

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God is always with us.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say, "With God's love, I know I am never alone."

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 19:1-18, The Lord Appears to Elijah

MEMORY VERSE:

"God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn't make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

After his victory at Mount Carmel, the queen wanted to kill Elijah. Elijah fled into the wilderness alone. He was scared and sad. But God sent an angel to supply for his needs; then God appeared to Elijah to let him know that he is never alone.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for always being by our side.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

“God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn’t make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (NirV)

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Split the main group in two. See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest.

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

SKIT

FEAR TALK: LONELINESS

ITEMS NEEDED:

A monster mask

An all black costume for The Dark

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 M or F

CHARACTERS:

The Monster

The Dark

The stage is set up like a talk show, with two chairs angled toward one another at center. The Monster and The Dark sit in the chairs.

MONSTER: Good morning, and Welcome to Fear Talk. I'm the Monster that lives in a closet.

DARK: And I'm the Dark.

MONSTER: Each week we're going to talk about something that gives us the heebie jeebies.

DARK: That's right, kids. Strange as it sounds, even the big guy and I are afraid of some things.

MONSTER: Dark, is there another fear you would like to talk about?

DARK: Only if you promise not to make fun.

MONSTER: I promise, man, what is it?

DARK: The one thing that scares me the most... is Light.

MONSTER: Light?

SKIT

DARK: Darkness can't stand light, man. When there's light, there's no Dark. And I vanish into utter loneliness.

MONSTER: What kind of light?

DARK: Any kind of light. Sun light, candle light, lamp light, Crystal Light.

MONSTER: Wait, wait, wait. Did you say Crystal Light? Like the drink?

DARK: What can I say? Artificial sweeteners are scary.

MONSTER: Sounds to me like the one thing you're really scared of is loneliness.

DARK: You know, I never thought about it like that, but you're right. When there's light, I have no place to be. I am completely alone. It's good because there's no bugs, but it's bad because there's nobody else. No kids sleeping. No dogs. No cats. No bats.

MONSTER: You like bats?

DARK: I'm the Dark, dude. I love bats!

MONSTER: Well, buddy, as a guy who spends a lot of alone time sitting in a closet, I can tell you that you're never truly alone with God. You remember last week we talked about Elijah standing up to that bully Ahab?

DARK: How could I forget?

MONSTER: As soon as that encounter was over, Elijah had to run for his life. He wound up hiding in a cave feeling completely alone and abandoned.

DARK: That sounds awful. Sounds like every morning when the sun comes up!

MONSTER: But God showed Elijah he was NOT alone! God was there the whole time, and He's always there for everybody who loves Him!

DARK: Even scary guys like us?

MONSTER: Even scary guys like us.

DARK: Wow, you have no idea how long I've waited to hear something like that. I'm not alone in the void. God is with me.

MONSTER: And kids, God is always, always with you too!

SKIT

DARK: Now I feel like I can face every day with confidence. Thanks, pal!

MONSTER: Any time, my friend!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Friendship bracelets

Have any of you ever made a friendship bracelet? Have any of you ever been given one? Friendship bracelets are a reminder that there's someone who likes us for who we are. They remind us we have someone who cares and will be there for us. They remind us of the special friends we have, and they comfort us by reminding us we are not alone in this world.

Regardless how many friends you have or how many friendship bracelets, there is one friend who is always by our side even when our other friends can't be. Jesus wanted to be our friend so badly, He gave His life for us. We can have a personal relationship with Jesus and call on Him any time of day or night. He is always there, so we are never, ever alone!

When you feel lonely, remember that there's someone who is always there for you. Call on the name of Jesus, and He will be there any time, any where.

LARGE GROUP GAME

LAST ONE STANDING

ITEMS NEEDED:

A ball
Music

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose a large number of kids and play a game of hot potato. When the music plays, the kids will pass the ball around the circle. When it stops playing, whomever is holding the ball is out. Keep going until there's just one kid standing.

VARIATION:

To speed the game up, pass 2-3 balls around the circle until you are down to just 3 or fewer players. Then switch to one to finish out.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

With God, we are never alone!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God is always with us.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say, "With God's love, I know I am never alone."

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 19:1-18, The Lord Appears to Elijah

INTRO:

People have fears for many reasons. Danger is a big one. People fear spiders, heights, snakes, and even going into the water because there's an element of danger to each of these. Experience is another. Someone who has been burned by a hot stove might have a fear of the stove or even fire, and someone who has been hurt by a dog, even unintentionally, might find dogs to be scary. Discomfort is yet another reason for fear. Some people fear confined spaces, and others fear wide open spaces. Some people fear big crowds. Some fear rejection, ridicule, and being alone.

