



Date: _____

Series: God Talks to Me
Fall Year 1, Lesson 25

Elijah Hears God's Voice

Bible Event: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Take Home Point: *GOD TALKS TO ME – *Listen to God's word.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: God's word tells us about the Good News of Jesus.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God wants to be part of our lives. He communicates to us through his word and by letting Jesus be in our hearts. We communicate back to him through prayer and worship. All of this is because God loves us so much. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD TALKS TO ME – *Listen to God's word.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and creating them. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *Elijah, Testament: The Bible in Animation*, 1998 Diamond Entertainment Corp.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: Today I have a true story for you about a man named Elijah. Elijah was God's special friend. Elijah was faithful to God, but a group of people called the Israelites was not being faithful. They were burning down God's altars and killing people like Elijah who worshipped the true God. Elijah was afraid! So he ran away to a cave to hide.

In that cave, the Word of the Lord came to Elijah and said, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" Elijah explained that the Israelites were doing bad things and that he was afraid they were going to kill him. The Lord told Elijah to get out of the cave and go to the top of the mountain, because the Spirit of the Lord was about to pass by.

Elijah did as he was told and went to the top of the mountain. And do you know what happened? A great big, huge wind came. Blow a hairdryer or fan on high at the children.

The wind was so strong that it broke apart the mountains and shattered rocks, like this.

Have six paper cups set up as a pyramid on a table and use the hairdryer or fan to blow them down.

Elijah was sure that such a strong wind had to be the Lord. But it wasn't!

Then...get very still...very quiet. Can you feel it? The ground is beginning to shake.

Pretend to be in an earthquake, ready to lose your balance.

It's rumbling now, and it was so strong, it knocked Elijah over.

Stack the cups again and invite a few of the children to come up and beat their hands on the table to simulate the ground shaking and knock the cups down.

And do you think that super-strong earthquake was the Lord? No!

After the earthquake came a big burning fire! Use flash paper. See Helpful Hints for application helps. **And was the Lord in that fire? No!**

After the wind, the earthquake and the fire, everything became calm. Elijah heard a gentle whisper and went out to the opening of the cave. That whisper was the Spirit of the Lord. Again, a voice asked him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah explained again that he was hiding because he was afraid. The Lord then told him to go back the way he had come and everything would be taken care of. Elijah would anoint kings and prophets who believed in God and get rid of the bad people who were burning down his altars. Remember: *GOD TALKS TO ME – *Listen to God's word.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During

the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Bugles

Drama Zone: Build a cave using a table and some blankets. Have the children hide under it and then come out. Then have them act out being wind, fire, earthquakes and being still and calm like the presence of God. Option: They could do this as charades and try to guess where God is.

Puppet Zone: Let kids use puppets to show the story of Elijah from today's Bible event.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Elijah Hearing God's Voice. (Suggestion: #76, "Elijah Becomes Discouraged," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Video Zone: *Elijah, Testament: The Bible in Animation*, 1998 Diamond Entertainment Corp.

Craft Zone: Make 'telephones' out of paper cups and string or yarn. Give each child two cups to decorate with crayons, markers and stickers. Attach a pre-made label to one of the cups saying "Listen to God's Word." Attach one end of a 10 to 12-inch piece of yarn or string to the bottom of each cup with tape or staples.

Play Zone: Play the "telephone" game. Have children sit or stand in a line. Say the take home point to a child at one end and have them whisper it to the next child. See if they can correctly pass the message all the way down the line. Try again with a different phrase.

Quiet Reading Zone: Make a cave with a table and blankets. This will become a place for the children to read. Include any books you have that have a story about Elijah.

Music Zone: Song, *Obedient*, by Angela Naeve, from the CD titled, *Each Day* or any other music of your choice.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out yelling that he is trying to hear God! He needs everyone to be quiet! He is trying to listen for God's word! He hears some kids playing and talking in the back. Was that God? The large group presenter tells him that God doesn't sound like that. Bubba listens again. (Have a helper blink the lights in the room.) Bubba is sure that that was God.

The large group presenter explains that God doesn't come to us like that, either. God talks to us in a small voice. That's why Bubba needs everyone to be really quiet. He listens again. Bubba feels something blowing his fur. That must be God! The large group presenter tells him that it was just the heater (*or air conditioning*) vent blowing on him. Bubba wants to know how he is supposed to hear God. The large group presenter tells Bubba that we don't really hear God with our ears, but we hear God with our hearts. Bubba doesn't think his heart has ears. The large group presenter tells him that, no, his heart doesn't have ears, but it still hears God in a very special way.

The more we go to Kids Church and hear what the Bible says, God will be able to use our hearts and our thoughts to remind us what is in the Bible and to help us make good decisions. We use our hearts and our thoughts to pray to God. That's how we talk to him. And he talks back to us by telling our hearts and our thoughts the right things to do. That is how God talks to you and me! To hear from God, we need to listen to God's word whenever we can.

Remember: ***GOD TALKS TO ME – Listen to God's word.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- video, *Elijah, Testament: The Bible in Animation*, 1998 Diamond Entertainment Corp.—order from: http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=875 or from http://www.visionvideo.com/840-2476046-6068062_574.vhtml
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- six paper cups
- hairdryer or fan
- flash paper

Action Zones:

Snack Zone:

- Bugles

Drama:

- table
- blankets

Puppet Zone:

- use puppets to show the story of Elijah from today's Bible event

Felt Zone:

- felt board materials to show the story of Elijah Hearing God's Voice (Suggestion: #76, "Elijah Becomes Discouraged," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*—order from www.bettylukens.com)

Video Zone:

- *Elijah, Testament: The Bible in Animation*, 1998 Diamond Entertainment Corp.

Quiet Reading Zone:

- table
- blankets

Craft Zone:

- two paper or Styrofoam cups per child
- markers, crayons, and stickers
- yarn or string (10-12 inches per child)
- tape or stapler
- one pre-made sticker* (Avery 5160) per child that says, "Listen to God's Word"
- scissors

Music Zone:

- *Obedient*, by Angela Naeve, from the CD titled, *Each Day* or other music of your choice

Coloring Zone:

- crayons and markers
- "Elijah Hears God's Voice" coloring page[†]

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books