Unit 12: Elijah and Elisha
OT12.4 Elijah Flees to Mount Horeb

Scripture: 1 Kings 19

Lesson Goal:
Elijah was the first and most famous of Israel’s prophets. In this lesson we will learn how Elijah became very discouraged after the great victory of defeating the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. God spoke to Elijah and showed him that He would care for him.

Introduction:
This lesson is found in the book of 1 Kings. This book tells the history of the kings of Israel and Judah. It is in the second group of Old Testament books called the historical books. These books begin with Joshua and go through Esther. Let's say these books--Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther

Attention Getter: “Whisper”
If I whisper can you hear me? Sometimes people whisper when they are telling secrets or they don’t want others to know what is happening. Other times people whisper so they can get others attention. Usually when someone begins to whisper in a room of people who are talking, others will stop to listen to the whisper.

In this lesson we are going to learn about a time that God whispered to His servant Elijah when he was discouraged and got his attention even more than with a fire, or an earthquake or a great wind. We will find out how God does not always speak to us in the “Big” things of life. Often He speaks to us in little quiet ways.

Opening Prayer:
“Father, thank You for being our great and wonderful God. Thank you for this lesson about Elijah and his struggle to trust you. Help us to always pray and trust your great power over everything in our lives. Then help us to trust in You, our one and only true God. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”

Memory Verse:
The memory verse is James 5:13; 16 “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray… Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

Lesson Video: https://youtu.be/hSh-QLzFW84
Elijah was a prophet that God had sent to the people of Israel to speak His Word to them. Elijah was also well known for the great miracles that God did through him. During the time of Elijah the King of Israel was Ahab and his wicked wife Queen Jezebel. They had led the nation of Israel to worship the idol of Baal instead of God. God did not want His people worshipping idols!

God sent Elijah to King Ahab to tell him that a great famine was coming on the land because of their sin. Elijah said, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.” For three and one half years no rain fell in the land. Many people starved and died because of the lack of food and water. Many people were angry at Elijah and wanted to kill him for bringing about this terrible famine. Ahab and Jezebel had sent their soldiers out to find Elijah and kill him. But. Elijah had faith in God that He would take care of him in this time of drought.

At first God told Elijah to go hide from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel in the Valley of Kerith near a brook. There God miraculously sent ravens every morning and evening to bring bread and meat for Elijah to eat.
Then God sent Elijah to the widow of Zarephath where he supplied him and the widow and her son with an endless supply of oil and flour everyday during the famine. God even used Elijah to raise the widow’s son back to life after he got sick and died.

Finally after three and one half years of drought, God spoke to Elijah and told him to go again to King Ahab with a message. Elijah was told to prove to the evil King Ahab and the wandering children of Israel that only the Lord is God. Elijah told King Ahab, “You have disobeyed God and led the people to worship the idol Baal. Now I am here with another message from the living God. We’re going to have a contest! Gather all your prophets of Baal and we will meet on Mount Carmel. This contest will prove who the real God is!”

So King Ahab sent messengers throughout all the land telling everyone to assemble on Mount Carmel. The 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the false god Asherah were summoned also. A large crowd gathered at Mount Carmel. King Ahab, 450 prophets of Baal, and many people from Israel were there. The contest was to see which god was more powerful—the Lord God of Israel or the god of Baal. The god who was more powerful would send fire to burn the sacrifice offered to him.

The 450 prophets of Baal went first and set up their sacrifice. From morning to night they danced and shouted to their god but there was no answer! No fire came from heaven. Then Elijah set up the altar of sacrifice to the Lord God of Israel and placed a bull upon it. He even dug a trench around the altar and poured 12 jars of water over the sacrifice. He even filled the trench with water!

Elijah prayed, “O Lord, let it be known today that you are the God of Israel and I am your servant. Answer me, Lord, so that these people will know that you, O Lord, are God!” Elijah had no sooner finished his prayer when suddenly the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil. It also licked up the water in the trench.

The people fell face down and cried, “The Lord he is God! The Lord he is God!” God had won the contest!

Then Elijah commanded, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Don't let anyone get away!” These evil men had killed thousands of babies and children and they had led the people of Israel away from the true God. So the people of Israel took the false prophets down to the Kishon Valley and killed them there.

