LESSON PLAN

ELIJAH HEARS GOD'S GENTLE WHISPER

SERIES: Are You Listening
THE POINT: God meets me where I'm at
BIBLE STORY: Elijah on Mount Horeb || 1 Kings 19
AGE: Grade 3 - Grade 6

ABOUT THIS LESSON

In the final week of the "Are You Listening" series, children will explore the story of Elijah after Mount Carmel. Elijah had just seen God do something powerful, but soon after, he became afraid, exhausted and discouraged.
Children will learn that God is close when they feel tired, afraid or overwhelmed. They will also learn that God may not always speak in loud or dramatic ways. Sometimes He speaks gently through His Word, His Spirit, trusted people and quiet moments where we slow down and listen.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Understand that God cares for us when we feel tired, afraid or overwhelmed
- Understand that God can speak quietly just as much as He can speak powerfully
- Recognise the importance of listening carefully for God's gentle whispers and nudges

BIBLE CONTEXT

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah is exhausted, afraid and discouraged. He hides in a cave on Mount Horeb, feeling alone and overwhelmed. God asks Elijah what he is doing there, then shows him a powerful wind, an earthquake and a fire but God is not in any of these. Finally, Elijah hears a gentle whisper, and it is in that quiet moment that God speaks. In this story, God met Elijah with care. Before giving Elijah instructions, God gave him rest, food and water. Then God listened to Elijah's honest feelings and spoke to him, not through the wind, earthquake or fire, but through a gentle whisper. God reminded Elijah that he was not alone and gave him the next steps to keep following Him.

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

Luke 11:28 (NIV) "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Pages 2-4 have a variety of different activities to add onto the Link Crew Video!

Make this toolbox your own! Use it in whatever way helps your group dive deeper into the lesson. The goal is deep understanding and great discussions.

Page Number	Name	Activity Description
2	Discussion Guide	Discussions guides, application "Faith in Action" statements and prayer pointers to help facilitate a greater discussion.
3	Activities Page	Fun, topic based activities like a craft, game, quiz and Memory verse activity that bring the learning to life.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

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START THE CONVERSATION

"Where is a place you go when you want quiet or time to think?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 3 – 4

1. Elijah had just seen God do something amazing on Mount Carmel, but then he became afraid and ran away. What does this teach us about feeling tired, scared or overwhelmed? How does it help you knowing that even strong people in the Bible had hard days?

2. Before God gave Elijah new instructions, He gave him sleep, food and water. What does this show you about God's care? Why do you think rest can be important when we are feeling upset or discouraged?

3. God spoke to Elijah in a gentle whisper. What does this teach us about God? What are some quiet ways we can slow down and remember that God is with us?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 5 – 6

1. Elijah thought he was the only one left who followed God, but he was wrong. Why do you think fear and tiredness can make us feel alone? Who are trusted people God has placed in your life to help you?

2. God was not in the wind, earthquake or fire, but He spoke in a gentle whisper. Why do you think we sometimes expect God to work only in big dramatic ways? How can we pay attention to God through the Bible, prayer and wise godly advice?

3. God did not only comfort Elijah; He also gave him a next step. Why is it important that God gives both comfort and direction? What is one small next step you can take when you feel overwhelmed?

FAITH IN ACTION

God met Elijah when he was tired, afraid and discouraged. God gave Elijah rest, listened to his honest prayer, spoke gently to him and reminded him that he was not alone. This week, when we feel overwhelmed, we can stop, pray, read God's Word, talk to a trusted adult and ask God to help us take the next right step.

- "I can talk honestly to God when I feel tired, afraid or discouraged."
- "I can remember that rest, food and help from others can be part of how God cares for me."
- "I can take time out of my day and pray alone with God, pausing for a response."
- "I can give all my worries to God and sit in peace knowing he is in control."

Pray

Go around the class asking your kids if there is anything they would like prayer for. Ask if anyone would like to pray for each other, and give them the opportunity to. If not, then pray for the needs as the teacher / facilitator. Remember to encourage the children to take a deep breath and ask God to speak gently to their hearts. Pray that they would learn to recognise God's peaceful voice and trust His guidance.

Take note of any prayer requests to be passed onto your child's support network.

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ACTIVITIES PAGE

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ACTIVITY - GOD SPEAKS TO ME (SERIES PROJECT)

Supplies Needed: A3 Paper, Colouring in Pens/Pencils

Have the children draw or write about the next part of their poster that is in relation to God speaking to them in a whisper. Focus on the importance of listening to God's voice intentionally through moments of silence and prayer.

GAME - WHISPER RELAY RACE

Supplies Needed: Pieces of paper that have unique funny sentences on them.

Have the children in groups of 4. In their groups have each of them choose a roll. The Reader, Messenger 1, Messenger 2 and the Writer. Have the Reader and Messenger 1 on one side of the room and Messenger 2 and the Writer on the other side. Give the Reader a piece of paper with funny sentences on it. Only the reader is allowed to see this piece of paper, they must whisper ONE sentence in ONE go to Messenger 1. Then Messenger 1 and Messenger 2 will meet in the middle of the room and they will get ONE go to say the sentence. Then, Messenger 2 will get ONE go at whispering the sentence to the the Writer. Then the Writer will write what they heard. While Messenger 2 is whispering to the Writer, the Reader and Messenger 1 can begin on their next sentence if they would like. Whoever gets the most correct words at the end of the time wins.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. True or False: Elijah heard God in the earthquake. (False)

2. Multiple Choice: Where was Elijah when God spoke to him? (a)
   a) On a mountain
   b) In a palace
   c) In a valley

3. Short Answer: How did God speak to Elijah? (Through a gentle whisper.)

4. True or False: Elijah was stressed and afraid when he was waiting for God's voice? (True)

5. Short Answer: What is the main lesson of this story? (God meets me where i'm at)

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: VERSE FINDER

Memory Verse: Luke 11:28 (NIV) "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Supplies needed: A few bibles

In this activity, each child will receive one piece of the Bible reference: one child gets the book of the Bible (Luke), another the chapter (11), and the third the verse (28). The children will work together to find the verse in the Bible. One child will look for the book of the Bible, another will turn to the correct chapter, and the third will search for the right verse within that chapter. Once they have found the verse, they can take turns reading it aloud to the group.

GAME

You can find a list of small group games at https://lmnetwork.com.au/small-group-games/

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