Being alone isn't always a bad thing, of course. We all have moments we just want to be by ourselves so we can relax, breathe, and take a break. But there's a big difference between having an alone moment and feeling alone. You feel alone when you want some companionship and no one is around. You feel alone when no one understands you or what you are going through. You feel alone when you've been abandoned, or when people have turned against you and left no one on your side. That is the loneliness that all of us fear.

The good news is we are never actually alone. God is always with us, watching over us. He's watching over every child of God who has given their heart to Jesus, and for them, He is just a prayer away. He's there for the people who don't believe in Him as well, hoping that they will turn to Him and discover He is always there for them too.

Today's scripture is actually a continuation of last week's story. You may remember that the prophet Elijah had stood up to the bullies Ahab and Jezebel. You may remember that after the prophets of a false god had failed to call fire from Heaven, God had answered Elijah's prayer and sent fire to consume his offering. It was a great victory for the Lord, and for Elijah. So what did Elijah do next? He ran for his life. He ran and hid in a cave, feeling lonelier and sadder than he ever had in his life.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

But Elijah soon discovered he was not actually alone!

READ 1 KINGS 19:1-18

MAIN POINT:

You can't blame Elijah for feeling lonely. He may have won the battle against Ahab, but Ahab still had the power to make Elijah's life miserable. He had no friends to support him. He had no allies to help him. In spite of having won a great victory, Elijah found himself isolated and alone. He wanted to die!

God was not through with Elijah. He still had work for Elijah to do, but more important than that, God still loved Elijah. He could have lectured Elijah, scolding him for losing faith so easily. God was gentle with his servant. He fed him and comforted him, and when the time was right, He showed Elijah that He was still there.

God is always with us, even in our darkest, loneliest hours. If we know God and God's love, we know we are never alone.

DRIVE IT HOME:

One of the great things about the gospels is how they reveal Jesus' human experience. We know Jesus suffered great loss in His life, even before He was crucified. We know Jesus had His bad days when He wanted to be alone for a bit to rest and pray. We also know that Jesus had the kind of lonely moments we are talking about today, when it feels like everyone has abandoned you.

Jesus felt that loneliness on the night He was betrayed. Even though He had eleven close friends with Him while He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He felt alone because they were all asleep. He alone knew what was about to happen, and even though He was not yet in custody, He felt abandoned. When the soldiers arrived to arrest Him, His disciples fled. Only two of them followed Him to His overnight trial, watching from afar. Only one went all the way to the cross, standing beside Jesus' mother as she watched Him die.

Jesus knows what it is to be truly lonely. He knows because the same people who had welcomed Him to Jerusalem turned against Him and called for His death. He knows because the disciple who vowed to follow Jesus even unto death had denied ever knowing Jesus three times. He knows because He was sentenced to die with no one to defend Him.

Jesus knows how it feels to be lonely. He endured all that loneliness and shame so we could have a relationship with Him. If we know Jesus as our Savior, we know we are never alone. We have His Holy Spirit with us, and that Spirit will give us comfort just as God did for Elijah.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

If you need to receive Jesus as your Savior, you can do so today. You can get to know the Lord who is always watching over you personally, and you can see for yourself that you are never alone. If we know God's love, we will always have a constant companion who knows us better than anyone! Jesus wants us to trust Him with our lives. He wants to assure us we are never, ever alone!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for always being by our side.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Where's your favorite place to go when you want to be alone?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:**2 Timothy 1:7**

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of "I have never..." Each kid will stand and say something they have never done, and if any other kid has never done that thing, they will stand up too.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**Read 1 Kings 19:1-18**

Where did Elijah go?

Why was Elijah sad?

Was Elijah really alone?

How did God reveal Himself to Elijah?

What should we do when we feel sad and alone?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us remember that you are always near us!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Where's your favorite place to go when you want to be alone?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:**2 Timothy 1:7**

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of "I have never..." Each kid will stand and say something they have never done, and if any other kid has never done that thing, they will stand up too.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**Read 1 Kings 19:1-18**

Why was Elijah sad?

How did God reveal Himself to Elijah?

Have you ever felt alone or abandoned?

How does it make you feel when it seems like no one cares?

