



Junior Church

LESSON PLANS: 20-09-20

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Family Fun

(All Ages)

Exercises

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to experience what it feels like to want to give up

You will need: n/a

1. Invent some energetic exercises for everyone to do. It may be fun if you start and then invite the children to take it in turns to be the leader. Keep going until some of the children want to give up. If they just keep going, make the exercises faster and more complicated. As a last resort, ask if they want to give up. If you have limited space or children with health problems, you could do finger exercises.
2. Say that sometimes people feel like giving up on doing things God wants. That's what happened to the man in today's story.



Dolphins

(Age 3, F1 & F2)

Using Bubbles

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

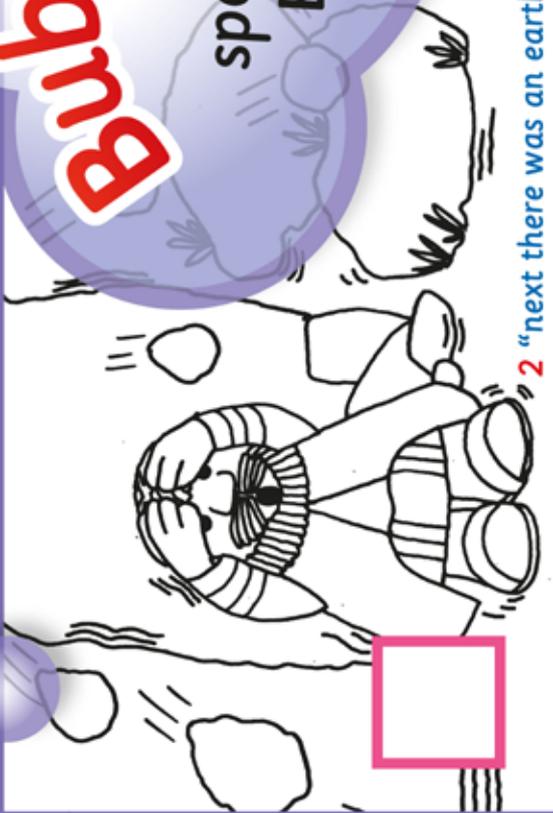
Aim: to discover how God spoke to Elijah

You will need: Bubbles Sheet 20a and Bonus Sheet E (attached), crayons

1. Ask the children if they can remember who they have been finding out about over the past few sessions. Explain that you are going to read another part of Elijah's story now: they need to listen and find out how God spoke to Elijah. Read 'God speaks to Elijah' from Bonus Sheet E. At the end, ask the children if they noticed how God spoke to Elijah. Help them to recognise that God spoke in the quiet breeze.
2. Provide each child with Bubbles Sheet 20a. Remind the children that Elijah heard and felt four different things as he stood on the mountain: a strong wind, an earthquake, a fire and a gentle breeze. As you mention each, ask the children to point to that picture on their Bubbles Sheet. Then ask them, again, in which one Elijah heard God's voice.
3. When they have recognised the gentle breeze as where Elijah heard God's voice, ask them to put a tick in the box next to it. Then encourage them to colour this one in, to show that this was the special way God spoke to Elijah and told him he had something for him to do.
4. Are they surprised that God spoke in this way? Would they have expected him to be louder or more startling?

