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# David Spares Saul

*Scripture: 1 Samuel 24:1-22*

**Theme: We overcome evil with good, not revenge**

*1st-3rd Grade (Ages 6-8)*

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Free curriculum for small and rural churches

## Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: "Elijah Still Small Voice , God Speaks Gently" Opening (5 min): Start by reading the Bible verse Psalm 139:2 aloud: "Even before a word leaves my mouth, you know exactly what I'm going to say!" Ask the kids: "Did you know God listens to us and hears our prayers? Today we'll see how God speaks, sometimes in a whisper, not in loud noises!" Hold up a quiet whisper vs. a shout to make the contrast clear. Story Time (10 min): Tell the simple story of Elijah running away from trouble (1 Kings 19:1, 8). After fleeing, God's wind, earthquake, and fire didn't answer Elijah's prayers, then came "a gentle whisper" (v. 12). Encourage the kids: "Sometimes God's voice is soft, like a caress. When you feel afraid or unsure, try listening for His whisper in your heart!" Use a fun question: "What would you whisper to God if you were Elijah?" Application (5 min): End with a hands-on moment: Have kids sit quietly (like Elijah) and close their eyes. Ask: "Where do you think God might be whispering to you today?" Share that God speaks to us in prayer, in nature, or through others. Challenge them to notice a gentle voice, even if it's just "You're brave!" from a friend, and trust it. Closing Prayer: End with: "Dear God, help us to listen for You, especially when things feel loud or scary. Thank You for speaking to us in a whisper. Amen." Leave them with a small reminder, like a Scripture card or a gentle hug!

## Bible Story

Elijah's Small Voice: God Still Speaks to Us

One day, the prophet Elijah was very tired. He had been running from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel because they didn't want him. Jezebel had threatened to hurt Elijah if he didn't leave, so he ran all night, walking on dusty roads until he came to a mountain called Horeb. As he sat down to rest, he fell asleep under a tree and woke up hungry. He made some bread and ate it, but then he heard only the sound of a strong wind. God's word came through loud winds, but Elijah was afraid.

God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?" Elijah replied, "I've run so far, and now I'm tired. I only have one thing left, my life. If God takes it, then I'm done." Just then, the wind stopped, and Elijah thought, "Maybe God is going to take my life now." But God did not speak with a storm. Instead, Elijah heard only a quiet whisper, "Elijah, go and do what you should!" It was so soft that he almost didn't hear it.

Elijah obeyed God and went to a place where there was a dry stream. There were two widows who had given all they had to feed Elijah and his men. They were kind, and God blessed them for their faith. Elijah also told God that he wanted to die because he felt too small to do anything for God anymore. But God promised to keep Elijah with Him forever and said, "I'll give you something to eat, and you'll have enough to last until you see me again." Elijah was relieved to know God cared for him.

This story teaches us that even when we feel small or tired, God hears us and speaks to us, sometimes in quiet whispers and sometimes in loud storms. God knows our hearts and will always guide us if we listen. Just like Elijah, we can trust God even when we don't understand everything. His promises are true, and He will never leave us alone!

## Key Verse

### 1 Samuel 24:19

God's Quiet Voice God often speaks to us in ways that aren't loud or booming. In the story of Elijah, God first showed up in a big, fiery wind, like a thunderstorm, but then He called out in a much gentler way, almost like a whisper. This reminds us that even when we're scared or worried, God wants to talk to us with love and care, not just with loud noises. Sometimes, we might think we hear God's voice in a loud argument or a big event, but really, He's trying to tell us something special. Whispers from God can feel soft and hard to hear, like a gentle breeze or a quiet "I love you." Elijah had to listen closely to understand God's message, and so do we! When we're feeling worried, like the wind in our hearts, God wants us to pause and listen for His quiet, kind voice. It might not be an answer we expected, but it's always full of hope and peace. Sometimes, we might feel like God's voice is far away or not loud enough. But think about how you listen to your best friend, you pay attention to their soft words and even small gestures. God does the same for us! If we try to listen carefully, like Elijah did, we'll learn that God's whispers are there to guide us, comfort us, and remind us that He's always with us. You can practice listening for God's whisper in everyday moments. When you're quiet inside (like before a bedtime prayer or a time of reflection), ask God to help you hear Him. Maybe you'll feel a warm feeling, hear a gentle "You're doing great," or even just feel close to Him. It's like when you listen to a favorite song and notice little details, God's voice is worth paying attention to! God's whisper isn't just for big moments, it's for every day. So next time you're worried or happy, try closing your eyes and listening. You might just hear His quiet, loving voice, and know that He's always there for you.

