

ART STATION

STATION FOCUS

Elijah, a prophet of God, trusted God even when all things seemed impossible things seemed impossible. We can trust God too, and have hope.

SCRIPTURES

1 Kings 17:1-16; 19:8-13

Psalm 46:10; Proverbs 3:5-6 (GNT)

STATION OBJECTIVES

Children will

- * hear the story of the prophet Elijah;
- * learn a definition of the term *prophet* and be able to locate stories about the prophet Elijah in the books of 1 and 2 Kings;
- * hear examples of how Elijah trusted God and discover ways they can trust God in their lives;
- * learn about some of the unlikely ways God cared for and provided for Elijah and recognize and be able to discuss ways God cares for and provides for them;
- * discover ways that Elijah heard and talked to God and talk about ways they can listen for God and talk to God in their lives.

STATION SETUP

Make a paper banner large enough for each group to add their own thoughts throughout the unit. Write “Prophets Speak the Truth About God” across the top of the banner paper. Under the heading write “I’m a servant of the living Lord, the God of Israel. (1 Kings 17:1, CEV).” Then, write “Elijah, the Prophet” to indicate that these are Elijah’s words.

Resources

pages 3–8

Supplies

large piece of banner
paper
markers
masking tape or
adhesive putty

Use tape or adhesive putty to hang the banner on the wall where children can easily reach it. Place markers nearby.

As children enter each week, invite the children to add their own truths about God to the wall hanging.

Photocopy the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible References, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, and Shepherd Tips for each leader and shepherd (pages 3–8).

Resources

Bible
Bible concordance
book of quotations or
www.brainyquote.com

Note

Resources and websites are constantly changing. Check www.powerxpress.com for updates that may help you in planning.

Resources

Bibles
“Elijah Listened for God” (page 26)

WANT TO DO MORE?

Use a Bible and Bible concordance to find statements from other prophets, such as Isaiah or Jeremiah. Add some of these verses to the banner. Include the name of each prophet.

Search a book of quotations or www.brainyquote.com for quotes about God from more contemporary prophets such as Mother Theresa or Martin Luther King, Jr. Add these proclamations to the banner.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Shepherds should know the whereabouts of every child in the shepherd’s group, and they should know where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Check for allergies to any materials being used.
- Encourage the children to handle art supplies and tools sensibly.

BIBLE STORY (5–10 minutes)

Help the children find the story of Elijah meeting God on Mt. Sinai in 1 Kings 19:8-13.

Read “Elijah Listened for God” from page 26.

Ask: If you could hear the voice of God, what do you think it would sound like? What do you think people have to do in order to hear the voice of God?

For older children: How much time do you spend listening for God’s direction in your life?

Be still,
and know that I am God!
(Psalm 46:10)

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Choose from the suggested activities as your time and the children's interests allow.

For All Ages Still Life of Silence

Prepare

To remember the story of how God came to Elijah in silence and with a still, small voice, children will create still life paintings in the style of Evaristo Baschenis, depicting something normally associated with a lot of noise in a silent way.

Find a still life by Baschenis, available on the computer at <http://www.wga.hu/frames-e.html?/html/b/bascheni/index.html>. Print out a copy, or display it on a laptop or electronic pad.

Arrange work areas with plenty of space. Display musical instruments where each group can see them. Cover the tables.

With the Children

Say: When the Hebrews thought about God, they remembered times when God came in a burning flame or a pillar of fire. They thought of times when God spoke and whole worlds were created. They thought of loud, booming, thunderous sounds. In the story of Elijah on Mt. Sinai, though, something unexpected happened. God spoke in sheer silence and in a still, small voice.

Today, we are going to create art that illustrates how something normally associated with loud sounds can be captured in silence.

Show the children one of Evaristo Baschenis' paintings.

