

GAME 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)

GAME

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.

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).

Supplies

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

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 parents in case of an emergency.
- Make sure the children have plenty of space to play games. Remove any obstacles.
- Make sure children follow instructions in a safe manner. Invite extra adult help, if needed, for the number of children in this station.
- Monitor the difference between high energy levels and rowdiness.

BIBLE STORY (5–10 minutes)

Help the children find 1 Kings 17 in the Bible. Read the stories of Elijah and the ravens and Elijah and the widow from 1 Kings 17:1–16.

Help the children find the Book of Proverbs. Read Proverbs 3:5–6 (GNT).

Ask: Where did God tell Elijah to go? How did God take care of Elijah? How do these stories remind us of the verse from Proverbs?

Read “God Speaks in a Whisper” on page 120 of The Family Story Bible.

For Younger Children

Ask: How did God speak to Elijah in this story? Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” How did being still help Elijah to hear and follow God?

Note

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

Resources

Bibles (Good News Translation)
The Family Story Bible by Ralph Milton

For Older Children

Have the children look up and review 1 Kings 19:8-16.

Ask the children to retell the story of Elijah talking to God on Mt. Sinai as follows: Read the first sentence from Ralph Milton's telling of "God Speaks in a Whisper." Then have each child add a sentence telling the next part of the story.

When the story is finished, say the Bible verse together: "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

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 Find the Story

Prepare

Make a copy of the "Books of the Bible" chart (page 55) for each child.

The story about Elijah is in 1 Kings, one of the history books of the Old Testament. This game will help the children locate 1 Kings and find the story of Elijah. At the same time, the game builds basic Bible knowledge skills by helping the children determine whether a book is found in the Old Testament or the New Testament. This game works best if everyone is working with the same translation of the Bible.

With the Children

Give each child a Bible. Give younger children a copy of the "Books of the Bible" chart. Let older children try the game without the chart.

To Play

1. Call out the name of a book from the Bible, such as Matthew, and ask, "Old or New?" The children then shout out whether they think it is in the Old Testament or the New Testament.
3. Call out, "Front, middle, or back?" (meaning front, middle, or back of the selected testament). The children respond.
5. Say, "Find it." The children find the book in their Bible.
6. Be sure all the children have found the book before moving on to the next one.

Note: Give the page number for those having a difficult time. Encourage children to help one another. Give older children a copy of the chart if they need it. Give all the older children a copy of the chart at the end of the game.

Let 1 Kings be the last book in the sequence. Have the children find 1 Kings 17 with the story of the ravens and the story of the widow. Then have them locate 1 Kings 19, the story of Elijah on Mt. Sinai (Horeb).

Resources

Bibles
"Books of the Bible"
chart (page 55)

GAME

Note

Younger elementary children can learn to use the Bible in this way. However, if your children are all younger than second grade, you will want to use this activity with older children only.

Resources

Bible verse cards
(page 56)

Supplies

scissors
tape
plastic play food
(26 pieces)
chair
(optional: stopwatch)

Talk Tip

How are these verses
like the message from
Elijah's stories?

GAME

Talk Tip

Encourage the children
to talk about how they
keep their focus on
God and watch for
God's direction.

For All Ages

Gathering Ravens

Prepare

Copy and cut apart the Bible verse cards on page 56. Tape each card to a piece of play food.

With the Children

Begin with Psalm 46:10. Scatter the verse cards around the room.

Ask a volunteer to be Elijah and sit in the middle of the room.

Remind the children of how the ravens brought food to Elijah. Instruct the children to be the ravens, find the food, and bring it to Elijah.

Once the ravens have gathered all the food, have Elijah and the ravens work together to put the words of the Bible verse in the correct order.

Option: Time the process. Scatter the food again, and select a new Elijah. Challenge the class to assemble the verse more quickly each time.

Repeat the process with the food for Proverbs 3:5-6 (GNT).

Then, scatter the food for both verses at the same time. Have the children gather the food and work with Elijah to assemble both verses.

For All Ages

Who Is the Leader?

1. Gather in a circle.
2. Ask for a volunteer to be the searcher and leave the room.
3. While the searcher is out, ask another volunteer to be the leader.
4. The leader begins a motion, such as clapping hands. Everyone else imitates the leader's motions.
5. Practice until the leader and the group feel confident.
6. Have the searcher come back into the room, stand in the middle of the circle, and watch the group imitate the motions of the leader.
7. An adult then asks the searcher, "Who is the leader?" The searcher has three chances to guess who the leader is.
8. At the end of three guesses, the leader is revealed.
9. The leader becomes the new searcher, leaves the room, and the game continues.

