

Elijah in the Cave

Level B | Lesson 5 | Teacher Overview

Key Message: The Lord speaks to 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: The Lord's Presence on a Moving Mountain
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 about Elijah going into the wilderness by himself. What is the wilderness? (a wild place where wild plants grow and wild animals live) It is hard to live in the wilderness because there are not many people there and little food.
2. 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 and went to hide. Could he run away from the Lord? Is the Lord ever really far away? Was Elijah really alone?
3. Who came to help Elijah while he slept? (an angel) What did the angel give him? (The angel gave him a cake to eat and a jar of water to drink twice.)
4. Elijah was able to go for 40 days and nights without any other food. This was a miracle!
5. Where did Elijah go from there? (He went into a cave on Mount Horeb, where he slept for the night)
6. 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)
7. And then Elijah heard the Lord! Where was He? (in a still small voice)
8. How does the Lord speak to us today? (in the Word, or through people like our parents, teachers or ministers who tell us what the Word says, and through our conscience) We need to listen carefully to hear the voice of the Lord amid the loud noises of what is happening in the world around us.

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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GENERAL CHURCH OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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 mouth 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?"

Make: The Lord's Presence on a Moving Mountain

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

Students will learn the story of Elijah appearing before the Lord on Mount Horeb by making and playing an interactive game. Students will color and assemble the project, and then play the game with a friend. We recommend that teachers make a model ahead of time so that they can better help the students make their own, and as a demonstration for the students.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- print out of project and directions pages (see attached sheets)
- colored pencils or markers
- scissors



Project Directions

1. Color the pictures of the Lord, the earthquake, fire and wind on the printed project page.
2. Follow directions for cutting, folding and assembling the project on the attached sheet.
3. When the project is complete, flatten it out so that you are looking at the four squares with the words "Elijah went into a cave on Mount Horeb." "The Lord spoke to Elijah in the cave." etc. Color each square a different color. **Hint:** Use basic colors that the students are able to spell e.g. red, green, blue, etc.
4. Turn over the flattened square.
5. Write a random number between 1 and 12 on each of the eight triangular folded areas. **Important game hint:** Randomize the odd and even numbers. The reason will become clear when you play! The numbers will look something like this:



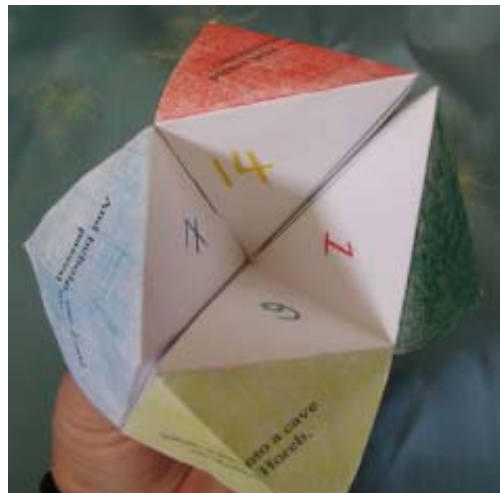
Page 2 - The Lord's Presence on a Moving Mountain

How to Work the game

1. Place thumbs and first fingers in the four spaces underneath the colored squares.
2. Using fingers and thumbs, practice opening the game up using back and forth motions, exposing different numbers in the triangular sections in the middle. When this is easy, you are ready to start playing!

How to Play the Game—Looking for the Lord on the Mountain

1. With the center hole shut and all of the colored squares together, invite a friend to select a color. Spell the name of the color out loud, and as you spell, open the hole up and switch the opening from one direction to the other as each letter is spoken.
2. Now invite them to pick a number from the four that they can see in the center hole. Change the direction in which the hole is opened for the number of times chosen.
3. Invite them to pick another number.
4. Open up the game and look under the number they have chosen to see whether the Lord is there. To find the Lord, the student needs to select the number over the “still small voice.”
5. Play the game until you are able to find the Lord.
6. Switch friends and play the game again.



