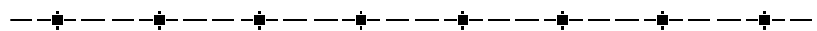


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2009

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part One



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

God Whispers to Elijah

Last week we learned that Elijah was a person just like us. God heard his prayers and answered them. Elijah loved God and was not ashamed to tell people that God was real. He challenged the priests who worshipped false gods. He was very courageous. Elijah knew that he could not say what everyone wanted to hear. He had to tell the truth and obey God.

I Kings 19:1-16

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 19:1-16 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse:

But God trains us
for our good. He wants us
to share in His holiness.
(Hebrews 12:10 NIRV)

Begin With Prayer

When the king told his wife, Jezebel, the news, she was furious. Instead of believing God, she was upset about the people who worshipped a statue. She sent a message to Elijah telling him that he would die. (I Kings 19:1-2)

Elijah was afraid. He ran to hide. Have you ever been afraid of something or someone? What did you do? Did you pray? Did you ask God for help?

Elijah should have trusted God, who had taken care of Him and protected him. Instead, he ran away into the desert. He lay down by a broom tree and went to sleep. (I Kings 19:3-4)

Suddenly, an angel touched him and told him to get up and eat. He looked up and in front of him were bread and a jar of water. Elijah ate the food and lay down again. (I Kings 19:5-6) Again, an angel came back and asked Elijah to eat. Elijah ate and felt much better. Then, he traveled 40 days and 40 nights to get to Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God. This is the same mountain where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. It is also called Mt. Sinai. (I Kings 19:7-8; Exodus 20)

Elijah found a cave in the mountain and spent the night. (I Kings 19:9) Then, God called to Elijah, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah told God how all his friends that loved God had been killed and how the king's wife was trying to kill him. (I Kings 19:9-10)

God wanted to encourage Elijah. He asked Elijah to stand on the mountain because He was about to pass by. (I Kings 19:11) First, there was a mighty wind that shattered the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. Next, there was a violent earthquake that shook the mountain.

Goals

1. Understand that Elijah was courageous.
2. Recognize that Elijah was afraid because Jezebel wanted to kill him.
3. Learn that God sent an angel to feed Elijah.
4. Understand that God spoke to Elijah.

God Whispers to Elijah – Bible Facts

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Jezebel said Elijah would die. | 2. Elijah ran and hid. |
| 3. God sent an angel to strengthen Elijah. | 4. God spoke in a whisper to Elijah. |

However, God was not in the earthquake. Then, there was a roaring fire that blazed through the mountain. But, God was not in the fire either. (I Kings 19:11-12) Then, there was a very, quiet whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his coat over his face and stood at the front of the cave. He knew that the whisper was God.

Again, God asked Elijah, “What are you doing here?” (I Kings 19:12-13)

Again, Elijah told God how all his friends that loved God were killed and how the king’s wife was trying to kill him. (I Kings 19:14)

God told Elijah to go back home. He told him to go to the desert of Damascus and appoint two new kings. He also told Elijah that Elisha would take his place and be the next prophet (messenger) for God. Then, He told Elijah that there were 7,000 people who loved Him and worshipped Him. (I Kings 19:15-18)

Elijah was encouraged with this good news. He followed God and obeyed Him. Things did not go exactly like Elijah thought. God was still at work, “but God trains us for our good. He wants us to share in His holiness.” (Hebrews 12:10 NIV) Instead of being accepted when the rain came, Elijah was an outlaw who was running for his life. God knew what was happening and helped Elijah see that He was in control.

Review

1. **What did Jezebel tell Elijah?** (Jezebel said Elijah would die.)
2. **What was Elijah’s response?** (Elijah ran and hid.)
3. **What happened next?** (God sent an angel to strengthen Elijah.)
4. **What did God do?** (God spoke in a whisper to Elijah.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Even though Jesus did nothing wrong, He was nailed to a cross. God let His only Son die like that. However, God had a plan. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for all the wrongs that WE have done. He died for our sin. The best news is that three days later, Jesus came back to life! Because Jesus lives, we have a way to get to heaven. If we believe in Jesus in our hearts, He will erase our sin and make us clean on the inside. He will help us do things God’s way and take us to Heaven one day. If you want to know more about Jesus, let us know.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for us.
3. Ask God to help you hear His voice.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to hear God’s voice.

Application

Elijah was courageous. But when he learned that Jezebel wanted to kill him, he was afraid. Elijah went to hide in a cave. God sent an angel to strengthen Elijah. God spoke to Elijah and encouraged him. God wants to strengthen and encourage us. If we seek Him with our whole heart, we will find that He will speak to us, too.

Planning for the next week:

Naaman is Healed — II Kings 5:1-14

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 19:1-16 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Use sound effects for today's story.

Last week we saw how God brought rain and helped the people see that He is the only true God. When the queen heard what happened, she was very angry. She sent a message to Elijah that she was going to kill him. Elijah was very scared. Instead of trusting God, he ran away to hide.

Elijah went into the hot desert and sat down by a tree. God knew what Elijah had done. He sent an angel to give him bread and water. God sent the angel back again to give Elijah more bread and water. Then, Elijah went to God's special mountain and found a cave to spend the night.

Then, God called to Elijah, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah told God that he felt so alone.

God wanted to help Elijah. He asked Elijah to stand on the mountain because He was about to pass by.