Ask: How could you tell who was the leader? How did the leaders help the group follow them? What did the followers have to do to follow the leader? Who did Elijah follow? How did people know Elijah was following God? What did Elijah have to do to understand where God was leading him? How can people tell when we are following God? How can we focus on God? What can Elijah teach us about following God's lead?

For All Ages

Wind, Earthquake, Fire, Quiet

Resources
Bible

Review the story of Elijah on Mt. Sinai from 1 Kings 19:8-16.

Say: Elijah experienced four forces of nature on the mountain while waiting and listening for God. (Let the children name them: a wind, an earthquake, a fire, and total silence.) We are going to play a game that combines these four elements of the story with an old theater warmup game known as Zip, Zap, Zop.

To Play

1. Have the children stand in a circle.
2. The entire circle begins marching in place and clapping.
3. A leader, while still marching and clapping, points to a child in the circle, makes eye contact, and says, "Wind!"
4. The child, still marching and clapping, points to another child, makes eye contact, and says, "Earthquake!"
5. The third child, marching and clapping, points to a fourth child, makes eye contact, and says, "Fire!"
6. The fourth child, marching and clapping, points to a fifth child, makes eye contact, and says, "Quiet!"
7. The whole group freezes in place.
8. After a short pause, the fifth child points to another child, makes eye contact, says, "Wind," and the game continues.

Rules

1. A child who says the wrong word at the wrong time is out and sits in the middle of the circle to watch the rest of the children play.
2. If it is unclear at whom a child is pointing, the child pointing is out and must sit in the middle of the circle.
3. Children who pause too long after someone has pointed at them are out and join the others in the middle of the circle.
4. Those who are out help determine when other children are out after breaking one of the rules.
5. Continue to play until just one child is left or until the interest of the children wanes.

GAME

Resources

Bibles

Supplies

table
 blindfold
 metal scissors
 plastic chopsticks
 pencils
 comb
 ruler
 rock
 aluminum foil
 paper bag
 plastic bag

GAME

Talk Tip

What do you think the voice of God sounds like?

Talk Tip

Model good listening skills for the children by the way you listen to them. Encourage them to think of ways to include listening in their times of prayer.

For All Ages

Listen, What Do You Hear?

Place all the items in the supplies list (except the blindfold) on the table. Invite the children to investigate and play with the different items. After a minute or two, play the game.

1. Select a child to be It, and blindfold him or her.
2. Give each of the remaining children a single item from the table.
3. One at a time, have the children make noise with their items.
4. Each time, give It two chances to guess which item made the noise.
5. Keep score of the number of correct guesses.
6. Select a new It and continue playing until every child has been It.

Ask: What did you do when you were first told to study the items on the table? Did you take time to study what the items sounded like? When did you begin to pay more attention to the sounds of the items? What does the story of Elijah teach us about how God sounds when God speaks to us?

Read 1 Kings 19:11-13.

Ask: What did Elijah hear that told him God was there?

For Younger Children

Be Still! Listen!

This game is a combination of a freezing game and a quiet game.

To Play

1. Instruct the children to move around the room at a regular pace.
2. After 60 seconds shout, "Be Still!" Children must freeze where they are.
3. Whisper, "Listen."
4. After 15 seconds ask, "What did you hear?" Let children tell what they heard.
5. Instruct children to move around the room normally again.
6. After 45 seconds shout, "Be Still!" The children will freeze in position.
7. Whisper, "Listen."
8. After 30 seconds ask, "What did you hear?"

Repeat the activity. This time, have children move for 30 seconds and listen for 45. Then repeat a final time. Have the children move for 15 seconds and listen for 60 seconds.

Ask: Was it hard to stop and listen? Did it get harder or easier to stop and listen? Did you hear new things or the same things each time you listened? Elijah went to Mt. Sinai to listen to God. What can we do to listen to God?

For Younger Children

The Quiet Game

Play the quiet game, where you challenge everyone to remain quiet as long as possible. Stop the game when someone talks or when you believe enough time has elapsed. Repeat the game.

Ask: Was it hard to stay quiet? When you are being quiet, do you ever listen to the sounds around you? What are some things you hear when you are quiet?

Play the quiet game again, and this time encourage the children to listen for different sounds.

Ask: Was it easier to be quiet this time? What did you hear?

Say: Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Ask: Is it easy for you to be still? Is it easier to be still when you are listening for something?

