Maybe he is sleeping so you will have to wake him!"'**

● **Say:** The prophets of Baal kept praying all day for their god to send rain, but nothing happened. They 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

● **Say:** Earlier in the year we spent time reading through newspapers and watching *Newsround* to find important topics to pray about. Rather than being a one-off activity, we need to keep praying for those things in the world that concern us.

## In the news

Watch the latest episode of *Newsround* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>, look at the website or read a children's newspaper together (like *First News*) to see if there are any of our prayers that are still waiting to be answered.

If the group did not complete this activity earlier in the year, then discuss situations that people at church or around the world have been praying for that still remain unanswered.

🗨️ **Say:** We have prayed for the children stuck in the middle of conflict in the Ukraine. We have prayed for communities that are suffering the negative impact of climate change. Sometimes it can feel like God is not answering our prayers.

**Ask:** What prayers are still waiting for answers?

## Prayer concerns activity

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.

- ➔ 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 of the church.
- ➔ Create a prayer leaflet to share with 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:** We have worked out a way to share our prayer concerns with the rest of the church, but now we are going to spend time praying for them ourselves.

Give the group thinking time, and ask them to write a one-sentence prayer for one of the prayer topics raised today.

Spend time in prayer together listening to the one-sentence prayers, and then bring your time together to a close.

## Explore It

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

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

### FOR ME



#### 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.

It's completely up to you – the important thing is that you remember to pray.

### TOGETHER



#### Pray

In today's session the people were on year three 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 miss school in order to collect water for their family to drink.

*The girls who turned to water* by Water Aid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-DMMJpgiFk>

Is there anything else you could do to help as a family?



#### Song for the week

'Waiting here for you' by Kid's Praise Company  
(Lyric Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hTq6BvZAh0>

#### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.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!



# Explore It FOR LEADERS



---

## A SPECTACULAR GOD

---

### 1 Kings 18:36-46

Elijah wanted people to know that the God of Israel was the true God. This week we explore whether our reasons for wanting to see God do something are always good ones, and consider if we may be trying to show off to others.

Each child will need:

- A sticker with part of a word written on it – see Start It section
- Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- 'So That' prayers sheet cut into strips
- A large sheet of paper with 'Thank you, God for, ...' at the top and 'SPECTACULAR' written down the left-hand side – see Pray It section

## 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 help with reading.)

Ama- -zing

Breath- -taking

Shock- -ing

Stun- -ning

Aston- -ishing

Remar- -kable

Wonder- -ful

Awe- -some

Eye- -catching

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. (They describe 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!

**Ask:** What makes something spectacular?

## Video

 **Say:** Our God created this world, and it is full of spectacular things.

*Seven worlds, one planet: extended trailer* by BBC Earth (4 mins 11 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIFRPkT-hVc>

**Ask:** Out of all the things you saw in the clip, which one was the most spectacular to you? Explain why.

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

## Sing It

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

'Great God' by Tasha Cobbs - lyrics video (4 mins 24 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy074hOgFik>

## Tell 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 to their god to send rain. Elijah found it very amusing that Baal didn't make any response at all.

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

### Video

*Elijah and the contest on Mount Carmel* by LifeKids (2 mins 41 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amrfPel9aPE>

#### Ask:

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

Read 1 Kings 18:36-37 (ICB)

**'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 prove 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."'**

☞ **Say:** Elijah prayed that God would show himself to the people. He wanted everyone to know what an amazing God he served.

**Ask:** If Elijah had wanted to show off and just win the challenge, what do you think his prayer might have sounded like?

☞ **Say:** When we are asking God to answer our prayers, why is it important to ask for the right reasons?

Read 1 Kings 18:38-46 (ICB).

**'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!"'**

#### Ask:

- Why do you think Elijah covered his altar with water before asking God to send fire?
- Why did that make what happened even more spectacular?
- How would you have felt if you had seen this spectacular sight?
- Would it have made you believe in God? If so, why?

☞ **Say:** All the people turned to God that day and remembered that he was the true God. But King Ahab and Queen Jezebel and their followers chose to keep serving Baal.

#### Ask:

- Why would someone turn away from God even when they have seen him do a spectacular thing?
- What amazing prayers has God answered in your life?

## Action It

● **Say:** Here are two examples of prayers for the same thing.