What should we do when we feel sad and alone?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us remember that you are always near us!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Who wanted to kill Elijah?
A. Ahab
B. Jezebel*
C. The prophets of Baal

2. What did Elijah ask God?
A. To heal him.
B. To let him die.*
C. To forgive Jezebel.

3. Where did Elijah go?
A. Jerusalem
B. Egypt
C. Horeb*

4. Where did God reveal himself?
A. In a whisper*
B. In an earthquake
C. In a fire

5. Who is always with us at all times?
A. Our family
B. Our friends
C. Our God*



FEAR LESS

Our God Can Conquer Fear

4 Week Children's Ministry Curriculum

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Fear<Less Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BEING ALONE



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

After his victory at Mount Carmel, the queen wanted to kill Elijah. Elijah fled into the wilderness alone. He was scared and sad. But God sent an angel to supply for his needs; then God appeared to Elijah to let him know that he is never alone. 1 Kings 19:1-18, The Lord Appears to Elijah



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids where their favorite alone spot is. Ask them if they've ever felt really lonely, like no one cares. Share with them a time you felt lonely and how you responded to it.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Elijah feel so alone?
- Was Elijah really alone?
- What should we do when we feel lonely?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

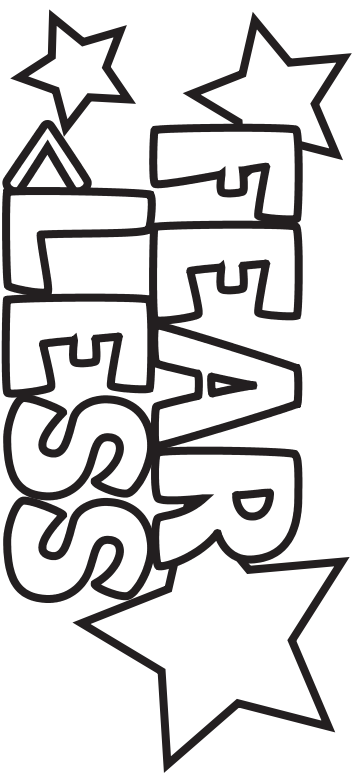
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PARENT TIME:

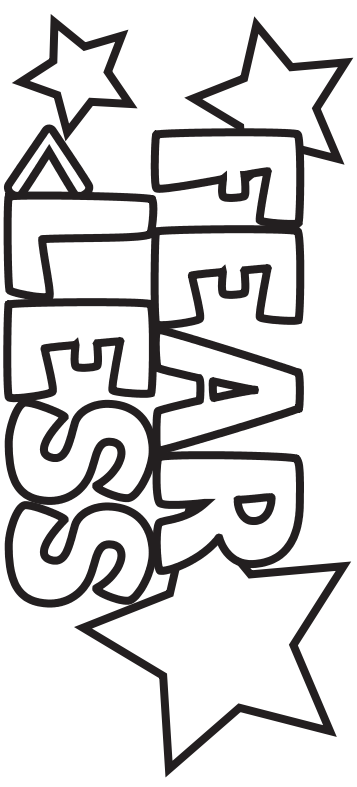
What you need to know:

Being alone is not always bad, but no one likes to feel alone and abandoned. Talk with your kids and let them know they can always come to you when you need them. More important, let them know that God is always there for them!



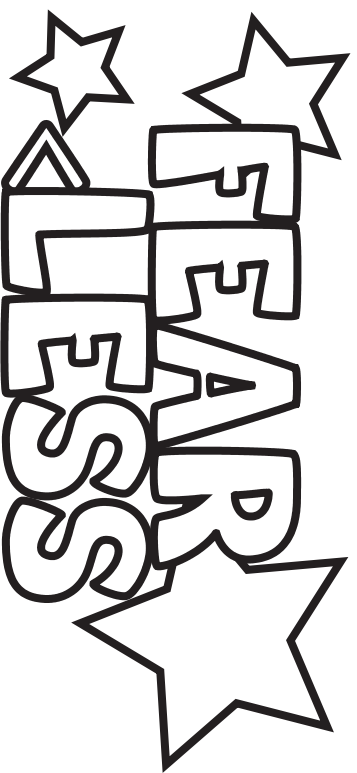
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- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)



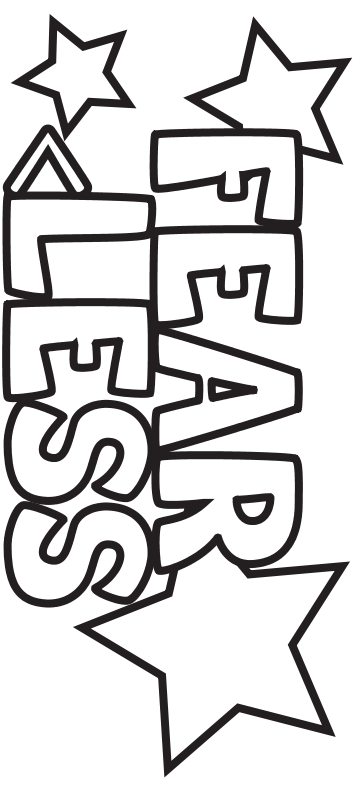
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make a small card they can keep in their purses, wallets, book bags, or pockets. On the card, have them write or draw something to remind them that they are never alone. Jesus is always with them!