

LESSON 4

GOD WHISPERS TO ELIJAH

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Speak to Us in Unexpected Ways

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19

GOD'S BIG STORY: Afraid for his life, Elijah runs into the wilderness where God cares for his needs. Then God tells Elijah to stand on the mountain, where He comes in the most unexpected way—a gentle whisper.

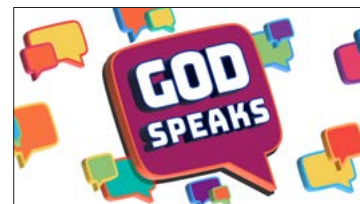
WORD OF WONDER: Come near to God, and he will come near to you. —James 4:8a

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- **Pre-service Activity *** Choose from Games & Activities Guide!!**
- Welcome Question: What is a creative way someone has gotten your attention?
- SMALL GROUP
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: You Are, Something Good
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Firm Foundation
- Blessing Your Kids



God Rescues Elem Spotify playlist

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Speak to Us in Unexpected Ways

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19

WORD OF WONDER: James 4:8a

Have you ever been in a situation where the odds seemed stacked against you? When you felt like you'd given it all you had, and you wanted to throw in the towel? Despite those feelings, God's plans are greater than our discomforts, worries, disbeliefs, and fears.

I invite you to read 1 Kings 19, and as you read, note the places where you empathize with Elijah.

For me, it was Elijah's feeling of wanting to throw in the towel. We've all felt the weight of the day-to-day grind. How much sweeter, then, are the moments when we hear God say to us like He did to Elijah, "Get up" and "Go out" (1 Kings 19:7, 11)?

God doesn't count us out.

The fact that you're reading this right now shows that no matter what else you're facing in life, God's voice is still guiding you. He gets what you're going through, and He has not abandoned you.

The next time you kneel, sit, or lay down ... imagine the voice of God saying to you, "Get up." He's got you in this moment. And He's got you in the next. So be ready for God to speak in ways you'd never expect.

—**Andrae Jones**

Nextgen Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Elijah was a prophet during the reign of Israel's King Ahab. As a great prophet, Elijah's life was full of dramatic moments—being fed by ravens, multiplying a widow's grain and oil, raising her son from the dead, and calling fire down from heaven.

WHAT?

After significant miracles and revelations from God, Elijah found himself tired and afraid. Fleeing for his life, he asked the God who had sustained him to take his life. In this moment of Elijah's weakness, God promised His presence, which came in an unexpected way.

WHERE?

Elijah mostly prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel, condemning the idolatry of Baal under wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. In his exhaustion, Elijah ran into the wilderness of the southern kingdom, where God spoke to him on Mount Sinai.

WHEN?

When King Ahab married Jezebel, he worshiped her god, Baal. Elijah prophesied during the reign of King Ahab, eventually defeating the prophets of Baal and proving God is the one true God. Queen Jezebel was so angry she sent word that she planned to kill Elijah.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Even when the northern kingdom of Israel was ruled by ungodly kings and God's people turned away from Him, God showed His love and faithfulness to the Israelites by sending prophets to share His message. After Elijah, God sent Elisha, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah to call His people back to Him.

Large Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Speak to Us in Unexpected Ways

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19

WORD OF WONDER: James 4:8a

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be extra intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

Preservice Activity – Games & Activities Guide

RESOURCES: Games & Activities Guide

This week, select an activity from the Games & Activities Guide

Great job! Today in God's big story, we'll learn about a man named Elijah who stood on a mountain and heard several very loud sounds and one very quiet one. Display the Elijah Wonder Truth Slide. And like our Wonder Truth says, Elijah experienced that **GOD CAN SPEAK TO US IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.**



Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

Wow! Those were some creative ways of getting your attention!

Today in God's big story, we'll hear about how God got the attention of a man named Elijah in a creative and unexpected way. But first, it's time to be curious!



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

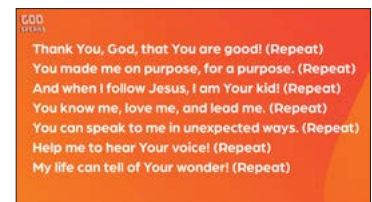
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You can speak to me in unexpected ways. (Kids repeat.)