Bubbles

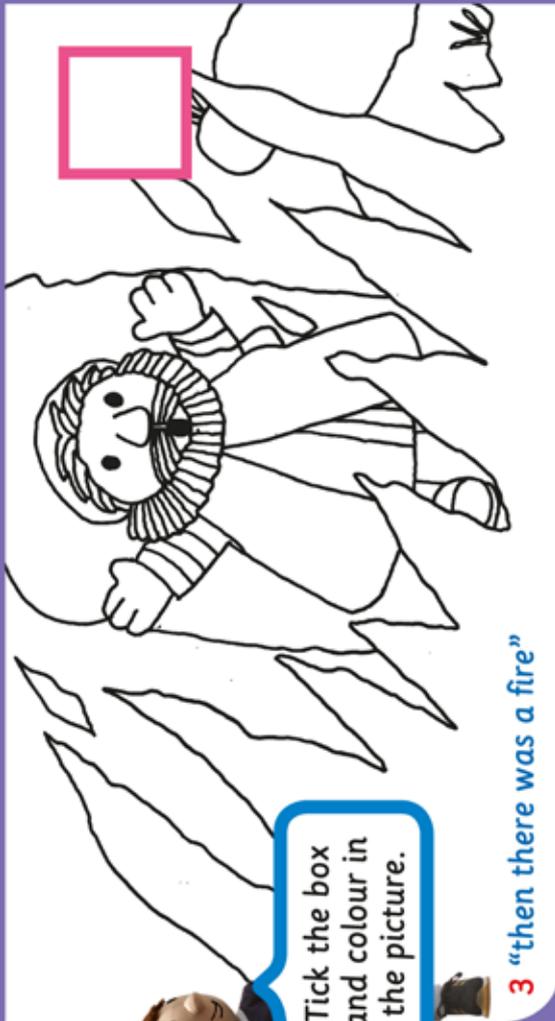
God speaks to Elijah



1 "a strong wind shook the mountain and shattered the rocks"



2 "next there was an earthquake"



3 "then there was a fire"



4 "there was a gentle breeze"



How did God speak to Elijah? In wind or earthquake or fire? Or quietly?

Tick the box and colour in the picture.

Today's aim is to discover that God gives people things to do.

1 Kings 19:1-18

God can meet people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs in practical ways.

But now Elijah is hiding away from everyone and everything. This will seem strange to your child: They will expect Elijah to be happy because God has "won". Now, Elijah

has given up - but God does not give up with Elijah. This will satisfy your child's sense of fairness as, once again, God has the answer and is the answer. Elijah's situation is extreme. But young children also experience

sorrows and joys with great intensity. They too need to discover that God has the answer and is the answer.

The Bible story is on **Bonus Sheet E**.

Elijah

Storytelling is an art, but it is one that can be learned. Early years expert Judith Wigley writes:

Acquiring storytelling skills takes time, effort and practice... The more we do it, the better we get. Here are some thoughts to get you started.

DO keep it short. Remember one minute for each year of a child's life is a useful guide. Most under-5s groups find that 3 to 5 minutes is ample. If your chosen story is longer, split it into two halves putting a song or rhyme in between.

DO engage and involve the children in a story. Invite them to make sounds (such as wind or waves), do actions (row the boat) or answer questions ("Where do you think the sheep went?").

Use these stories with Big Sheets 17-20.

17 God feeds Elijah

Elijah was one of God's friends. God gave him important messages to give to other people. One day, God said, "Elijah, I want you to go and see King Ahab."

King Ahab was a bad person. Elijah was very frightened. He knew the king would get angry when he heard God's message. "King Ahab," Elijah said, "I have come to tell you that there will be no more rain until I say so. There will not even be any dew on the grass in the mornings."



18 God helps a family

When the stream had dried up, God wanted Elijah to move into a town. "I have asked a woman there to look after you," he said. Elijah found the woman gathering sticks of wood to make a fire. "Please would you bring me a cup of water to drink and some bread to eat?" Elijah asked her.

Every day, friendly, big, black birds swooped down. They carried pieces of bread and meat for Elijah in their strong beaks. God provided everything Elijah needed.

1 Kings 17:1-7



19 God shows his power

There was no rain for three years. No one had any food to eat. Even the king was hungry.

Elijah and King Ahab climbed to the top of a mountain. "Let's have a competition to find out whose god is the most powerful," Elijah told the king. "We will pray and ask them to light a fire. You try first."

Ahab and his followers prayed and danced all morning, but their fire did not light. "Shout louder!" laughed Elijah. "Perhaps your god is asleep." So everyone shouted much louder, but still nothing happened.

Then Elijah poured water all over the wood for his fire! It is difficult to burn wet wood. But as soon as Elijah began to pray, the wood began to burn brightly. Everyone watching was amazed. "Your God is so powerful. He must be the real God," they shouted to Elijah.

After that, God sent rain once again.

1 Kings 18



20 God speaks to Elijah

Queen Jezebel was angry. She wanted to hurt Elijah. So he ran away and hid in a cave on a mountain. "What are you doing here?" God asked.

"I'm unhappy," Elijah replied. "I've always tried my best to obey you, but other people don't want to worship you like I do. Some of them even want to hurt me."

"Go outside the cave," God told Elijah. "Stand on the mountain. I want you to see that I'm here with you." Elijah waited. Suddenly, there was a strong wind. Rocks began to move. But Elijah did not see God. Then the ground began to shake. But Elijah did not see God.

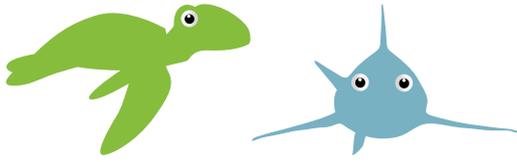
Elijah felt a gentle breeze blowing all around him. He covered his face with his cloak. Elijah knew God was with him. He was sure God understood why he was unhappy. Then Elijah listened as God promised to help him.

