



God Speaks to Elijah

Lesson Aim: To learn some of the ways
God speaks to us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God of Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: 1 Kings 19:11-13, 16

What He Has Done: God whispered to Elijah and told him to find Elisha.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "I will listen."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

| Unit 7: The Prophets and God's Power | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | Bible Story | What He Has Done | Lesson Aim |
| 32 | Elijah and the Ravens, 1 Kings 17:1-6 | God provided for Elijah's needs during the famine. | To know God has the power to give us what we need. |
| 33 | Elijah and the Woman in Zarephath, 1 Kings 17:8-16 | God sent Elijah to the woman and her son to tell them God would provide food. | To know we can trust God to keep His promises. |
| 34 | God Sends Fire to Elijah, 1 Kings 18:30-39 | God sent fire from heaven to prove He is God. | To know God is the one true God. |
| 35 | God Speaks to Elijah, 1 Kings 19:11-13, 16 | God whispered to Elijah and told him to find Elisha. | To learn some of the ways God speaks to us. |
| 36 | Elisha and His Little Room, 2 Kings 4:8-11 | God provided a room for Elisha in the woman's house. | To know we should show kindness to God's helpers. |
| 37 | Elisha and Naaman, 2 Kings 5:1, 9-10, 14-15 | God healed Naaman when he obeyed. | To know we should always obey God. |

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read John 14:15-27. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for faithfully pursuing us. Fill the children with Your Holy Spirit so they might recognize Your voice and turn their hearts toward You. Amen."



| Segment | Minutes | Activity | Supplies |
|-------------|----------|--|--|
| THE WELCOME | Up to 15 | Treasure Chest | Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of an ear |
| | | Whisper Verse | Sign language for "I will listen." |
| THE WORSHIP | Up to 20 | Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. | Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Be Still and Know" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Blessed Are Those" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Am with You" "I Will Listen" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "With God All Things Are Possible" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "God Is So Good" "How Great Is Our God" "My God Is So Big" |
| | | Offering | Baskets |
| | | Worship Illustration | <i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 7, Lesson 35 |
| THE WORD | Up to 10 | Watch the Word: 1 Kings 19:11-13, 16 | Teacher's Bible with bookmark at 1 Kings 19:12-13 Visual: Pinwheel |
| THE WAY | Up to 25 | Craft: Elijah's Ears | Sturdy paper, crayons or markers, tape or glue |
| | | Game: Listening Ears | "Elijah's Ears" crafts |
| | | Game: Wind, Quake, Fire | Sturdy wood box or step, orange and red crepe paper or ribbon, cloak (piece of cloth) |
| | | Snack: Shh! Listen! | Any snack that makes no noise when eaten (marshmallows, pudding, jello, etc.) |
| | | Circle of Prayer | None |
| | Final 5 | Final Five | Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 35 Color This Story: "God Speaks to Elijah" |
| GOT TIME? | Up to 10 | Say & Do: 1 Kings 19:11-13, 16 | None |
| | Up to 10 | Game: Stop and Be Still! | Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "Be Still and Know," timer or clock |
| | Up to 10 | Game: Whispered Words | None |
| | Up to 10 | Story Time | Any story about listening to God |

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



I will listen

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of an ear. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of an ear help you remember Elijah listened to God. Today's Whisper Verse is "I will listen."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "I will listen."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"I" Point to self.

"(will) listen." The hand cups the ear, as if to listen more carefully.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "I will listen," Psalm 85:8. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God of Power

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God of Power. God is so powerful that He can speak to us in many ways. He can even speak to us without using His out loud voice! When a mighty wind blows, it's as if He is telling us He is the powerful God who made the wind. When someone gives us a big hug, it's as if God is telling us how much He loves us. When we hear God's Word in a Bible story, it's as if He is telling us who He is and what He has done. In our Bible story last time, God spoke to Elijah and to everyone there without words by sending fire from heaven. Let's give our offering to the God who speaks to us in many ways. Sing: “I Will Listen” while collecting the offering.

That song reminds me of today's Whisper Verse: “I will listen.” Let's try it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “I will listen.” Include the sign language.

When God speaks to us, we may not hear Him with our ears. Sometimes, He speaks to our hearts and minds without making a sound. He may give us a special thought or a feeling. He may speak to us by showing more about Himself or by showing us what He wants us to do. Sometimes, it is easier to think about what God is telling us if we are still. Let's be very still as we sing this next song. Think about how good it is to know He is God and that He is with us right now. Sing: “Be Still and Know.”



