

Act It Out: Elijah Goes to Mount Horeb

I Kings 19:1-18: Out of the Cave

The teacher reads aloud the story script about Elijah going to Mount Horeb, pausing while the children act out the story. Use one or more of the following ideas to bring the story to life.



- **Use a few simple props** to help create a sense of wonder. Suggestions include a large t-shirt or bathrobe as a prophet costume for Elijah, a large white t-shirt with waist tie, or tinsel garland as an angel costume, small loaf of bread and water for Elijah to “eat.”
- **Plan a staging area** that allows for
 1. a place for Elijah to pray under the broom tree (potted plant)
 2. a larger area that will be the top of Mount Horeb
- **Create a “cave”** on “Mount Horeb” out of a sheet or blanket and several chairs to hold it up. Elijah can sit under the blanket shelter and look out into the room.
- **Act out the wind, earthquake, fire and still small voice.** Divide children into groups and give each group colored scarves or ribbons to represent the wind, earthquake and fire. Have Elijah come out of the “cave” to watch them “pass by.”
- **Incorporate creative movement** for each group as the children “pass by” to depict the wind, earthquake and fire.
 - Wind:** the children can make a circle around Elijah, moving around him in the same direction while waving blue or gray ribbons or scarves. Reverse and go around in the opposite direction.
 - Earthquake:** the children can sit in a circle around Elijah and beat drums, or empty containers that will make noise, or the floor.
 - Fire:** the children can stand in a circle around Elijah waving flame-colored ribbons or scarves up and down.
 - Still small voice:** the children can sit in a circle around Elijah and put a finger to their mouths to show the quiet of the voice.
- **Choral speaking.** As you recite “the Lord was not in the wind” (earthquake, fire) ask all of the children to shake their heads and repeat the words after you.
- **Repeat the play** using different children to play the parts. Children love repetition and this will help them remember the story.
- **Perform the play** for another class or the congregation.

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Script for Teacher to Read:

Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree.

And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water.

So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."

So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place;

and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord."

And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind;

and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake;

and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire;

and after the fire a still small voice.

So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"