As soon as the contest on Mount Carmel was over and the Lord had shown His power by sending fire, Elijah told King Ahab, "Go home now. Eat and drink, and get ready for some rain! God will send it soon." Then Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel with his servant and began to pray to God. Seven times he asked God to send the rain. Each time he asked his servant to “Go and look toward the sea.”

At last a small cloud appeared in the sky. The cloud got larger and larger until a mighty rain storm began to drench the dry land. God had miraculously answered Elijah’s prayer! Elijah then told King Ahab, “Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you!”

After the rain started God then gave Elijah special strength. The power of the Lord came on Elijah and tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way down the mountain. He ran so fast that he caught up and then passed King Ahab's chariot and horse! He beat them down the mountain! It was about the same distance as a marathon run.

Unfortunately when King Ahab saw God’s mighty power he did not turn from his wicked ways. Instead King Ahab returned to tell his wife Queen Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and she became very angry. Her worship of the idol Baal and all her prophets were a failure! As long as God’s prophet was around, she could not carry out all the evil she wanted to do.
Queen Jezebel was so angry that she told a messenger to go and find Elijah. She warned Elijah saying, “May the gods deal with me severely if by this time tomorrow I do not kill you like one of the prophets of Baal!”

The messenger found Elijah and delivered Queen Jezebel’s threat. But instead of trusting God to protect him Elijah became very frightened, fearing for his life. He found his servant and the two of them fled for their lives. Elijah ran away south, leaving the nation of Israel that was ruled by King Ahab and Queen Jezebel and travelled on through Judea. In Judea Elijah and his servant still fled south to the town of Beersheba where there was a well with water to drink. Still fearful that Jezebel might find him, Elijah told his servant to stay behind at Beersheba where he would be safe. However Elijah set out south into the hot barren wilderness and travelled for a day. He wanted to get as far away as he could.

Elijah was still afraid, feeling very discouraged and exhausted. When he came to a broom bush tree he sat under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he complained. “Take my life. I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down and fell asleep.

As soon as he fell asleep, an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” He looked around and found some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. After eating Elijah lay down under the broom brush tree and fell asleep again.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him. Elijah woke up. “Get up and eat,” the angel said, “for the journey ahead is too much for you.” Elijah obeyed and got up and ate and drank.

Strengthened by that food, Elijah traveled for forty days and nights through the barren wilderness until he reached Mount Horeb. This place is also called Mount Sinai, the mountain where God had spoken to Moses and had given the Ten Commandments. When he reached Mt. Horeb, Elijah went into a cave and spent the night.

God spoke to Elijah in the cave. “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Elijah replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your ways, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

God answered Elijah by saying, “Go out and stand on the mountain in my presence for I am going to pass by. Elijah went out of the cave and stood waiting for God to pass by. Suddenly a great and powerful wind tore through the mountain, shattering the rocks. But God was not in that powerful force. After the wind there was a powerful earthquake and the whole mountain trembled and shook. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.

Then there was a silence and a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. The gentle whispering voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Elijah replied as he had done before, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your ways, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

“Go back the way you came,” the Lord quietly replied. “When you get to the Desert of Damascus, anoint Hazael king over Aram, and anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel. Anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat to succeed you as prophet. Then God explained to Elijah that he was not the only one left who served God. There were 7,000 people in Israel who had not bowed to Baal.” Encouraged by the gentle answer from God, Elijah set off on the return journey. He was now confident that God had much more for him to do.
In this lesson we see that Elijah was a great man of God who demonstrated great faith in a great God. He had just experienced two great spiritual victories with the defeat of Jezebel’s prophets and the answered prayer for rain. But now fear gripped Elijah’s heart as he realized that this wicked woman who set out to destroy the prophets of God wanted to hunt him down to kill him. Elijah’s focus had once been on God but now he was focused on the problem. He seemed to forget that our troubles seem smaller when we remember the greatness of God.

How would you respond in a situation in which your life was threatened because of your stand for God? We can certainly understand why Elijah ran. We, too, can quickly be overcome with hopelessness and fear over our problems. Do you see the mistake Elijah made? He did not stop to pray. He did not seek God’s counsel. Sometimes we panic and do not seek the Lord for His wisdom in a situation. We would rather run away than wait any longer and have to deal with the problems.