1 Kings 19:1-18



Enjoy these Bible stories again in **The Big Bible Storybook**, available from SPCK as a hardback or audio book. It is full of great Bible stories, told especially for young children, and features all your favourite **Bible Friends**.

Photocopiable resource



Turtles Sharks

(Year 1 & 2)

(Year 3 & 4)

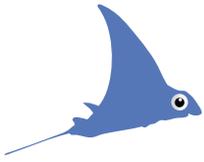
Draw

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to think about God's power at work

You will need: a large sheet of paper

1. Ask the children to draw a big picture together of things in nature that illustrate God's power (for example, a strong wind, an earthquake or fire). As they draw, chat with them about their ideas and why they illustrate God's power.
2. Ask each child to draw themselves somewhere in the big picture, explaining that in today's Bible story they will discover that God's power is at work in us.



Bible story with map

Activity time: 20 minutes

Aim: to discover that God's power is at work in us, even when we want to give up

You will need: Xstream sheet 140 (attached), a thick blanket or towel, toy figures (optional), wool, pins

1. Think

Encourage the children to search on the SU Bible Timeline for people who had to do hard things for God that might have made them want to give up (for example, Noah).

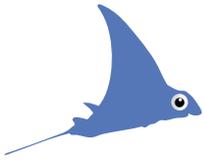
2. Story with map

Place a thick blanket or towel on a table or floor (something that pins will stick into without damaging the surface underneath). Invite each child to place the map from page 140 on the soft surface. Challenge the children to tell you the name of the place where God showed his power by burning a sacrifice (Mount Carmel) and help them find it on their maps. Encourage everyone to stick a pin into Mount Carmel and place a toy figure there, to represent Elijah.

Read 1 Kings 18:45,46. Ask the children where Elijah went next (Jezreel). Encourage them to stick a pin in the correct place and tie a piece of wool between the two pins.

Read (or tell) the events from 1 Kings 19:1–21. As you tell the story, encourage the children to stick pins in the places mentioned, tie the wool to the new pin and move 'Elijah' around their maps.

Story: Jezebel sent a message to Elijah: 'You killed my prophets. Now I'm going to kill you!' Elijah had just had a close encounter with the all-powerful God – but Jezebel was scary! He headed off south to Beersheba, then went on into the hot empty desert, to be extra safe. Elijah sat down and started talking to God. 'I've had enough. Just let me die!' Having told God honestly how he felt, he lay down and fell asleep. Then an angel woke him, 'Get up and eat!' Lying on the sand was a jar of water and some bread. Elijah did as he was told. Then he went back to sleep. But the angel came again and told Elijah to eat so he would be ready to travel.



Stingrays

(Year 5 & 6)

Soon, Elijah was off south again, through the desert to Mount Sinai. Elijah poured his heart out: 'Lord God, I've done my best to obey you, but your people have broken their promise, torn down your altars and killed all your prophets except me! And now Jezebel wants to kill me!' 'Go and stand on the mountain,' God said, 'so you can see me pass by.' Before long, a great wind howled around him. But was God wrapped up in the wind? No, he wasn't. Elijah kept standing as an earthquake rattled the ground. Did Elijah see God? No way. Next came fire. Again, God was not there. Then a gentle breeze. Elijah covered his face with his coat. He knew that

God was there. A still, calm presence. God told him to go back to the desert near Damascus and find Elisha who would work with him, and then replace him. He told Elijah that 7,000 other people in Israel worshipped God. So Elijah was not on his own! And even though he had wanted to give up, God's power was still at work.

3. Respond

Remind the children that God is with them too. Encourage them to talk silently to God about something they feel like giving up on when they are trying to live his way. It could be things like coming to the Xstream group, reading their Bibles, praying or not using bad language. Encourage them to ask God to help them not to give up.

Elijah's World

XSTREAM

G R E A T
S E A

You will need:

- pins
- wool or thread
- thick blanket or towel
- Elijah (toy figure or card cut-out)

Put a thick blanket or towel underneath this map.

Read 1 Kings 18:45, 46; 19:1-21. Move your Elijah figure from place to place. Stick a pin in every place Elijah went. Track his route with wool by tying some to the first pin then joining it to the next one, and so on.

JEZREEL



MOUNT
CARMEL

S A H A R A H

D E A D
S E A

B E E R S H E B A



MOUNT
SINAI

R E D
S E A

D E S E R T