First, there was a mighty wind (make a blowing wind noise) that shattered the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. Next, there was a violent earthquake that shook the mountain (pretend like the earth is moving and shaking). However, God was not in the earthquake. Then, there was a roaring fire that blazed through the mountain (make sizzle noises). But, God was not in the fire either. Then, there was a very, quiet whisper (whisper as you say this). When Elijah heard it, he pulled his coat over his face and stood at the front of the cave. He knew that the whisper was God.

Again, God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?"

Again, Elijah told God that he felt so alone.

God told Elijah to go back home. He told him to go to the desert of Damascus and appoint two new kings. He also told Elijah that Elisha would take his place and be the next prophet (messenger) for God. Then, he told Elijah that there were many people who loved Him and worshiped Him.

Elijah was happy about this good news. He followed God and obeyed Him. God showed Elijah that He would take care of him. God loves us, too, and wants to take care of us.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for us.
3. Ask God to help you hear His voice.

Memory verse for younger children

God trains us for our good. Hebrews 12:10

Learning Activities

- Memory verse activity** — Cut out the letters for “ELIJAH,” and write the verse on the back. Talk about Elijah’s faith.
- Test your memory** — As you tell the story allow the children to dramatize. Allow some to demonstrate what it was like: to be afraid and run away, to hide, to sleep in the cave, to hear the wind, the fire, the earthquake, and the whisper of God’s voice.
- Taste activity** — Bring chocolate cupcakes. Take out the middle to make a cave. Bring colored sprinkles. Pretend the sprinkles are the rain falling on the cave.
- Think about it** — Elijah kept telling God that he felt alone. Talk about loneliness. Talk about how God can help.
- Touch activity** — Have one person sit blindfolded in a chair. Let someone come behind him and whisper. Let the blindfolded person try to guess who whispered.
- Run and play** — Bring a large box that will hold several children. Allow a few children to go inside the box. Ask the other children to make a cave. Let the children run around the cave and make noises like the wind, the fire, and the earthquake. Allow the children to take turns being inside the cave.
- Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God will speak to us if we will seek Him.
- Sing** — Sing “He Lives,” “I Come to the Garden,” “Holy, Holy, Holy,” or another song related to the story.
- Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the letters with a verse for each child. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

But God trains us
for our good.
He wants us
to share
in His holiness.
Hebrews 12:10

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

spoke to

Elijah

Word Search

J K T P W V D I V B R P E G T T E B N
G R H I V S S Q D N G A L P R D V C
N S N A E L T S S L R C R E F I L B
T D C B J E B K E T A D S F R H L S
V K F I R E I R H R V E S T R E E J P
S K N B E P L Q T R D A N G E L T G I
C B R K S N U E J E A R C R K D N F L
M T F G B A H E T B E G D B T N S V P
H S N T K W Z S S P C D N V L U L J H
T B S E S E C R S F I C R B O V K N F
F V C D B F R I C E B D K I C T P M R
B M O E K K H G F D L C R M C N B S Y
K W L K D W G N P R S U D L R G D T L
F G D W F R S H I P F E D F S K S T B

JEZEBEL

FURIOUS

DIE

WHISPER

HIDE

DESERT

TREE

SLEEP

ANGEL

WIND

EARTHQUAKE

FIRE

Word Search

J K T P W V D I V B R P E G T T E B N
 G R H I V S S Q D N G A L P R D V C
 N S N A E L T S S L R C R E F I L B
 T D C B J E B K E T A D S F R H L S
 V K F I R E I R H R V E S T R E E J P
 S K N B E P L Q T R D A N G E L T G I
 C B R K S N U E J E A R C R K D N F L
 M T F G B A H E T B E G D B T N S V P
 H S N T K W Z S S P C D N V L U L J H
 T B S E S E C R S F I C R B O V K N F
 F V C D B F R I C E B D K I C T P M R
 B M O E K K H G F D L C R M C N B S Y
 K W L K D W G N P R S U D L R G D T L
 F G D W F R S H I P F E D F S K S T B

JEZEBEL

FURIOUS

DIE

WHISPER

HIDE

DESERT

TREE

SLEEP

ANGEL

WIND

EARTHQUAKE

FIRE

Word Search

P L K J A H K T B N L J
S W I N D D W C S D P M
B K P L K S F I R E K N
S B M S P R B P F G K D
P R K A N G E L R S P F
J F G G M M K R P C L B
S T C R D F K C H I D E
D R K P B R G F L B B R
R A N E K P R L K J D H
N R K T D M P L M B J S
P H K W H I S P E R T D
V L D B R F G W F D G W

RAN

HIDE

ANGEL

WIND

FIRE

WHISPER

Word Search

P	L	K	J	A	H	K	T	B	N	L	J
S	W	I	N	D	D	W	C	S	D	P	M
B	K	P	L	K	S	F	I	R	E	K	N
S	B	M	S	P	R	B	P	F	G	K	D
P	R	K	A	N	G	E	L	R	S	P	F
J	F	G	G	M	M	K	R	P	C	L	B
S	T	C	R	D	F	K	C	H	I	D	E
D	R	K	P	B	R	G	F	L	B	B	R
R	A	N	E	K	P	R	L	K	J	D	H
N	R	K	T	D	M	P	L	M	B	J	S
P	H	K	W	H	I	S	P	E	R	T	D
V	L	D	B	R	F	G	W	F	D	G	W

RAN

HIDE

ANGEL

WIND

FIRE

WHISPER

Anagram

EAILHJ

EEEBJLZ

NALEG

ODG

RBOEH

TM. NAIIS

NDIW

HQRAAEEUKT

RIEF

Anagram

ELIJAH

JEZEBEL

ANGEL

GOD

HOREB

MT. SINAI

WIND

EARTHQUAKE

FIRE