Say: One of the greatest still life artists was an Italian who lived in the 1600s. His name was Evaristo Baschenis, and he was known for his paintings of musical instruments. Some scholars believe that Baschenis had a particular musical piece in mind for each of his paintings because all the instruments needed for the musical piece would be present in the painting. Instruments that usually created great sounds seem frozen in silence, waiting to be heard.

Divide the children into groups of three or four. Assign each group to a work area. Let the children arrange their still life scenes.

Option: Help the children create thematic settings where all the instruments needed for a single piece are grouped together. For example:

- Caroling Instruments: an assortment of bells
- Drum Beats: different kinds of drums
- Marching Sounds: band instruments
- Party Celebration: noisemakers

Resources

A still life by Evaristo Baschenis. (See "Prepare".)

Supplies

tablecloths
heavy white paper
colored pencils
paints
paintbrushes
display items such as
a wooden bowl,
musical instruments,
noisemakers, black
feathers, small
pottery flask

Talk Tip

Talk to the children about whispers. In order to hear someone whisper we have to listen more closely to the person. Talk about what it means to think of God as a whispering God.

Give the children paper and colored pencils to draw basic outlines. When they finish the outlines, they can fill in their scenes with paint.

Ask: When you hear a musical instrument, do you focus more on the sound of the drum or the way it looks? How does seeing an instrument painted in stillness and silence help you to see new things about the instrument? What types of sounds do people normally associate with the voice of God? What was unexpected about how God spoke to Elijah? How does focusing on a still, quiet, whispering God help us understand God more?

Resources

Bible

Supplies

large appliance boxes
(available from many
appliance stores)

box cutter
old sheets
pastel pencils
pastels

paper towels
optional: tables,
tablecloths, brown
craft paper, scissors,
tape

For All Ages Collective Cave Drawing

Prepare

Gather several large appliance boxes. Cut openings in the boxes so the children can crawl inside. Place the boxes on old sheets. Put pastels and pastel pencils inside each box.

With the Children

Tell about Elijah on Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:8-13) in your own words.

Say: Elijah traveled for more than forty days to Mt. Sinai to see God. When Elijah arrived on the mountain, he was very tired and crawled inside a cave to sleep. Imagine you are an archaeologist and you have just discovered Elijah's cave. Pretend that while Elijah was there, he made drawings on the walls of the cave to record the events of his life as a prophet.

Ask: What might he have drawn?

Explain that the boxes around the room represent Elijah's cave. The children will imagine they are Elijah, crawl inside one of the caves, and use the pastels and pastel pencils to draw pictures from Elijah's life on the walls.

When the children complete their drawings, have them use paper towels to smudge the drawings and make them appear older and more like actual cave drawings.

Options

1. Cover the outside of the boxes with brown craft paper and let the children decorate the outsides of the boxes as well.
2. If you can't find large appliance boxes,
 - Cover the undersides of tables with brown craft paper. Drape the tables with tablecloths that go almost all the way to the floor. Let the children crawl under the tables and draw on the paper.
 - Cover a wall with brown craft paper and have children draw on the wall.

Talk Tip

Help children think about the important events Elijah would have recorded from his life.

For All Ages

A Prophet's Life

Ask: What are some of the stories you have learned about Elijah? How do these stories help us learn more about God and what it means to follow God? What is an illustrator?

Say: Imagine you are an illustrator. You have been given the task of telling the story of Elijah's life through pictures. Instead of using several pages, you will draw everything you know about the life of Elijah on a single page. This way, you can look at the whole life of Elijah at one time.

Give each child a large piece of brown construction paper. Let the children use pastels or pastel pencils to draw several scenes from Elijah's life on their papers.

Show the children how to use paper towels or their hands to smudge the pictures and blend the different scenes of Elijah's life together.

Option: Let the children also illustrate scenes from their own lives.

Supplies

large pieces of brown construction paper
pastels
pastel pencils
paper towels

Talk Tip

What do you see when you look at all of Elijah's life at once?

