

LESSON 4

GOD WHISPERS TO ELIJAH

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Speak to Us

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

Activity: Shout and Whisper

Activity: What Sound Does It Make?

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Wind, Fire, Earthquake, Whisper

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Shout and Whisper

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Hello, and welcome to church! Today we're going to learn that God can speak to us. We'll hear about a time when someone in the Bible heard some loud things and then something quiet. Can you get quiet and then loud? Let's do it. Invite the kids to whisper a phrase such as "God can speak to us," or they can simply say their names. Then invite them to shout the phrase loudly. **When I put my hands to my mouth like I'm shouting, you can shout the phrase. When I put my finger to my lips like I'm being quiet, you can whisper the phrase.** Alternate putting your hands cupped around your mouth and your finger to your lips and encourage the kids to say the phrase.

Do you like to listen to someone shouting or whispering? Was it more fun to shout or whisper?

Allow the kids to respond. **We'll learn today that God speaks, and we can listen to Him!**

Activity: What Sound Does It Make?

In our story today, we're going to hear about different sounds someone heard as he was listening for God to speak to him. We'll learn that God speaks to us too! Do you like to listen? Allow the kids to respond. **It's OK if it's hard to listen sometimes. We can listen for different sounds. God speaks, and it's not always the way we'd expect.**

Let's play a game to see how you listen and know different sounds!

If you have younger kids, make all of the animal sounds yourself. If you have older kids, call them up one at a time and whisper an animal sound to make. Encourage the other kids to guess the animal that makes that sound. To make it easier, you could call out the animal and encourage all the kids as a group to make each animal sound.

Use the following animals:

- Pig
- Chicken
- Cow
- Horse
- Dog
- Donkey
- Owl
- Frog
- Bumble bee
- Turkey
- Cat
- Monkey
- Snake
- Elephant
- Fox

Does anyone know what sounds a fox makes? I'm not sure either! Does anyone know what sound God makes or how He talks to us? He speaks in different ways. We'll learn more about it today.

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD CAN SPEAK TO US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

CAN SPEAK—Hold your hands to your mouth.

TO US—Point to yourself.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [God Speaks Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're learning that God speaks. God is amazing! We can thank Him for speaking to us and caring about us.

Play songs from the [God Speaks Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God Whispers to Elijah God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a man named Elijah. Encourage the kids to say, "Elijah." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to him.**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

You can help make sounds while I tell the story. There was a man named Elijah who talked with God. One day, Elijah got scared because someone was after him, and he ran away. He went to a mountain to meet with God. Everyone move your feet up and down on the ground (in place) like you're walking to a mountain. Pause to allow the kids to move their feet in place.

God was going to come and speak to Elijah. Elijah waited for God to speak, and a very strong wind came! Can you make the sound a strong wind might make? Encourage the kids to make a "whoosh" sound. **But God wasn't speaking to Elijah through the strong wind.**

Then a big earthquake came and shook everything! Can you shake and move your whole body like a big earthquake? Encourage the kids to wiggle and shake. **But God wasn't speaking through the earthquake either!**

Then a big fire came! Can you wave your arms like the waving flames of a large fire? Encourage the kids to wave their arms. **But God wasn't speaking through the big fire either!**

Then a small, quiet whisper came. Can you all whisper "shhhh" quietly and stay very still? Encourage the kids to whisper and stand still. **God was talking to Elijah in a whisper! God told Elijah not to be afraid because God's people would be there for him.**

Elijah listened, and God spoke to him! It might not have been in a big or loud way, but God was there. God speaks to us too! It might not be how we'd expect, but if we listen, we can hear from Him.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

—James 4:8a

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the God Speaks series is James 4:8a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **COME NEAR**—Use your hands to make the “waving someone over to you” motion.
- **TO GOD**,—Point up with both hands.
- **AND HE WILL**—Bring both arms down to your sides slowly.
- **COME NEAR**—Bring arms together around yourself (big hug).
- **TO YOU**,—Point out at others with both hands.
- **JAMES 4:8a**— Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's pray and talk to God. When I say, “listen,” put your hands at your ears.

God, we thank You that You speak to us. Help us listen (hands at ears) to You and hear from You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

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

Activity: Wind, Fire, Earthquake, Whisper

In our story today, Elijah saw and heard big and loud things. What were they? Allow the kids to respond. **Elijah saw and heard a loud whooshing wind, a big crackling fire, and shaky, loud earthquake. Was God in any of those things? No! How did God speak to Elijah?** Allow the kids to respond. **God spoke to Elijah in a gentle, quiet whisper.**

God speaks to us too. It might not be how we expect. It might not be a loud booming voice. It might be through a sunset, or through a Bible verse, or story from the Bible. It might be through a parent or leader at church, or through prayer or worship. We can listen to God, and we can talk with God!

Let's do an activity to remember what Elijah saw. When I say “wind,” you can blow as much air as you can to sound like wind. Pause to let the kids do it. When I say, “fire,” you can wiggle your arms and your whole body like a wiggling, crackling flame of fire. Pause to let the kids do it.

When I say, “earthquake,” you can stomp and jump and move your body as much as you can, like a shaky earthquake. Pause to let the kids do it. **Then, when I say, “whisper,” you can quietly whisper, “God can speak to us.”** Pause to let the kids do it.

Call out *wind*, *fire*, *earthquake*, and *whisper*, and invite the kids to do the actions with each word.