

Elijah in the Cave

Level A | Lesson 5 | Teacher Overview

Key Message: The Lord is with us in His Word.

Text: 1 Kings 19:1-18

Activity Options (choose 2 or 3)

1. Talk About It
2. Memory Verse
3. Act It Out: Elijah Goes to Mount Horeb
4. Make: What Elijah Saw and Heard
5. Color: Elijah Looking Out of the Cave



1 Kings 19:9

He went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him....

Talk About It

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

Optional: Bring today's discussion to life by giving the children a small "cake" and cup of water as you talk about the story. (Note that the cake was probably not what we think of as a cake today, but a flat round bread.)

1. Today we heard the story about Elijah going into the wilderness by himself. The wilderness is a wild place where nobody lives. Wild plants grow there, and wild animals live there. Elijah went away by himself where he would be all alone because he was discouraged—he could not feel that the Lord was with him.
2. Who came to help Elijah? (an angel) What did the angel give him? (a cake and a jar of water)
3. Elijah ate the cake and drank the water, and lay down again. What happened next? (the angel gave him food again, and he ate and drank) This food was very special—Elijah was able to go for 40 days and nights without any other food! How long do you wait between each meal? This was a miracle!
4. Where did Elijah go on the mountain? (into a cave)
5. In the morning, the Lord came to Elijah and told him to go out on the mountain, before the Lord. What did Elijah see? (a big wind, an earthquake and a fire) Imagine what it must have felt like to hear the wind and see the trees bending, to watch the rocks fall, and to feel the hot fire! Was the Lord in these things? (no)
6. And then Elijah heard the Lord! Where was He? (in a still small voice)
7. Where can we hear the Lord? (in the Word, or through people like our parents, teachers and ministers who tell us what the Word says)

Elijah Hides in the Cave

Memory Verse: I Kings 19:9
He went into a cave, and
spent the night in that place;
and behold, the word of the
Lord came to him....



Key Message:

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Cut in quarters and give one to each student to take home.

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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 prophet costume for Elijah (see Week 1 Level A for directions), an angel costume (white shirt with waist tie, or tinsel garland), 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.

Page 2 - Elijah Goes to Mount Horeb

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?"

Make: What Elijah Saw and Heard

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

Make a picture to show what Elijah saw on the mountain. The children will layer colors on top of each other to represent the wind, the earthquake and the fire. This may look very messy! The idea is to create a dramatic effect. And then Elijah heard a still small voice. Decorate the text slip “a still small voice” with glitter to make it special, just as the Lord’s voice is special. Glue the text slip over the wind, earthquake and fire. To finish the project, add a story text slip so that parents can review the events with their children as they look at the picture.



Supplies Needed for Each Student

- large piece of paper
- crayons in various colors
- glitter
- “Still small voice” text slip (cut apart ahead of time—see attached sheet)
- full quotation text slip (cut apart ahead of time—see attached sheet)
- glue
- glitter tray (baking sheet, large shallow pan)

Project Directions

1. Give each child a large piece of paper and invite them to draw the wind that Elijah saw on Mount Horeb. What color is the wind? What can we see when it is windy? This was a big wind—be sure to fill the whole page!
2. What did Elijah see next? Let’s draw the earthquake! What does an earthquake look like? The ground shakes and sometimes things fall. What color should we use?

Page 2 - What Elijah Saw and Heard

3. Now invite them to draw the fire. Let's draw the flames shooting up into the sky. How big was the fire? Do you think it was big enough to fill this whole page? How hot was it?
4. And after all of these things, Elijah heard a still small voice. Whose voice was it? (the Lord's) Give each child a text slip with "a still small voice" written on it. Let's decorate the still small voice to show that it was the Lord speaking to Elijah. Have each child spread glue around the edges of the slip, and then sprinkle glitter on the glue over a glitter tray. (For easy clean-up, shake the glitter to the corner of the tray and put it back into the container for next time.)
5. Glue "a still small voice" on to the picture to show that the Lord's voice was more powerful than all of the other things Elijah saw because He was in it.
6. Glue the text slip that tells the story on to the page. Tell them to ask their parents to read it to them again later.

a still small voice

a still small voice

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And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore through the mountains, and broke the rocks in pieces; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind was an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: and after the earthquake was a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire was a still small voice,...saying, “Elijah, why are you here?” (I Kings 19:11-13)

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