Elijah lost hope and ran as though God was incapable of helping him. This only led to more problems. Feeling like he was all alone, he became even sadder. He was so discouraged; he prayed that he might die. Elijah had forgotten the lessons God had been teaching him all these years. His eyes were on his circumstances rather than on the Lord. He felt that he was no more successful than his forefathers in ousting Baal worship from Israel.

God did not answer Elijah’s request that he die. God did not even acknowledge that request. The Lord was not through with Elijah and his ministry to the people of Israel. Sometimes God answers our prayers with “no” because He knows what is best for us. Instead God sent help and encouragement with the angel who brought him food and water.

Later on Mount Horeb God did not lecture Elijah for being afraid. Instead he reminded Elijah of his awesome power. Standing on the mountainside outside his cave Elijah witnessed a demonstration of God’s control over the wind, earth, and fire. God is all powerful and He is always greater than any problem we may face.

Back in the cave Elijah heard the voice of God again in the form of a whisper. Elijah knew that the gentle whisper was God’s voice. If we only look for God to work in big ways, we may miss Him. More often than not, God will speak to us in a gentle whisper in the little things.

Elijah needed to look at his situation like God saw it. He needed to be encouraged. God was not done with Elijah. He had not given up on him. He had a great ministry left for Elijah to do. He was to anoint the next king of Israel and introduce the people to Elisha the next prophet of God.

At times we may feel like God cannot use us anymore because of our past failures, problems or lapses of faith. But that is NOT true! God will not give up on us either. In God’s gentle way, He will speak to our heart to encourage us to continue His work in our life. He will bless our lives when we walk with the Lord. As Christians we should remember that our most powerful resource is to communicate with the Lord through prayer. The results are often greater than we ever thought possible.

Remember troubles seem smaller when we look at the greatness of God!
Review Questions/ Game: “Higher or Lower”

*Preparation:* You will need a deck of cards. Large giant sized cards work well for a large group.

*Procedure:* Shuffle the cards. Draw the top card from the deck of cards and show to the group. If they think the next card will be of higher or lower value, they must either put their hands on their head or put their hands on their bottom for lower. Show the next card. Those that guessed correctly get to answer a review question. Give one point to each person who gets their review question correct. The next card is shown and students are given the opportunity to guess again. Those that guess correctly answer the review questions. Repeat until all review questions have been answered. The student with the most points wins.

1. Who was the evil king of the northern kingdom and what sin did he commit? (King Ahab of Israel committed the sin of worshipping false gods and marrying the evil Jezebel from the Phoenician city of Tyre. He built a temple to worship Baal and even killed the true prophets of God and replaced them with prophets of Baal in the place of worship.)

2. Who was Elijah? (Elijah was one of God’s prophets. A prophet is a messenger from God who is sent to preach God’s Word to save the people from their sins. Elijah warned the people to turn away from Baal worship and obey God.)

3. What message did God send Elijah to tell King Ahab? (“As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be any dew or rain in the next few years, except at my word.”)

4. How did God provide food for Elijah during the famine? (Every morning and evening God sent the ravens to bring bread and meat in their beaks. Then God sent him to Widow of Zarephath and her son and gave them an endless supply of oil and flour.)

5. After three and one half years of famine, what was the message that Elijah had for King Ahab from God? (Elijah said, “We’re going to have a contest! Gather all you prophets of Baal and we will meet on Mount Carmel. This contest will prove who the real God is!”)

6. What happened when the prophets of Baal tried to bring down fire on their sacrifice? (They prepared their sacrifice and began to call to Baal. From morning until noon they danced around the altar shouting, “Baal, answer us!” But there was no answer! They called louder and louder. Still no voice and no fire came from Baal. They even cut themselves but no answer.)

7. After preparing the altar of sacrifice to God, what strange order did Elijah give to make the sacrifice more difficult to burn? (Elijah said, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood. When they had done that, Elijah ordered them, “Do it again,” and they did. “Do it a third time,” he commanded, and they did it the third time. Altogether twelve large jars of water were poured over the altar and the water ran down to fill the trench. Elijah wanted to make sure that it was impossible for a man to light the fire.)

8. What happened when Elijah finished his prayer? (Suddenly the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil. It also licked up the water in the trench.)

