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Scripture: 1 Samuel 24:1-22

Theme: We overcome evil with good, not revenge

PreK-K (Ages 3-5)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Title: "God Speaks Gently, Like a Whisper!" 1. God Listens to Us Too! Sometimes, little voices like yours are so soft that grown-ups almost don't hear them, but God does! Just like Elijah trusted God even when he felt small, you can trust God too. His voice is like a gentle whisper, not a loud storm or thunder. When you talk to Him, even a tiny prayer, He hears you! Wonder: How will you be brave like Elijah and listen for God's whisper today? 2. God's Voice is Like a Quiet River Imagine God speaking through a soft, flowing river instead of a big, booming sound, calm and steady! That's how God often talks to us. Just like Elijah hid in a cave and heard God's whisper, you can hide in your heart and listen for Him. Try closing your eyes and imagining a gentle breeze saying, "I see you. I love you." Wonder: What will you say to God first? 3. God Makes Us Brave Even when Elijah felt too small, God gave him strength! You can do the same. When God whispers to you, maybe in a song, a dream, or a friend's hug, remember: "I am brave for God!" Try clapping your hands and saying, "I trust God's quiet voice!" (Practice the sound: ssssss... whisper!) Wonder: Who can you tell about God's whisper today? 4. Ending with Praise God's voice is like a hug or a shining star, always kind! After this lesson, close your eyes and imagine God saying, "Little one, I'm proud of you." Then cheer for yourself: "I heard God's whisper today!" Share with your friends how God speaks gently, and how you'll listen for Him next time! (Optional: Hold hands and sing "God's voice is like a whisper..." to reinforce!)

Bible Story

Elijah's Small Voice & God's Big Love

One day, the king's servant Elijah ran away from a big trouble. He was afraid and hid in a cave, wondering, "Why did God send me here? Maybe I'm too small for this job!" As Elijah sat trembling, he heard a loud thunder and a strong wind. Then, silence! He thought, "Maybe God is angry and won't answer!"

Suddenly, the wind stopped, and a big earthquake shook the cave. Then, another silence! Elijah thought, "What if God is far away?" But then, the smallest sound he had ever heard filled the cave: a gentle whisper. It said, "Elijah, why are you afraid?" Elijah gasped! "I'm just a little person, Lord. What if I don't measure up?"

God replied, "I know your heart, Elijah. I see you running and hiding, but I see you too. Go out and trust Me. Build an altar, even if it looks small. I will be with you, stronger than any storm!" Elijah obeyed, and God's love filled his heart. "God doesn't need big voices or big things, He needs us to listen, trust, and follow Him!"

Why This Story Matters God doesn't need us to be loud or perfect, just honest and brave! Like Elijah, we can ask God to help us trust Him when we feel small or scared. His voice is always gentle, and He loves us more than we know!

Key Verse

1 Samuel 24:19

The Quiet Voice of God God is like a big, warm hug all around us. Sometimes He speaks in big, bright flames, like a hot fire, just to tell us, "I'm here for you!" But sometimes, after the fire, He whispers a soft, sweet sound. That whisper is like a gentle breeze, telling us, "I love you, and I'm listening." Do you ever feel so calm and happy that your whole body feels like a cloud? That's how God's whisper feels! It's like He's saying, "Take a deep breath and know I'm with you." Just like a cozy blanket on a chilly night, His whisper keeps us warm and safe. God's voice is like magic, sometimes loud, sometimes soft. One minute He's like thunder (a big, loud BOOM!), the next He's like a tiny "shhh" in your ear. That's why we need to listen close and be ready to hear His gentle words! Can you imagine finding God's whisper? It's like a secret hug from the sky, just for you! Always remember: God's love is always there, even when His voice sounds tiny.

Activities

Activity 1:

Kids act out God's gentle voice like a soft breeze or warm sunlight, just as Elijah heard in the quiet. They use simple props to pretend Elijah's fear and God's comfort.

1. Set Up: Lay out a big blanket as "the desert." Place stuffed animals (like Elijah) in the center.
2. Read Together: Read 1 Kings 19:11, 13 ("The wind was loud, but God was quiet. Then a still small voice...").
3. Act It Out: Call out each scene:
4. "Wind blows hard! (Shake cones loudly)" Elijah hides in fear.
5. "Sunshine! (Hold up tissue paper)" Warmth comforts him.
6. "God's whisper! (Hush and whisper 'Listen!')" God speaks gently.
7. Worship Time: Cuddle up in a circle and whisper, "God's voice is like a hug!"

Activity 2:

Kids match windy clouds (stormy) to sunshine (peaceful), tying it to God's gentle voice like a calm cloud.

1. Prep: Cut 2, 3 sun/sunshine pictures and 2, 3 wind/cloud pictures from magazines or draw them.
2. Draw Together: Ask, "What's stronger, wind or sunshine?" Let kids color their own clouds/suns.
3. Match & Glue: Sort pictures: "Where do you hear God's voice like sunshine? Like wind?"
4. Repeat Wonder: Say, "God's voice is like the quietest whisper, we hear Him today!" Share a Bible verse (e.g., Isaiah 32:2).
5. Tip: End both with "God's voice is always there, listen for His hug!"

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for preschool and kindergarten children based on "Elijah Still Small Voice , God Speaks Gently" (1 Kings 19:1, 18):
- When Elijah was scared, he ran away and felt alone. Have you ever felt scared or unsure about something? What happened then?
- Wonder together: What kind of questions did Elijah ask God? How do you think God wants us to talk to Him when we feel small or lost?
- Elijah heard God whisper, "Don't be afraid!" What does it mean to listen for God's whisper? Have you ever heard something soft that made you pause and think, "Maybe God is talking to me?" What did you do then?
- God gave Elijah a new job to do, feeding the prophets. How does God help us when we feel too small to help others? What's one way you can share kindness with someone today?
- Sometimes God speaks in small ways, like a gentle breeze or a quiet word. Have you ever felt God's love or guidance in a small moment? What was it like? How can we listen for God's whispers, just like Elijah did?
- These questions invite kids to explore their feelings, wonder about God's presence, and reflect on how God speaks to them in everyday life! Would you like any adjustments for age or focus?

Prayer Focus

Prayer for Little Hearts: God's Gentle Voice "Dear God, we are so small, just like Elijah. But you hear our hearts, just like you heard Elijah's whisper. Help us to listen carefully for your gentle voice, like when you speak in a quiet breeze or through a friend's hug. Make us brave to trust you, even when we feel afraid or alone. Thank you for always loving us, even when we forget. Amen." "God, today we want to hear you. Just like Elijah, we might feel tiny and scared, but you are bigger than all our fears. Speak to us gently, like a cozy blanket or a kind whisper. Show us how to listen for you in the little things, like when you sing us a song or smile at us. Help us to trust that you're always there, just like you were for Elijah. Amen." With wonder: "Oh God, how can you speak to us so gently? Even when we can't see you, you still know our names! Like Elijah, we might shout our worries out, but you hear our quiet prayers too. Make us wonder: What is the gentlest sound you make, God? Maybe it's the rustle of leaves or the sound of our best friend laughing. Help us to find you in those little sounds. Amen!" For closing trust: "Dear God, Elijah ran away at first, but you called him back. Help us to do the same, to run to you even when we're afraid. Speak to us again, just as you did to Elijah. Make our hearts open like a flower, so we can hear you better. We love you, God, and we trust you always. Amen."

>> 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.