

The Unexpected Whisper...

Children's Sermon on 1 Kings 19:1-15 on Listening to God

Lesson Objective: We often hope, or perhaps even expect, that God would speak to us in a clear and booming voice, or come to us in obvious ways. We might be tempted to give up on faith when times get tough or when we don't "feel like" God is present. This message explains to children that God is always with us and frequently comes to us in unexpected ways. The story of Elijah on Mount Horeb reminds us that God is not always in the earthquakes and fires, but makes himself known with simple whispers.

Law/Gospel Theme: We sometimes tend to think that we can do enough to get ourselves closer to God. We want to hear His voice in booming audible tones, or we expect Him to show up in certain specific ways, and feel disappointed when He doesn't follow our "rules." Through Christ, God was made man and lived among us, and people missed Him then, too! God provides for us and comes to us in strange and unexpected ways sometimes. He might reveal Himself through quiet whispers or through other people. We trust in His care and look to His Son for hope and strength.

Optional Materials: Noise maker/attention-grabber; lighter, fan/hair dryer, alarm

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 19:1-15

More Sunday School Activities on Listening to God

- Watch our [children's sermon on 1 Kings 19:1-15](#) and [Crafts on Elijah Hearing God's Whisper](#)
- Compare a full [Sunday School Lesson on God's Gentle Whisper to Elijah](#)
- Compare a [older elementary Bible Lesson on the Story of Elijah for Kids](#)
- Compare another [God appears to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:1-15 children's church lesson](#)
- See all our [free Sunday School activities on the Story of Elijah for Kids](#)



God's Gentle Whisper to Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-15) Children's Sermon

Greet children, and start off by using noise to grab their attention...

Hello, children of God! (After noisemaker) Did that get your attention? What does someone do if they want to make you pay attention? How do your parents call for you or get you to listen? What about alarms? How do you wake up in the morning? (Demonstrate a few alarm sounds from a phone or other device.) Some things are a bit louder than others. Some alarms are much stronger or more blaring than others! Sometimes things get our attention in unexpected ways, or take more careful listening than other times!

How do you listen to God? How do you think He gets our attention? Sometimes we would hope that God would speak to us in a big booming voice, or be obvious. But there are a lot of ways that we can encounter the voice of the Lord. He often comes in quiet or unexpected ways.

This reminds me of a story in the Bible. There was a man named Elijah, who was a prophet that told people about God. Elijah had worked very hard for the Lord, but was sad and discouraged that his hard work might not amount to much. God led Elijah up onto a mountain, and told him that His presence would pass by. Several things happened. First, there was a huge wind, blowing through the rocks—but that wasn't God. Then there was an earthquake! That wasn't God, either...then there was a fire, but even that was not the presence of the Lord. Do you know what came next? A whisper. A still, silent, simple whisper. And then God spoke to Elijah, asking what his plans were and what he was doing.

So you see, God doesn't always show up in wild and obvious ways. He comes to us in moments of silence. Sometimes He speaks to us through other people. He speaks through His word, the Bible. And there might be times when we feel that God is silent. But He is ALWAYS there. His presence is always with us, and He always welcomes our prayers. No matter what happens, we know that He hears us and wants us to hear Him. We might encounter Him in quiet whispers or strange perceptions. But always He is near, if we are willing to listen and hear.

Why don't we say a prayer and ask God to help us listen for His voice?

Children's Prayer Moment:

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for coming to us

Even in unexpected ways

Help us to listen for your voice

And recognize when you call.

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Bible Verses/story to Reference:

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” 3 Elijah was afraid[a] and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” 5 Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” 6 He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. 7 The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. 9 There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” 11 The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 14 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

15 The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. -1 Kings 19:1-15



Thank you for downloading these free materials. Our team is grateful for your trust and pray that God will bless your ministry.

This resource was prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#) (pictured right). She serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO. She has shared her teaching gifts through Ministry-To-Children since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.



Every week she writes new [Sunday School lessons](#), [Bible crafts](#), and [children's sermons](#).

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May 2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader. In addition to children's curriculum, she shares her student ministry activities and lesson ideas on [YouthGroupMinistry.com](#)

My name is [Tony Kummer](#) (pictured below). I started Ministry-To-Chidlren.com in 2007 as a free resource for anyone sharing Jesus with kids. Don't miss our new websites; [Devotional Christian](#) and [10 Bible Verses](#) to help you focus on personal prayer and quite times.



[Reader donations](#) and your support at [The Sunday School Store](#) fund these free materials. Please keep us in mind when you are choosing your next children's ministry curriculum. If you enjoy our material, be sure to [sign-up for my free email newsletter](#) called "Sunday School Works!" Every Tuesday, I send the latest new lessons, crafts, and coloring pages in print-friendly format to make your lesson planning easy. May God continue to bless your ministry!

Tony Kummer