**FIRST STEPS TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Session 2 of 4

# Elijah

### MEETING AIM

To talk about how God ‘speaks’ in different ways.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Kings 19

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your particular situation.

Elijah has gone from seeing God light the sacrifice against the prophets of Baal to suddenly fearing for his life. Jezebel has threatened him and he has run away. Elijah has lost confidence and has concluded life isn’t worth living any more, but God provides for him and leads him to Mount Horeb.

The focus in this session is on catching from God and expecting him to ‘speak’ in different ways. (For more in-depth info on ‘catching’, check out session 4 of the [Parenting for Faith course](https://www.parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk/).

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can) and ask the children to whisper their answer to the question: “What’s your favourite weather?” Thank God that he’s with you and ask him to help you learn more about him today.

### PLAY – 10 mins

**You will need:** music and the means to play it

Play some music. When you stop it, the children have to freeze. If you like, you could add the rule that the last person is out, or simply enjoy playing together. Play for as long as you have time and the children are interested.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** a candle and matches (or battery-operated candle); a fan; scrunched up paper for rocks

Gather the children together and tell this story:

Elijah loved showing people how powerful God was. He was a prophet, which meant that he told people what God was saying. He had just seen God send fire to burn up a sacrifice to show people who didn’t believe in him how powerful he was.

But now, he was afraid. Jezebel had sent a letter to Elijah saying that she wanted to kill him. Elijah was really scared and really tired. He ran away! He wanted to give up.

Elijah felt alone. He sat under a tree and said: “I give up. I’ve had enough,” and lay down to go to sleep. *Everyone lies down.*

An angel woke him and gave him food and drink. *Everyone wakes up and yawns.* When he’d eaten, he lay down again. The angel woke him up and said: “Get up and eat, you have a long journey.” After he’d eaten, he travelled forty days and forty nights to a cave on Mount Horeb. *Get up and walk around together.*

He lay down and slept for the night. *Everyone lies down.*

God spoke to Elijah and said: “What are you doing here?”

Elijah replied: “I have told so many people about God. They haven’t listened or worshipped you. They just fight. I’m the only one left, I’m alone and now they’re trying to hurt me.”

God told Elijah to stand outside on the mountain and wait for him.

A powerful wind came and broke up the rocks. *Turn on your fan and scatter your paper rocks.*

Then, an earthquake came. *Get all the children to stamp their feet and wobble.*

Then, a fire came. *Light the candle.*

After that, there was a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak up over his face and went and stood outside.

God asked Elijah again why he had come to the mountain and Elijah replied with the same thing as before: “I have told so many people about God. They haven’t listened or worshipped you. They just fight. I’m the only one left, I’m alone and now they’re trying to hurt me.”

God reminded Elijah that he wasn’t alone. And to prove it, he gave Elijah an assistant called Elisha to tell the people about him.

We can ‘catch’ from God in lots of different ways. We don’t just hear his voice. We can catch him on our skin, or he can pop pictures into our head. He can speak to us through the Bible, we can know deep down that he’s saying something to us, or he can speak to us through other people. *Share your own examples of when you’ve caught from God.*

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Ask the children these questions, making sure everyone has the chance to contribute:

* What was your favourite part of the story?
* What do you do when you feel scared?
* How do you like to talk to God?
* How do you ‘catch’ from God?

### CREATIVE TIME – 10 mins

**You will need:** paper; pens; colouring sheets

Explain that you’re going to spend some time in quiet like Elijah did in the cave (if you have children who like the dark you could dim your lights). Encourage the children to find a spot on their own and ask God to meet with them. Say that God might pop words or pictures in their head, they might feel him on their body or he might meet with them in a different way.

Invite the children to wait on God. Have some paper and pens ready for them to draw whatever they felt they caught from God, if they want to. You may find some children will be done very quickly and some will want to spend longer. Allow them to take as long as they want. You could light your candle and put on your fan to remind them that God speaks in lots of different ways.

Have paper or pens and colouring sheets ready for children who finish quickly. Colouring might provide space for children to process what they have caught from God.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

Stand together and say this prayer:

“God, thank you for speaking to Elijah. Thank you that you speak to us in so many different ways. Help us to listen to you with our ears and hearts and bodies. Just like how Elijah heard a whisper, let’s whisper our prayers to God.”

Invite the children to chat to God by whispering into their hands.Let’s tell God one thing that’s made us happy today. Invite the children to chat to God more and add some other things to tell him.

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