In today's story, Elijah listened to God speak to him in a soft whisper. Let's see if Delbert and Lello have ever heard that story. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 7, Lesson 35.



God chose Elijah to be His special helper. Later in a whisper, God told Elijah to go find Elisha. Elijah listened and obeyed the Lord and he found Elisha. He would be God's next special helper. Elijah and Elisha both listened and obeyed God. Sing: “Blessed Are Those.”

Did you know God hears us, too? (Children respond.) He hears us and sees us and knows what we are thinking and feeling. He is always with us. Sing: “I Am with You.”



Elijah listens for the voice of the Lord

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

With my eyes on my teacher;

My mouth quiet as can be,

I will listen to hear,

How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God sent fire to show He is God. Today, we will hear how God whispered to Elijah. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to 1 Kings 19:12-13.

WATCH THE WORD: 1 KINGS 19:11-13, 16

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a pinwheel or a picture of a pinwheel. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- "Stand on the mountain, Elijah," God said,
- "For right by you, I will go."
- Then, a mighty wind blew all around.
- Was the Lord in the wind? No!

- An earthquake shook the ground to and fro.
- Was the Lord in the earthquake? No!
- After the earthquake, came a fire.
- Was the Lord in the fire? No!

- Then, from a cave came a whisper
- That told Elijah what to do.
- The Lord whispered, "Go find Elisha.
- He will be My helper, just like you."



What did Elijah hear? (God's whisper.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read 1 Kings 19:12-13 from the teacher's Bible. **Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. God whispered to Elijah!**

When God speaks, what should you do? (Listen.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "I will listen." Include the sign language or hand motions.



We can listen for the Lord

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: ELIJAH'S EARS

Purpose: To remind the children that God whispered His message to Elijah.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, crayons or markers, tape or glue

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut out two oversized ear shapes. Cut a 1-inch wide strip of paper long enough to wrap around a child's head. On the paper strip, print: **"God Whispered to Elijah." 1 Kings 19:11-13, 16**

Directions:

1. Color the ears.
2. Wrap the paper strip around the child's head and tape or glue it closed.
3. Remove the paper strip from the child's head and attach the ears to opposite sides of the strip.
4. Show the children how to put on "Elijah's Ears" and listen for God like Elijah did.

Craft Discussion:

- **Elijah learned God speaks to us in many ways. Sometimes, God speaks through big, powerful miracles like when He sent fire from heaven or when He parted the Jordan River. Other times, God speaks to us in peaceful, quiet ways like through a beautiful rainbow or a sunny day.**
- **Who listened for God? (Elijah.)**
- **When Elijah went to the mountain to listen for God, did God speak to him in the powerful wind? (No.) Did God speak to Elijah in the mighty earthquake? (No.) Did God speak to Elijah in the fire? (No.) How did God speak to Elijah? (In a gentle whisper.)**
- **Can you be like Elijah and listen for God, too? (Yes.) That's like our Whisper Verse. Let's say it with our motions right now. Say the Whisper Verse together with the sign language or hand motions.**
- **God speaks to us in so many ways! He speaks to us through His written words in the Bible. He speaks to us through the spoken words of others. He speaks to our hearts and minds without making a sound. We can listen for God with our ears, our hearts, and our minds.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: LISTENING EARS

Purpose: Children will practice listening.

Supplies: "Elijah's Ears" crafts

Let's practice using our listening ears. Be very quiet. If you hear me whisper your name, I want you to say and sign the Whisper Verse. Let's say it once together before we start. "I will listen."

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle and put on their "Elijah's Ears."
2. Whisper the name of one of the children.
3. That child says and signs the Whisper Verse: **"I will listen."**
4. Whisper each child's name until every child has a turn.

You are very good listeners; just like Elijah!

GAME: WIND, QUAKE, FIRE

Purpose: Children will pretend to be Elijah listening for God's voice.

Supplies: Sturdy wood box or step, orange and red crepe paper or ribbon, cloak (piece of cloth)

Let's act out today's story. When I ask you, "Will you listen for God?" I want you to say and sign the Whisper Verse: "I will listen."