9. What response did the people have to this great fire from God? (The people fell face down and cried, “The Lord he is God! The Lord he is God!”)

10. What did Elijah tell the people to do to the prophets of Baal? (They were to seize them and kill them.)

11. After the contest on Mount Carmel where did Elijah go to pray for rain? Who did he take with him? (He climbed back up on Mount Carmel with his servant and prayed.)

12. What did he ask his servant to do? (Elijah told his servant to go check by looking out at the sea to see if it had begun to rain yet.)

13. After the rain started, what did Elijah tell King Ahab to do? (He told him to get in his chariot and go back to his home before he got caught in the rain.)

14. What special miracle did God do for Elijah after the rain started? (After the rain started God gave Elijah special strength. Elijah tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab all the way...)

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down the mountain. He ran so fast that he caught up and then passed King Ahab’s chariot and horse! He beat them down the mountain!

15. Why did Elijah flee to Mount Horeb? (He was afraid of the order by Queen Jezebel to have him killed.)

16. Who traveled with Elijah at first as far as Beersheba? (Elijah took his servant along with him as far as Beersheba. He left them there because he thought that the servant would be safe there.)

17. Out in the desert how did God provide for Elijah? (He sent an angel to give him bread and water while he was sleeping under a broom bush tree.)

18. What was special about the place that Elijah escaped to in the desert? (Elijah went to Mt. Horeb which was another name for Mount Sinai where Moses had talked to God in the burning bush and had received the Ten Commandments.)

19. Where did Elijah stay while on Mt. Horeb? (He stayed in a cave.)

20. How did God first show his power to Elijah on Mount Horeb? (God showed Elijah his power by first a powerful windstorm, then through an earthquake, and finally a great fire.)

21. In what way did God finally talk to Elijah? (He spoke to Elijah in a gentle whisper.)

22. What message did God give Elijah in the quiet whisper? (He told him, “Go back the way you came,” the Lord quietly replied. “When you get to the Desert of Damacus, anoint Hazael king over Aram, and anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel. Anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat to succeed you as prophet. Then God explained to Elijah that he was not the only one left who served God. There were 7,000 people in Israel who had not bowed to Baal.”)

23. Why did God speak to Elijah in a whisper? (He wanted Elijah to know that He would take care of him in all the little quiet ways. God was showing him that He has all power and control even over the wind, the earth, and the fire and He was capable of caring for him.)

24. What mistake did Elijah make that resulted in his becoming afraid and running away? (He did not stop to pray. He took his focus off God and His power and focused on the circumstances. He forgot how God had provided and protected him before. He forgot how God can work in the small ways just as much as He can work in the big things. He needed to look at the situation like God looked at it.)

25. What lesson can we learn from this story? (At times we may feel like God cannot use us anymore because of our past failures, problems or lapses of faith. But that is NOT true! God will not give up on us either. In God’s gentle way, He will speak to our heart to encourage us to continue His work in our life. He will bless our lives when we walk with the Lord.)

26. What is the memory verse? (Our memory verse is James 5:13; 16 “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray... Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”)

Memory Verse Activity: “Whisper, then Shout”
Our memory verse is James 5:13; 16 “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray... Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” Have students locate the verse in scripture and read it together several times.

Say: “This verse says that God wants us to pray and ask His help when we face difficulties. We should recognize His power and authority over every part of our lives. Then we can choose to trust Him for answers.”

Procedure: Play a whisper game. Divide the verse into the following nine phrases: James 5:13; 16 “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray... Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”/
Whisper the first phrase of the memory verses to the first person and they whisper that phrase plus a second phrase to the next person etc. At the end of the circle the entire verse is said with a loud voice or shout! For fun, use hand motions for each word in the verse.

**Group Learning Activity: “Who whispered?” (Grades K-4)**

*Preparation:* You will need a chair, a blindfold, masking tape, and a large playing area for children to move freely. Use the masking tape to mark off half of the room.

*Procedure:* Choose someone to be “it.” The kids will stand on one side of the line and “it” sits in a chair on the other side. Children must quietly sneak over the line and try to come up behind “it” and whisper his name. “It” will have their back to the kids so they cannot see or hear who is coming. Let the blindfolded person try to guess who whispered.