Say: God has filled the world with wonderful sounds that we often do not hear because we are so busy talking or doing other things. When we take time to be still, we hear these quiet sounds that God has created. When Elijah was still, he heard the voice of God. Being still is not about trying to stay quiet. Being still is about listening for God and the wonderful quiet sounds that God created.

Repeat the Bible verse, “Be still, and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10) with the children.

For Older Children

Attention, People of God

Prepare

One of the biggest challenges that a prophet like Elijah faced was getting the people of God to listen. This game demonstrates just how hard it can be to get people to listen, and it encourages children to explore different ways a prophet might talk to the people of God.

With the Children

Divide the children into groups of three. Give each group three chairs, and have them place their chairs in a straight line.

In each group, one child will be the prophet, one will be one of God’s people, and one will be a representative of the king. The child who is one of God’s people sits in the middle chair. The prophet sits on one side of this person and the representative of the king sits on the other.

The leader says, “Go,” and starts timing with the stopwatch.

Talk Tip

Being still and being quiet can be difficult for young children because their focus is on being passive and not talking. Teaching children to listen for quiet noises during these times helps them learn how to be active in the midst of being still.

GAME

Supplies

3 chairs
stopwatch or watch

Talk Tip

Older children are under a lot of pressure to conform. Help the children see that Elijah faced similar pressures to conform. Talk about the choices Elijah made. Support the children by listening to their thoughts and concerns.

Both the prophet and the representative of the king start talking to the middle child, competing for attention. They can talk, make funny noises, and move about to attract the attention of the middle child, but they cannot touch the child.

Call time after thirty seconds. Let the middle child in each group then tells which of the two talkers was more captivating.

Ask: How did it feel to be in the middle and have people talking to you nonstop? How did it feel to be a talker and compete for attention? How do you think Elijah felt when he was competing for people’s attention? What are some things we can do to make it easier to hear what God is trying to say to us?

Option: Repeat the game. This time the characters will be a child, a person teaching about God, and a person arguing that we should do what everybody else is doing and not worry about God or what is going on at church.

GAME

Resources

* *Elijah* MP3

Supplies

MP3 player

CLOSING (5 minutes)

Prepare

Cue the *Elijah* MP3 to “Be Still.”

With the Children

Say: Elijah heard God on the mountain because Elijah stopped, waited, and listened for God. Sometimes when we pray or spend time with God, we spend more time talking than we do listening. Remember Psalm 46:10.

Repeat the verse and let the children repeat it after you: “Be still, and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10)

Play “Be Still” from the *Elijah* MP3.

Close With Prayer: Loving God, help us be still in this time of silent prayer and remember that you are God (silence for 15 seconds). Amen.

Books of the Bible

Old Testament

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Genesis | 14. 2 Chronicles | 27. Daniel |
| 2. Exodus | 15. Ezra | 28. Hosea |
| 3. Leviticus | 16. Nehemiah | 29. Joel |
| 4. Numbers | 17. Esther | 30. Amos |
| 5. Deuteronomy | 18. Job | 31. Obadiah |
| 6. Joshua | 19. Psalms | 32. Jonah |
| 7. Judges | 20. Proverbs | 33. Micah |
| 8. Ruth | 21. Ecclesiastes | 34. Nahum |
| 9. 1 Samuel | 22. Song of Solomon | 35. Habakkuk |
| 10. 2 Samuel | 23. Isaiah | 36. Zephaniah |
| 11. 1 Kings | 24. Jeremiah | 37. Haggai |
| 12. 2 Kings | 25. Lamentations | 38. Zechariah |
| 13. 1 Chronicles | 26. Ezekiel | 39. Malachi |

New Testament

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Matthew | 15. 1 Timothy |
| 2. Mark | 16. 2 Timothy |
| 3. Luke | 17. Titus |
| 4. John | 18. Philemon |
| 5. Acts | 19. Hebrews |
| 6. Romans | 20. James |
| 7. 1 Corinthians | 21. 1 Peter |
| 8. 2 Corinthians | 22. 2 Peter |
| 9. Galatians | 23. 1 John |
| 10. Ephesians | 24. 2 John |
| 11. Philippians | 25. 3 John |
| 12. Colossians | 26. Jude |
| 13. 1 Thessalonians | 27. Revelation |
| 14. 2 Thessalonians | |

Trust

in the

Lord

with all

your heart.

Never rely

on what

you think

you know.

Remember

the Lord

in everything

you do,

and the Lord

will show you

the right way.

(Proverbs

3:5-6, GNT)

Be still,

and

know

that

I am

God!

(Psalm

46:10)