### Example one

Dear God,

**Please help me to do well in my test tomorrow so that everyone will know how clever I am and think I'm brilliant. Amen.**

### Example two

Dear God,

**Please help me to do well in my test tomorrow so that I can show how much I have learned this term. Amen.**

**Ask:** Which prayer do you think has the right motivation behind it?

● **Say:** A really good way to check our motivation for the prayers we pray is to add the words 'so that' and think about the reason we are asking God to answer our prayer.

Share out the 'So That' prayers strips among the children and ask them to write two 'so that' prayers: one to show the right motivation for our prayers and one the 'wrong' motivation. The children may be able to think of more scenarios.

*Dear God,*

- *Please let the teacher notice that I am struggling in maths so that ...*
- *Please let Ayesha play with me at break-time so that ...*
- *Please let me get the lead part in the play so that ...*
- *Please stop Andrew saying unkind things to me so that ...*
- *Please let the teacher forget to give out our homework tomorrow so that ...*

Once the children have made up the different kinds of prayers, ask them to share with the group. Hopefully they will have fun making up the 'wrong' motivations for prayer.

● **Say:** If we're honest with ourselves, we may sometimes pray for things for the wrong reasons. The 'so that' prayer reminds us to think about why we are praying for the things we are praying for.

● **Say:** It's OK if you sometimes have the 'wrong' motivation for your prayers. God wants to hear those prayers as well. He loves us no matter what prayers we pray. The 'so that' prayer can sometimes help us to identify how we feel about a situation deep down and bring that to God as well.

## 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.

### Thank you God activity

Show the large sheet of paper with 'Thank you, God, for ...' at the top and SPECTACULAR written 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'.

## Explore It

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

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

### FOR ME

### TOGETHER



#### 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' 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 Tasha Cobbs – lyrics video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy074hOgFik>

#### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.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!



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 ...

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

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



---

### A GENTLE GOD

---

#### 1 Kings 19:4-14

Ahab and Jezebel had become very angry with Elijah and they both wanted him killed. We have seen how God is both spectacular and gentle in this story. It is important to know that when we switch off and slow down, we may find that God helps us in new ways. This week we explore what matters most to us and what types of activities help us to become calm.

Each child will need:

- 'Spend Time with a Gentle God' sheet, pens/pencils

You will need:

- Fun music to dance or run about to – see Start It section

## Start It

Play a version of musical statues. First of all, choose some fun music. Ask the children to dance or run about, and then when the music stops, they will need to complete an action depending on the word you shout out.

The words are:

- wind
- fire
- earthquake
- 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 on in today's session.

## Sing It

- **Say:** In today's story Elijah is very fed up. 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 of you who are feeling fed up at the moment.

'Hope' by Allstars Kids Club (3 mins 50 secs)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_t5xitQjlc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_t5xitQjlc)

## Tell 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 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.

Watch the clip to find out what happened.

## Video

*Elijah in the Wilderness* by Saddleback Kids (2 mins 35 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOn2Ftucjrk&t=41s>

**Ask:**

- ➔ Why do you think that 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 action 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 1 Kings 19:10-14 (*ICB*)

**'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."'**

🗨️ **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

### Spend time with a gentle God

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.' He 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:** A few weeks ago we spent time resting and relaxing in God's presence. We're going to have another go at that today. This may be something that you would like to try at home to give your mind a break from everything else that is going on.

● **Say:** We're going to listen to a song that reminds us just how much we are loved by God.

### Relaxation video

Ask the group to find a place to lie down quietly on the floor and close their eyes. Just like last time, there is no expectation that the children will lay quietly for the whole song!

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vUhwyjdk8A>

When you feel the group is losing concentration, lower the music and close your time together by asking God to whisper into the hearts of each young person.

## Explore It

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

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

### FOR ME

### TOGETHER



#### 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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T5gAXoerjw>



#### 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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FgV0yBZG6E>



#### Song for the week

'Hope' by Allstars Kids Club

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_t5xitQjlc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_t5xitQjlc)

#### **KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE**

<https://www.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!



TELL GOD HOW YOU FEEL

EAT WELL

SPEND TIME WITH  
A GENTLE GOD

REST

LISTEN



Explore It

August 2022 session 4