Help me to hear Your voice! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You for all the ways You spoke to Your people long ago. And thank You for speaking to us today! Help us to recognize Your voice when You speak in unexpected ways. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll hear about the unexpected way God spoke to Elijah. The God of the universe speaks to us too! Let's worship God now as we get ready to hear from Him!

WORSHIP SONGS: You are, Something Good

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

Alright everyone, you just read about King Rehoboam and the big decision he had to make. Have you ever had to choose between listening to good advice and doing what you wanted instead?

That's exactly the kind of choice Rehoboam faced. He could

choose wisdom and kindness—or pride and selfishness. Let's watch our Bible story video to see what he decided and what happened next. As you watch, pay attention to what kind of advice Rehoboam followed—and what it teaches us about listening to wise voices in our lives.

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY



LESSON 4 GOD WHISPERS TO ELIJAH

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: large box(s); everyday items used to make sounds effects such as sandpaper, wooden blocks, metal pot, wooden spoon, canvas-like fabric or windbreaker jacket, empty plastic water bottle, dish towel, crinkle/cellophane wrap, sheets of aluminum foil, pair of plastic cups

Set up: During this Bible storytelling, kids will be sound effect designers who use everyday objects to create sound effects at different points in the story. You can set up the activity in either of these ways:

1. Place about 8–10 various everyday items into one large box on the stage. (See SUPPLIES list for ideas.) At the designated points in the story, invite 2–3 kids up to create a sound effect using objects from the box.
2. Prepare multiple boxes, each with 8–10 everyday objects in it. The boxes can all have the same objects or different objects in them. Help kids form smaller groups of 2–6 kids. Give a box to each small group and at the designated times in the story, invite all the groups to use items in their boxes to create a sound effect.

The script is written with option 1 in mind. However, you can easily modify it for option 2 by inviting small groups to work together to create the sound effects using the objects in their boxes at the designated points in the story.

Today’s part of God’s big story includes some very unusual sounds, and I need you to be our sound effect designers. Sound effect designers use everyday objects to make the sounds we hear when we watch movies or listen to audiobooks. In this box are some ordinary objects that you will use to bring the sound effects in this story to life! Point to the box full of objects. **I will pause at different points during the story for you to help create sounds. Are you ready to be sound effect designers?** Pause for kids to respond. **Let’s get started!**

During the time when Israel was divided into two kingdoms, many of God’s people had turned from Him to worship false gods called idols. But God did not forget His people. God sent messengers called prophets.

Elijah was a well-known and powerful prophet. He saw God work in amazing ways. One time, God fed Elijah, a woman, and her child for days with nothing but a small jar of oil and a handful of flour. Then Elijah saw God raise that same child from the dead after he became ill. When Elijah asked God to end a famine, God answered and brought rain back to the land. Invite 2–3 kids to come up and work together to use any of the objects in the box to create the sound of rain. Encourage them to be creative, and if they aren’t sure how to make the sound, invite the other kids to share ideas. They can make the sound of rain for about 5–10 seconds before returning to their seats.

Elijah even saw God show His power when God came down in a pillar of fire against 400 false prophets! Invite 2–3 kids up to create the sound of a pillar of fire. If they aren’t sure which objects to use, encourage other kids to share ideas. After making the sound effect for about 5–10 seconds, have them return to their seats.

If anyone knew how to listen to God, it was Elijah. But even a man like Elijah can feel scared. After Elijah defeated 400 false prophets with God’s help, a woman named Jezebel threatened to kill him. Elijah became so worried that he ran away into the wilderness. Before lying down to sleep, Elijah cried out to God, “Lord, I can’t do this anymore!” Invite all the kids to repeat Elijah’s words as they imagine him sounding: “Lord, I can’t do this anymore!”

Elijah kept crying out to God: “Take me away because I’m no better than my ancestors who disobeyed you!” But God wanted to care for Elijah.