*Say:* “In this lesson Elijah was discouraged because all his friends who were prophets of God had been killed and now Queen Jezebel was trying to kill him. How did God encourage Elijah? (First, there was a mighty wind that shattered the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. Next, there was a violent earthquake that shook the mountain. However, God was not in the earthquake. Then, there was a roaring fire that blazed through the mountain. But, God was not in the fire either. Then, there was a very, quiet whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his coat over his face and stood at the front of the cave. He knew that the whisper was God.)

“What did God tell Elijah to do that showed he would be safe and had a future job to do? (God told Elijah to go back home. He told him to go to the desert of Damascus and appoint two new kings. He also told Elijah that Elisha would take his place and be the next prophet (messenger) for God. Then, he told Elijah that there were 7,000 people who loved Him and worshiped Him.)

“God helped Elijah when he felt sorry for himself. God helped Elijah see that He would take care of everything. Elijah did not have to worry about what would happen to him. God promised to take care of him. When we begin to feel sorry for ourselves, instead of running away or pouting, we should talk to God and ask for His help. He will encourage us like He encouraged Elijah.”

**Group Learning Activity: “Fingerprint Match Game” (Grades K-5)**

*Preparation:* Before class make two fingerprints of each finger from one hand onto a sheet of paper. You will have two thumbprints alike, two index finger prints, etc. Leave enough space in between so that you can enlarge them for the game. Enlarge the prints on a copy machine and make into 10 squares of equal size.

*Procedure:* Lay out the ten squares in the middle of the floor (finger print side down.) Have everyone sit in a circle and take turns picking up just two cards. If a child makes a match, they can keep the cards. After playing a couple of rounds of the matching game, allow the children to do their own fingerprints (using washable ink pads or markers) onto a sheet of paper. Next have the children compare their fingerprints with the other children.

*Say:* “Are any two of our fingerprints alike? (No) Fingerprints are so different that we use them to identify who we are. No two are alike. It is the same with us. God has created no two of us exactly the same. He wants to use us for His purposes and plans. In our lesson we saw that God had a special plan of encouragement for Elijah’s life. He was to serve God and be God’s messenger to tell others about Him. God had a special purpose for Elijah and He has a special purpose for our lives as well. God desires to
use each and every one of us for His purposes. He calls us by name as He did Elijah. As He calls you, what will your response be?

May we be quick to listen and quick to obey. God has great things in store. God has a special purpose for our lives.”

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that the Lord has a special plan for their lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

**Group Learning Activity: “In the Cave” (Grades K-2)**

*Preparation:* You will need a large cardboard box that will hold several children. Cut a hole in the side of the box to make an entrance to the “cave.” Cover the outside of the box with crumbled brown paper bags to resemble the rocks. You can have children help make the outside of the rock cave, if desired.

*Procedure:* Allow a few children to go inside the box. Let the children run around the cave and make noises like the wind, the fire, and the earthquake. Allow the children to take turns being inside the “cave.”

As you retell the story allow the children to dramatize. Allow some to demonstrate what it was like: to be afraid and run away, to hide, to sleep in the cave, to hear the wind, the fire, the earthquake, and the whisper of God’s voice. Elijah kept telling God that he felt alone. Talk about loneliness. Talk about how God can help. As the children take time for silence, remind them that God will speak to us if we will seek Him.

Say: “Elijah became afraid for his life, so he ran. Sometimes it is tempting for us to run away from our problems. But God wants us to know that He is there with us, and He can help us through the problems. We just need to ask Him.”

Close activity in prayer.

**Group Learning Activity: Object Lesson “Shell” (Grades K-5)**

*Preparation:* You will need a seashell for the children to listen to. A cup, bowl or any other curved object will give you the same sound.

*Procedure:* Have children place the seashell to their ear and listen for the “ocean” sound. (Fun fact: The sound you hear is really the sound around you, and also the sound of your blood circulating in your head.) Give everyone a turn.

Say: “How is the sound in the shell like God’s voice? (It’s a gentle sound or whisper; you have to listen very carefully to hear it; the sound comes from deep inside the shell and God speaks deep inside us; etc.)

