

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



A GENTLE WHISPER

1 Kings 19 The Lord appears to Elijah

The Bible has some great stories of God speaking through big and bold miracles. God sometimes talks loudly but he also talks softly. Take encouragement from Elijah that even though it can be difficult when we feel God is far from us or doesn't answer as we would like, he comes near to us in ways we cannot imagine.

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Play a guessing game. Ask one child to mute themselves and then say a sentence clearly out loud. Everyone else has to try to guess what they said by lip-reading. Swap players so everyone gets a turn.

Ask: Are there times when you like to experience quiet? What is special about those times?

Ask: Can you think of any times in the Bible where people experienced stillness and quietness?

🗨 **Say:** In our story today, we meet someone who is very afraid. As one of God's prophets, someone who shares God's message, Elijah feels he has followed what God has asked him to do but now people are angry with him and want him killed. In fear, he runs away.

Sing It

This upbeat song reminds us God will never fade away, his love is here to stay, by our side, in our lives. He shines through us every day.

'Wake' by Hillsong Young and Free (4 mins 28 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qFGrIDHdJI>

Tell It

🗨 **Say:** Who was Elijah?

Video

Screen share: Kid Bible Story: Elijah by Crossroads Kids' Club (2 mins 13 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYswyYX0xZw>

Discuss

- What stood out to you in the story?
- Why do people pray?
- What have you heard from God?

🗨️ **Say:** After the events we have just seen in Elijah's story, Elijah captured the false prophets and had them killed. Those who didn't follow God weren't happy with this and threatened to kill Elijah. Running away in fear, Elijah cried out to God.

Create some actions with children to represent

- ➔ strong wind (they could all blow into their microphones loudly)
- ➔ earthquake (slap their hands against their legs)
- ➔ quiet, gentle voice (whisper: 'Why are you here?')

Read: 1 Kings 19:11-15 (*ICB*). Encourage the children to do the actions as you read.

'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 voice. 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." The Lord said to him, "Go back on the road that leads to the desert around Damascus."

Discuss

- ➔ What would you do if you were Elijah in this situation?
- ➔ What do you think this looked like?
- ➔ What if this happened today?
- ➔ What can we learn from this?
- ➔ What do you want to remember from this story?

🗨️ **Say:** The Bible has some great stories of God speaking through big and bold miracles. God talks loudly, but he also talks softly. Take encouragement from Elijah that even though it can be difficult when we feel God is far from us or doesn't answer as we would like, he comes near to us in ways we cannot imagine.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus never said it would be easy following him.

Screen share: 'The gate that opens the way to true life is very small. And the road to true life is very hard. Only a few people find that road.' (Matthew 7:14 *ICB*)

Ask: Why do you think it is sometimes hard following God?

Prayer poems

🗨️ **Say:** 'I believe' is a poem whose author is unknown but it is thought to have been written during WW2. Here are the opening lines:

**I believe in the sun even when it is not shining,
And I believe in love, even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God, even when he is silent.**

Ask the children to create their own prayer poems using 'I believe ...' for the start of each sentence. Invite children to share their prayer poems together.

Pray It

Help children develop 'breath prayers'.

First, choose a word or brief phrase to repeat in one breath. If it's a phrase, say one part on the inhale and one part on the exhale. For example, invite your children to think in their minds or whisper to themselves the words of Psalm 56:3. Next, on the inhale, think or say 'When I am afraid.' Then, on the exhale, think or say 'I will trust you.'

From: <https://www.illustratedministry.com/2017/ways-to-pray-with-kids/>

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.