## Activities

### Activity 1:

Kids act out how God speaks quietly to Elijah, then practice listening for tiny whispers to reinforce that God's voice can be gentle even when it's not loud.

1. Gather and Set Up: Split students into small groups (3, 5 kids) and place each group 10 feet apart. Give each group a paper plate and a marker.
2. Whisper Mission: Give each group a stuffed Elijah. The teacher whispers, "God wants to speak to you through a small voice, just like Elijah!" The group must draw a picture on their plate of how they think God might speak to them (e.g., a dove, a cloud, or a hand).
3. Share and Listen: Let each group share their drawing. The teacher whispers another question (e.g., "What should you do if God whispers for you?") and the group answers aloud. Repeat this a few times, emphasizing God's gentle voice.
4. Wrap-Up: Ask, "How can we listen like Elijah did when God speaks quietly?" Have kids hold up their plates as a reminder of God's quiet messages.

## Activity 2:

Kids explore how Elijah felt lonely and afraid, then create a cloudy sky scene while praying for God's presence to comfort them, like Elijah did in the desert.

1. Read the Story: Start by reading 1 Kings 19:1, 8 in kid-friendly language. Ask, "How did Elijah feel when God left him?" Let them respond.
2. Make Clouds: Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to draw a big sky with blue lines. Cut out cloud shapes from scrap paper and glue them onto their sky.
3. Pray Together: Ask kids to pray for God to be with them like He was with Elijah. Say, "God still speaks to us gently, we can ask Him for comfort!"
4. Share Clouds: Each child shows their cloudy sky to a partner and says one thing they learned about God's quiet voice from Elijah. Discuss how God's presence can be felt even when we're scared.

## Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for young children (ages 6, 8) about the story of Elijah and how God speaks gently to us:
- What do you think Elijah felt when he ran away and hid?
- What are some times in your own life when you might have felt scared or small?
- How did Elijah's feelings make him think God wouldn't care about him anymore? What do you think might have helped him remember that God always loves us even when we're afraid?
- How did God ask Elijah to step out of his hiding place?
- What is something God might ask you to do that scares you?
- When was a time you felt brave and did something God asked you to try, even if it felt hard? How did you feel after you did it?
- Elijah heard a whisper in the wind, but it was God's voice that really spoke to him. How do you think God speaks to us today?
- What are some ways you hear God's voice in your life?
- Maybe it's in a kind word from a friend, a song you love, or a feeling inside. How can we listen for God's gentle voice, even when we don't know what to do?
- After Elijah was brave, God gave him a big job to do. What do you think it means to trust God and believe in His plans?
- What is one small or big thing you've been waiting for to happen?
- Do you think God has plans for you that might feel hard at first? How can you trust that He will help you, even when things feel confusing or small?
- These questions encourage children to reflect on their own fears, courage, and trust while connecting to the story of Elijah. Would you like any adjustments to make them even simpler or more engaging?

## Prayer Focus

*Prayer for Elijah: Finding God's Gentle Voice Dear God, We come to you today with hearts full of wonder. Just like Elijah, who ran far and felt too small to talk to you, we sometimes feel nervous or unsure when we want to talk to you. Help us trust that you always hear our prayers, even when we don't know what to say. Just as you whispered to Elijah, "Go back and rest," remind us that you care for us and want us to know you love us always. When we feel afraid, help us listen for your quiet voice, like a soft breeze or a gentle hug, and know that you're with us, just as you were with Elijah. Amen. How to Pray Together: 1. Start with a breath: Take a deep breath in, then out, and say:*

*“Dear God, help us listen for your voice!” 2. Share a time you needed help: Have a few children tell a short, true story (even if it’s just “I felt scared when...”). Say: “God, you know how we feel. Speak to us gently.” 3. End with trust: Repeat: “God, like Elijah, I trust you to guide me. Amen.” Sit quietly for a few minutes before moving on. Extra Idea: Place a small bell or soft cloth in the middle of the group. When the teacher says “Listen for God’s whisper,” the kids can hold hands and feel for the gentle touch (like the wind in 1 Kings 19). It’s a fun way to connect the lesson to prayer!*

### >> Missions Spotlight

Among the Tibetan people, who live in the shadow of the Himalayas, the concept of stillness and meditation is deeply valued. Missionaries share Elijah’s story to show that the true God speaks in the stillness, and His name is Jesus.

### -> To the Cross

God was not in the wind, earthquake, or fire, He was in a gentle whisper. Jesus often spoke gently, to children, to sinners, to the broken. God’s power is made perfect in gentleness. The cross was both the most powerful and most gentle act in history.