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be Elijah.
2. Elijah puts on the cloak and stands on the box, pretending to be on the mountain. Be sure the child is safe by holding his or her hand or by standing nearby.
3. The remaining children stand in a circle around Elijah.
4. **Will you listen for God?** The children answer by saying and signing the Whisper Verse: **"I will listen."**
5. **First, came the wind. Pretend you are standing in the big wind with Elijah!** Children sway and make swishing noises, as if they are in the wind. **Was God in the wind?** (No.)
6. **Next, came the earthquake. Pretend you are standing in the big earthquake with Elijah!** Children shake and stumble, as if they are in an earthquake. **Was God in the earthquake?** (No.)
7. **Then, came the fire.** Choose a few children to place orange and red crepe paper or ribbon on the ground around Elijah. **Was God in the fire?** (No.)
8. **How did God talk to Elijah?** (He whispered.)
9. In a whisper, say to Elijah, **"Elijah, find Elisha."**
10. Elijah picks another child to be Elisha by giving the cloak to that child.
11. Allow that child to be the next Elijah and play again.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SHH! LISTEN!

Purpose: Children will eat a quiet snack as they discuss listening for God.

Snack Suggestion: Any snack that makes no noise when eaten (marshmallows, pudding, jello, etc.)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Let's have a quiet snack so we can listen while we eat.**
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "I will listen."
 - **Who listened for God in our story?** (Elijah.)
 - **God spoke to Elijah in a whisper. Is that the only way God can speak to us?** (No.)
 - **One way God speaks to us is through His words in the Bible. What should you do when someone is reading to you from the Bible?** (Listen.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Elijah's Ears" craft. Tell someone Elijah listened to hear God's gentle whisper.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about some of the ways God speaks to us.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "God Speaks to Elijah." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Be Still and Know," as the children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: 1 KINGS 19:11-13, 16

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **"Stand on the mountain, Elijah," God said,** (Point far away.)
- **"For right by you I will go."** (Place hand over eyes as if looking in the distance.)
- **Then, a mighty wind blew all around.** (Waves arms like trees in the winds.)
- **Was the Lord in the wind? No!** (Shake head and shout, "No!")

- **An earthquake shook the ground to and fro.** (Sway back and forth.)
- **Was the Lord in the earthquake? No!** (Shake head and shout, "No!")
- **After the earthquake, came a fire.** (Wiggle fingers like flames.)
- **Was the Lord in the fire? No!** (Shake head and shout, "No!")

- **Then, from a cave came a whisper** (Cup hand around ear, as if listening.)
- **That told Elijah what to do.** (Raise index finger, as if giving directions.)
- **The Lord whispered, "Go find Elisha.** (Cup hands around mouth to whisper.)
- **He will be My helper, just like you."** (Point to others.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

GAME: STOP AND BE STILL!

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "Be Still and Know," timer or clock

Directions:

1. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as children jump up and down and sing.
2. After a short time, pause the music. Children are to freeze in place.
3. Time the children to see how long they can stay very still. Stop the timer as soon as a child makes an obvious movement.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 several times. Each time, challenge the children to try to stay still a little longer.

Have the children sit down. **You all did a good job being still. It is often easier to think about God when we are still. Let's sit still for a moment and think about God. What do you remember about Him?** (Children respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: WHISPERED WORDS

Purpose: Children play this quiet, still game as a fun way to practice stillness and listening.

Supplies: None

Sometimes it is good to be still for a moment and remember what is true. What do you like to think about when you are still? (Children respond.) In the Bible, God says, "Be still and know that I am God." When do you like to be still and think about God? (Children respond.) Let's play a quiet, still game. Listen very carefully to words from the Bible that are whispered to you. Then, whisper the words you hear to the person next to you.

Directions:

1. Children sit very still in a circle.
2. The teacher whispers, "**God said, 'I am with you.'**" into the ear of the first child.
3. That child whispers the phrase to the next child in the circle.
4. Continue around the circle until the last child tells the group what he or she heard to see if the phrase was delivered correctly.
5. The teacher announces the original phrase. (It is likely the phrase will change as it passed along. Laugh together at the way the phrase changes.)
6. Play the game as often as you like. Use one of the phrases below or come up with your own.

Jesus said, "Do not be afraid."

Jesus said, "Do not worry."

Jesus said, "Come, follow Me."

God said, "Be still and know I am God."



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about listening to God.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 7, Lesson 35: God Speaks to Elijah

PONDER! Read 1 Kings 19:11-13, 16 with your family. Talk about the story of God speaking to Elijah. What did the Lord say He would do? What three mighty things happened next? When God finally spoke, how did He speak? What did God tell Elijah to do?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for speaking to Elijah. Help us listen for You in powerful ways and in quiet ways. Amen."

PLAY! Look and Listen! Take a walk outdoors with your family. As you walk, share your favorite Bible stories. Talk about what God seems to be telling you through each story. Then, point out your favorite thing in nature. Share what you think God is showing you through that special creation. God speaks to us in so many ways!

Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse:

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10