An angel of God touched Elijah, woke him up, and told him to eat. Elijah saw some freshly baked bread and water right next to him, so he ate and drank and fell back asleep. A little while later, the angel of God came back again. “Get up and eat,” the angel told Elijah. “Your journey will be long and hard” (1 Kings 19:7). How do you imagine the angel’s voice may have sounded? Let’s repeat those words in our best angel voices: “Get up and eat. Your journey will be long and hard.” Again, Elijah ate and drank, and the food gave him new strength. He traveled for 40 days to reach Horeb, the mountain of God.

When Elijah arrived, he spent the night in a cave. God called out to Elijah, “Elijah, what are you doing here?” (1 Kings 19:9).

Elijah replied, “Lord, I’m committed to You, but everyone else has turned their backs on You. They broke the altars dedicated to You and killed your prophets. And now I’m all alone, and they are coming after me too!”

Then God said, “Go out. Stand on the mountain in front of me. I am going to pass by” (1 Kings 19:11). As God approached, there was a lot of noise. First, a strong wind tore through the mountains. Invite 2–3 kids up to create the sound effect of a strong wind. If they aren’t sure which objects to use or how to make the sound, encourage other kids to share ideas. After about 5–10 seconds of the sound effect, have kids return to their seats. **But God wasn’t in the wind.**

Then there was an earthquake. Invite 2–3 kids up to make an earthquake sound effect using objects from the box. After about 5–10 seconds of the sound effect, the kids can return to their seats. **But God wasn’t in the earthquake.**

Finally, a large fire came. Invite 2–3 kids up to make the sound of a large fire. Encourage them to use different objects than were used for the pillar of fire sound earlier in the story. After 5–10 seconds of the sound effect, have the kids return to their seats. **But God wasn’t in the fire.**

After all these things, there was a soft whisper. Invite 2–3 kids up to create the sound of a whisper using objects from the box (not using their voices). When they’re finished, have them return to their seats. **Elijah knew that God was there, so he stood up, covered his face, and left the cave to meet with God.**

Again, God asked, “Elijah, what are you doing here?” (1 Kings 19:13). Invite kids to repeat God’s words the way they imagine He would have sounded (remember the whisper!): “Elijah, what are you doing here?”

Elijah replied, “Lord, I’m committed to You, but everyone else has turned their backs on You. They broke the altars dedicated to You and killed Your prophets. And now I’m all alone, and they are coming after me too.”

Then God told Elijah, “Go back the way you came, for I have people waiting to meet you. I have seven thousand people in Israel who are still following Me. You are not alone.”

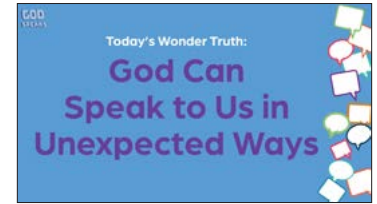
Elijah had experienced God in mighty ways, but this time, God did something unexpected. He let Elijah rest, He fed him, and He invited Elijah to meet with Him. God talked to Elijah through a soft whisper there. God sometimes shows up in big or obvious ways, but He also speaks to us quietly or in ways that surprise us. God can speak to us in unexpected ways.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD CAN SPEAK TO US IN UNEXPECTED WAYS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Even when Israel was ruled by ungodly kings and God's people turned away from Him, God showed His love and faithfulness to the Israelites by sending prophets to share His message. After Elijah, God sent Elisha, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah to call His people back to Him.



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What did you notice about Elijah during the story? What did you notice about God? Allow kids to answer freely. If needed, prompt them by sharing something you noticed about Elijah and about God.

Were you surprised by how God spoke to Elijah at the end of the story? What was unexpected about the way God spoke to him? Give kids the chance to think about what's unexpected about a whisper in the context of this story.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page



WORSHIP VIDEO: Firm Foundations

Blessing Your Kids

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: God never left Elijah, and God will never leave you. May your ears be open for God to speak a special word to your heart in an unexpected way. God loves you!

Small Group: Responding in Worship Activity

Instruct Small Group Leaders to open to the last page of their guide to finish their time with the Responding in Worship Activity.