For All Ages

Rainy-Day Reminders

Say: Elijah said only God can make rain. Let's decorate umbrellas to place near the church entrance as a reminder that God is the Creator of all and the giver of the rain.

To Decorate Umbrellas

Give the children paper and pencils. Have them sketch what they will draw on each umbrella. Decide as a group on a design for the center of the umbrella, such as rain clouds, a sunburst, or a rainbow.

Let the children paint this design first. (**Note:** Always work from the middle of the umbrella out to avoid smudging your paint.) Children can paint free hand or use stamps. If using stamps, cover a hardback book with newspaper. Place the book under the umbrella on the other side of the fabric from where the stamp will be. While pressing the stamp on the umbrella, press up firmly with the book.

As a group, select a message for the outer edge of the umbrella, such as "Only God can make the rain," "Rejoice in this rainy day," or "Trust in the Lord even when it rains."

Plot out how to place the letters around the outer edge of the umbrella. Do not write or paint on the seams of the umbrella; the paint will peel off. The children can use letter stencils or paint it freehand.

Add finishing touches, if necessary, and then leave the umbrella open to dry for a day or two.

Supplies

black umbrellas
paper
pencils
thin paintbrushes
acrylic paints
marker
small, kitchen-size plastic garbage can
blank, white index cards
laminating sheets or clear contact paper
(optional: letter stencils, stamps, hardback book covered with newspaper)

Talk Tip

Talk about everyday ways we can look for God's power.

Resources

Bible

Supplies

newspaper
white school glue
water
cups
construction paper
pencils
paintbrushes
black feathers

Talk Tip

Encourage children to talk about ways God helps us.

Resources

still life items for displays

Supplies

boxes paper comes in (or similar)
paper
tape
colored pencils

To Decorate the Umbrella Stand

Use acrylic paints to paint designs on a plastic garbage can. If desired, create a message to paint on the can as well. For example,

Caught in the rain unprepared?

Here's an umbrella to show we care.

Borrow when needed and return when through.

Remember: God made the rain, and God made you too!

Love from the children of (*your church name*)

For Younger Children: Write the note that explains the purpose of the umbrellas on an index card to be attached to the cans. Laminate the card (or cover it with clear contract paper) and attach it to the can.

For Older Children: Let the children write and laminate the note.

Ask: What did Elijah say about the rain? What does it mean when we say that God is the Creator of all?

For Younger Children

Raven Collages

Prepare

Cover work surfaces with newspaper or other coverings.

Make watered-down glue by mixing equal parts water and white glue.

With the Children

Review the story of Elijah and the ravens (1 Kings 17:1-7).

Give each child a piece of construction paper and a pencil. Let the children draw pictures to illustrate the story of Elijah and the ravens or pictures of ways God helps us today. When their pictures are finished, let the children paint their drawings with a thin layer of watered-down glue. They can then add black feathers to the drawings.

Ask: Why did Elijah hide in the wilderness? How did God use the ravens to help Elijah? What are some ways God cares for us?

For Older Children

Trust Drawings

Prepare

This activity emphasizes trusting when you cannot see.

Create a display of still life items.

Give each child a box. Instruct them to place the box on its side, with the opening of the box facing them. Place a piece of paper inside the box, where the child can easily draw on it. (**Note:** Tape the paper to the box to keep it from sliding.)

Have the children sit to the side of their box where they can easily reach inside to draw on the paper but cannot see the paper.

Give these instructions:

1. Look at a single item in the display. Focus your attention on the lines and shape of that item.
2. Keeping your eyes focused on the item, draw what you see on the paper inside the box, but do not look at your paper while you draw.
4. Look at your drawing after you finish.

Ask: Did you think you would be able to draw a picture of something without looking at what you were doing? Why or why not? What do you think of your pictures? Did anything about this activity surprise you? How did it feel to draw a picture this way? How does this activity remind you of Proverbs 3:5-6?