“How do you know when God is speaking to you? (God speaks clearly through His Word. God will never ask you to do something contrary to His commands or that goes against the Bible; God will never ask you to do something that hurts someone else or that is not a loving thing to do.) When do we need to listen to God’s voice? (We need to listen for God’s message all the time!)
Group Learning Activity: “God Speaks” (Grades 3-5)

Preparation: Each student will need a Bible.

Say: “In this lesson we learned that God whispered to His servant Elijah when he was discouraged and got his attention even more than with a fire, or an earthquake or a great wind. We will find out how God does not always speak to us in the “Big” things of life. Often He speaks to us in little quiet ways. The most important way that God speaks to us is through His Word.”

Procedure: Distribute Bibles to every student. Have students locate and read aloud the following scriptures that tell how God speaks to us.

Say: “While you are reading the Bible, ask yourself these three questions: What does this passage of Scripture say? What does it mean? What is God saying to me? You may not understand everything you read, but the more you read and think about what you are reading, the more God will open His word to you.”

- **Deuteronomy 31:12** “Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.” God has commanded us to read His Word. We cannot be good followers of Him if we do not know what He has said. Everyone is to listen and obey God.
- **Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” Other things in life will pass away but not the Word of God. The Bible is God’s eternal truth which will last forever. It is good to focus on things that last forever and don’t pass away.
- **Psalm 119: 11** “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Knowing the truth of God will help us resist doing that which is wrong. God’s Spirit uses the Word of God to cause us to know what is right and wrong. God’s Word helps us to know the consequences of sin and helps us to avoid those sins.
- **Psalm 119: 41-48** “May your unfailing love come to me, Lord, your salvation, according to your promise; then I can answer anyone who taunts me, for I trust in your word. Never take your word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws. I will always obey your law, forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them. I reach out for your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on your decrees” Knowing and obeying God’s Word allows us to know God’s love and forgiveness and gives us salvation. Salvation is freedom from the penalty of sin.
- **Proverbs 19:20** “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.” This verse tells us to listen to advice and accept instruction. We can learn about God’s instruction by listening to Bible stories, reading Bible verses, talking to our parents or teachers about God, listening to Christian music or praying. If we listen to God’s Word and obey it we will be “wise.”
- **John 10:27** “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” This verse compares listening to God to that of sheep listening and following the shepherd. Just like the shepherd Jesus knows us individually by name. If we belong to Him and are His children we will listen and follow His voice. If we listen and follow Him He will guide us, protect us, and encourage us.

Say: “How many of you have wondered about how to hear God speak? Will God speak to me in a loud booming voice? Is that how I’ll know God is speaking to me? God speaks to us in a lot of different ways. In the Bible we see that God spoke to people out loud. He spoke to people by giving someone else a message to give them. He spoke to people by giving them instructions to follow. God spoke to people through prayer. God spoke to people through Scripture. God spoke to people through Jesus. He spoke through the Holy Spirit. God doesn’t just speak in one way. That is why it is important for us to spend time
reading our Bible, praying, and learning from other Christians. As we learn more about God and who He is, we can understand when He speaks to us."

Students are to record what they have learned about the benefits of reading and obeying God’s Word in their spiritual journals.

**Group Learning Activity: “Listening Game” (Grades K-3)**

*Preparation:* Make a masking tape line across one end of the room as a starting point for the game.

*Procedure:* The teacher or leader will stand near one wall of the room and have the children line up on the masking tape line on the opposite wall.

Say: “As I read the following story, listen for the word “lead.” It’s the word that’s in the saying, “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.” When I say “lead,” take two giant steps toward me. The person to touch the wall behind me will get a prize. But remember you can only move when you hear the word “lead.” If you move at the wrong time, take two steps backward. Listen carefully!”

(Teacher is to read the following story, drawing out the underlined words to make the students anxious to move.)

“Once there was a boy named Lee who love to rake leaves. Lee would rake the leaves into a huge pile, lean his rake against the tree and leap into the pile. Sometimes Lee would even lead his dog, Levi, on his leash, walking around the neighborhood and picking up leaves. Then he’d lead Levi to the baseball park, where he would show off his treasures. Well Lee’s love of leaves caught on. Before long, all the kids in Little League were collecting, raking, and at least, jumping into piles of leaves. Lee would lead his friends on great expeditions into the forest, where they would see who could find the biggest leaf. Lee was always in the lead!”

