

K-2 | October 4

Bible Story: God Appears to Elijah • 1 Kings 19:9-18

Teaching Focus: Clear away distractions and listen for God's voice.

Weekly Verse: "Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the Lord hears my voice." • Psalm 55:17 NLT

1. Opening & Prayer

"Today we're going to learn about a man named Elijah and an important moment when he heard from God. As you watch the video, pay attention to what Elijah experiences and how God gets His attention."

Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You that You are close to us and that You hear us whenever we pray. Please help us clear away distractions and focus on what You want us to learn today. Help us listen carefully and learn from Your Word. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

2. Video Lesson on Jellyfin

3. Discussion

"Let's talk about what we learned in today's Bible Story. Elijah experienced a strong wind, an earthquake, and a fire. But God was not in those loud things."

- "After the wind, earthquake, and fire, how did God speak to Elijah? What does that teach us about listening to God?"

(God spoke in a gentle whisper. We need to become quiet, clear away distractions, and pay attention.)

- "Our Weekly Verse from Psalm 55:17 NLT says, 'Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the Lord hears my voice.' When can we talk to God, and what does God do when we pray?"
(We can talk to God anytime, whether we want to tell Him about something good or we really need His help. God always hears us.)

"Elijah became quiet and listened when God spoke. Our Weekly Verse reminds us that God also listens when we speak to Him. We can clear away distractions, pray, listen to the Bible, and focus on what God wants us to learn. Remember our **[Teaching Focus] Clear away distractions and listen for God's voice.**"

4. God Speaks to Elijah Accordion Craft

What You Need:

- ☐ "Elijah Accordion Craft" printable (both pages), one set per child
- ☐ White cardstock
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print both craft pages on white cardstock, one set per child.



- Make one completed sample so leaders can see how the accordion folds and where the cover pieces attach.
- Pre-cut and pre-fold several sets for children who need support with scissors or fine-motor tasks.

During the Activity:

- Give each child the two-page craft set. Invite the kids to write their names and color Elijah, the wind, the earthquake, the fire, and the gentle whisper pictures.
- As the kids color, review what Elijah experienced: a mighty wind, an earthquake, and a fire. God was not in those big, loud events. Then Elijah heard a gentle whisper, and God spoke to him.
- Have the children cut along the dashed lines. Help them accordion-fold the story strip on the solid lines, alternating the direction of each fold.
- Glue the top and bottom cover pieces to the marked tabs. When the accordion is folded closed, the two cover pieces should form one circle.
- Invite the kids to open their crafts and point to each picture as they retell the story in order: wind, earthquake, fire, and gentle whisper.

After the Activity:

- Connect the craft to the *[Teaching Focus] Clear away distractions and listen for God's voice.*

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

"In today's Bible Story, Elijah was listening for God. First there was a powerful wind, then an earthquake, and then a fire. But God was not in any of those big, loud things. After the fire, Elijah heard a gentle whisper, and God spoke to him. Our accordion craft will help us remember the order of the story."

During the Activity:

"As you color, look at the four parts of Elijah's story. Which three parts were big and loud? (Pause.) The wind, earthquake, and fire! What came last? (Pause.) A gentle whisper. God did not need to shout because He was close to Elijah. God is close to us too, and He hears us when we pray. Our Weekly Verse says, 'Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the Lord hears my voice.'"

After the Activity:

"Open your accordion and tell the story with me: wind, earthquake, fire, gentle whisper. Elijah had to stop and listen carefully. We can make quiet time to pray, read the Bible, and listen for what God wants us to learn. Remember our *[Teaching Focus] Clear away distractions and listen for God's voice.*"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Offer a pre-cut and pre-folded set to children who find cutting or accordion-folding difficult.
- Let a child color and point to each picture while a leader helps with cutting, folding, or gluing.
- Use simple motions while retelling the story: sway for wind, shake hands for earthquake, wiggle fingers for fire, and cup an ear for the gentle whisper.

5. Whisper Telephone Challenge (Optional, if time allows)

What You Need:

- ☐ No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Divide the children into teams of five or six.
- Have each team sit or stand in a line.
- Explain that each person may whisper the message only once. Everyone will need to become quiet and listen carefully.

During the Activity:

Round One: Traditional Telephone

Say: “We’re going to play a listening game called Telephone. I’ll whisper a message to the first person in each line. That person will whisper what they heard to the next person. Keep passing the message until it reaches the last person. The last person will say the message out loud. Let’s see whether the message stays the same!”

- Choose one phrase and whisper it to the first child in each line.
- Have the children pass the phrase down their lines.
- Ask the last child in each line to say the phrase aloud.
- Reveal the original phrase and celebrate how closely each team listened.
- Play additional rounds with different phrases if time allows.

Suggested Phrases:

- “God is close to me.”
- “God hears me when I pray.”
- “Listen carefully for God.”
- “Morning, noon, and night, God hears my voice.”

Round Two: Whisper and Do

Say: “This round will be a little different. Instead of passing a sentence, you’ll pass a whispered direction. The last person won’t tell us what they heard. They will show us by doing the actions!”

- Choose one set of motions and whisper the complete direction to the first child in each line.
- Have the children whisper the direction down their lines.
- When the direction reaches the last child, have that child perform the actions.
- Reveal the original direction and compare it with what each child did.
- Play additional rounds with different directions if time allows.

Suggested Motions:

- “Touch your shoulders, clap two times, and sit down.”
- “Pat your head, stomp two times, and freeze.”
- “Tiptoe three steps, cup your hand around your ear, and give a thumbs-up.”
- “March in place four times, point toward the ceiling, and fold your arms.”
- “Touch your toes, stand up tall, and wave both hands.”
- “Pretend to fly like a bird, turn around one time, and sit down.”
- “Put your hands on your hips, take two giant steps, and make a silly face.”
- “Cup your hand around your ear, point to the Bible, and give a thumbs-up.”

What You Say:

“That was fun! You had to become quiet and pay close attention so you could hear the message. Sometimes the words or directions changed as they traveled down the line because we didn’t hear every part clearly. This game reminds us that listening takes focus. Our lives can be filled with noise and distractions, but we can make quiet time to pray and focus on what God says through the Bible. Remember our ***[Teaching Focus] Clear away distractions and listen for God’s voice.***”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Keep each team small so children do not have to wait too long for a turn.
- Have children whisper from a comfortable distance instead of speaking directly into another child’s ear.
- Allow children who need additional support to hear the message a second time.
- A child who is uncomfortable whispering may quietly speak the message.
- Adapt the motions so children with limited mobility can perform them with their hands while seated.
- If there are only a few children, play together as one team and repeat the game with a different starting person.