For Older Children

Feathered Friends

Prepare

Cover the work surface with newspaper or other protective covering.

Place paper, pencils, and paints on the table.

With the Children

Review the story of Elijah and the ravens (1 Kings 17:1-7).

Give each child paper and pencil to draw a picture to illustrate a scene from the story. Then have them paint their pictures with sturdy feathers.

Talk Tip

Trust allows us to discover we are capable of doing things we never dreamed about doing before. Ask the children how trusting has helped them do new things.

Resources

Bible

Supplies

newspaper
paper
pencils
paints
sturdy feathers
(available at craft stores)
paint smocks

Talk Tip

Talk about how the ravens helped Elijah in the wilderness.

CLOSING (5 minutes)

Have the children find quiet, comfortable spots away from one another.

Say (*softly*): Take four slow, deep breaths. (*pause*) God came to Elijah in sheer silence. God spoke to Elijah with the softness of a gentle breeze. God whispered, and Elijah heard God and went to meet God.

Say (*softly*): Now take two more slow, deep breaths (*pause*). Psalm 46 says that God said, "Be still, and know that I am God!" Be still and know that God is God. Wait and listen, like Elijah. Be open to God calling you.

Close With Prayer: Loving God, help us to recognize you and to feel your presence in the times of still quietness (*pause in silence*). Amen.

Elijah Listened for God

by Suzann Wade

Elijah was a prophet who told people the truth about God. Many people at that time did not believe in God. King Ahab wanted all God's people to worship false gods like Baal. Elijah did not give in to the pressure of King Ahab. In fact, Elijah told the king he was wrong to worship another god. Elijah told the king that God was the only true God and only God has power over the earth. Elijah's words made King Ahab very angry, and Elijah had to hide from Ahab. Elijah spent many years hiding from the king.

During one of those times while Elijah was hiding—this time in the desert—Elijah did something amazing when he listened for God. Elijah spoke to God face to face.

An angel awoke Elijah one morning and gave him a special meal. The angel said, "Wake up, and eat. This food will give you strength for your long journey."

Elijah ate the meal, and the food made him strong enough to walk forty days to Mt. Sinai. When Elijah arrived on the mountain, he crawled into a cave and fell asleep.

God woke Elijah and asked, "Elijah, why are you here?" Elijah answered, "God, I always want to do my best for you, but being your prophet is really hard. Everyone has turned away from you, and they are worshiping other gods. Anyone who tells the truth about you is in danger of being killed, including me. So I am hiding here."

God said, "Elijah, go stand on the mountain and wait for me to pass by." Elijah went out and stood on the mountain.

What would God sound like face to face?
Elijah wondered. Elijah waited and listened for God.

A huge wind that sounded like a hurricane blew across the mountain. The wind howled and screeched. The wind was so strong that even the rocks on the mountain shook and broke. The wind was very noisy and powerful—but God was not in the howling wind.

Elijah waited and listened for God.

Suddenly, the entire mountain shook with an earthquake. Pebbles and stones fell all around, pelting the ground with sharp thuds. Large boulders slammed and thumped down the side of the mountain. The force and noise of the earthquake was fierce—but God was not in the earthquake.

Elijah waited and listened for God.

A raging fire erupted on the side of the mountain. Branches and plants crackled in the heat of the flames. Smoke and heat filled the air. The roaring fire was full of power and heat—but God was not in the fire.

Elijah waited and listened for God.

Then complete silence fell upon the mountain, like a gentle breeze or a soft whisper. The air was still and quiet. Elijah heard the sound of quiet and silence. There in the midst of the silence, Elijah heard God. God was there in the quiet.

Covering his face, Elijah went out and spoke to God. After talking to God, Elijah felt stronger and better. Elijah left the quiet of Mt. Sinai and went back to telling God's people the truth about God.

Wherever Elijah went, he never forgot his day on the mountain, when God spoke to him in the middle of the silence.