Help Elijah Find the Lord On Mount Horeb

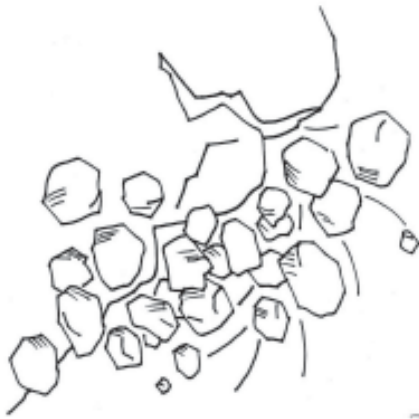
And behold, the Lord
passed by...

“Go out, and stand on
the mountain.”

There was a fire, but
the Lord was not
in the fire.



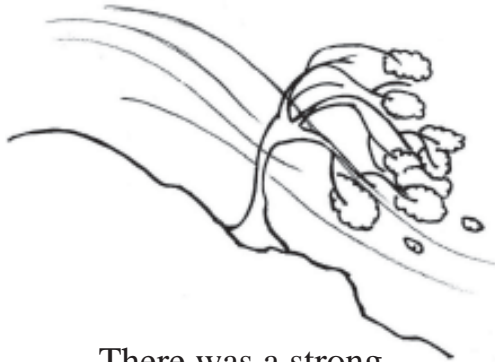
There was an earthquake,
but the Lord was not in
the earthquake.



Then there was a still small
voice, and the Lord
was in the voice.



There was a strong
wind, but the Lord was
not in the wind.



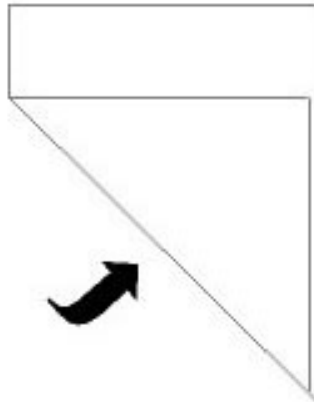
Elijah went into a cave
on Mount Horeb.

The Lord spoke to
Elijah in the cave.

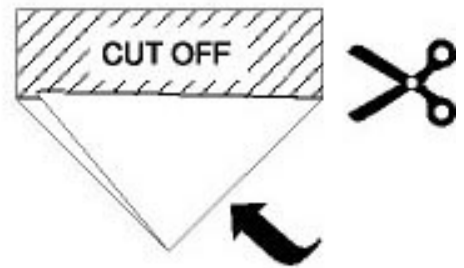
Folding the Moving Mountain Project



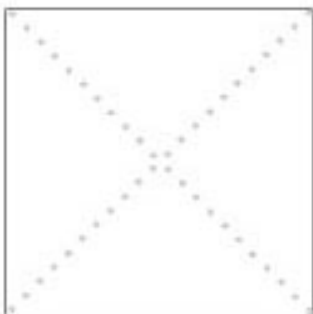
Take the sheet of paper



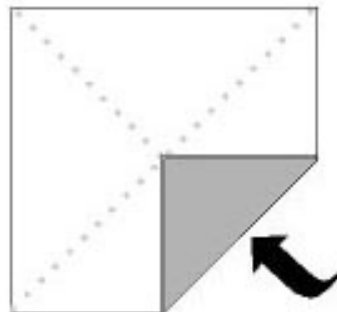
Fold the corner up til it meets the other side



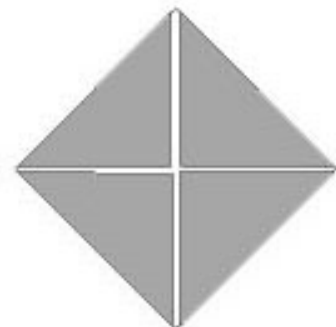
Fold other corner up til it meets the other side—then cut off the rectangle at the top.



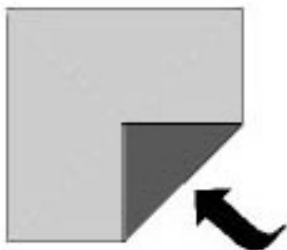
Unfold it and place it printed side down—you should now have an 8 ½" X 8 ½" piece.



Fold up all four corners so that the points meet in the middle.



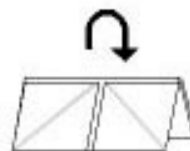
It should now look like this. Flip it over.



Fold up all four corners so that the points meet in the middle. Turn it over.



It should now look like this.



Now fold the top back. Open, and fold back the top in the other direction.



Work your fingers into the four corners from the fold side - work the creases to form the four points.