(Teacher should reward the child who touched the wall first or finished close to the closest with a treat. Then toss handfuls of wrapped candies in the air saying you think they all deserve a treat. Then gather the children in a circle and ask the following.)

Say: “What were you thinking as you listened to the story?” (Students did not want to move on the wrong word.) Why were you so excited to move ahead? (Students wanted to win by getting to the wall.) How were you like Elijah in this game? (Students need to listen carefully when God speaks. He often speaks in the quiet small ways rather than the large big things of life.) How can you show God that you’re ready to listen to Him and obey?” (I can read God’s Word carefully and pray asking God how I can know what He wants me to do.)

Say: “At times we may feel like God cannot use us anymore because of our past failures, problems or lapses of faith. But that is NOT true! God will not give up on us either. In God’s gentle way, He will speak to our heart to encourage us to continue His work in our life. He will bless our lives when we walk with the Lord.”
Craft Learning Activity: “Listening Ears Headband’ (Grades K-2)

Preparation: You will need a printed copy of the template of “Listening Ears” below one for each student. Use heavy drawing paper or cardstock for the ears. Each student will also need a plastic hair headband. You will also need scissors, glue or cellophane tape, permanent marking pens, crayons or colored drawing pencils or colored markers.

Procedure: Distribute a copy of the “Listening Ears” template and one plastic headband for each student. Have students color the ears with the crayons, colored pencils, or colored markers. Demonstrate to students how to cut the ears out on the outside solid lines using scissors. Glue or tape the ears to the plastic headband. Across the top of the headband have students write “I will listen to the Lord.”

Say: “These ears will remind us that we need to learn to listen to God and obey His Word. Elijah was a great prophet and leader of God’s people. You don’t need to wait until you’re older to serve God—you just need to be willing to listen. I believe that God can do great things through you just as he did through Elijah.”

Craft Learning Activity: “Phone Call from the Lord” (Grades K-4)

Purpose: To teach children about communication and how the Lord speaks to us.

Preparation: You will need two clean empty vegetable cans per child, two to three feet of string or fine wire, scissors or wire cutters, and markers. (You can use plastic cups although the sound will not be as clear.)

Procedure: Give each child two cans or two plastic cups and one piece of string or wire two to three feet long. With the scissors, poke a small hole in the bottom of both cups. Or use an ice pick to put a hole in the bottom of the can. (Only the teacher should use the ice pick.) Push one end of the string or wire into the hole in the cup from the bottom. Tie a knot into the end of the string or twist the end of the wire into a knot. The knot end should be inside of the cup. Do the same with the second cup. Allow the children to decorate their telephones with stickers or markers.

When done with the craft have the children split into pairs. Have one child hold one end of a phone and the other child hold the other end of the phone. The string should be pulled taut, but not hard. Have one child speak into a cup while the other child places their cup to their ear. They should be able to hear the talking because of the vibration of the sound waves over the string. Allow the children to take turns.

Say: “Prayer is talking to God. Just like in using our string phones it is important for us to listen for the Lord’s voice. Sometimes, we can hear Him very loud and clear; other times, it might be more difficult, especially when there is a lot of noise around us.”

You can try to experiment with one pair of children. Have them try it with everyone else in the room talking and again while everyone else is silent.

Say: “Which way with or without noise is it easier to listen? It is the same way in our lives when we let the distractions of the world keeps us from hearing the Lord.”

OT12.4 Elijah Flees to Mount Horeb ©Beverly Wilson 2019
Craft Learning Activity: “Footsteps” (Grades K-3)
Preparation: You will need several sheets of brown cardstock poster board, marking pens, scissors, and crayons or colored markers.

Procedure: Lay several sheets of poster board on the floor. Have each child stand on the poster board and trace their feet. Let the children cut out the outlines of their feet. Allow them to decorate their feet with crayons or markers. They can draw shoes if they like or draw toes. Leave enough space to write, “I want to walk in the Spirit!” on the footprints.

After the children are finished with drawing their feet, make sure they have their names written on them. Next pin or staple the footprints to the wall or bulletin board in the classroom to remind the students to walk in the Spirit.

Craft Learning Activity: “Speak! Pillowcase” (Grades 3-5)
Preparation: You will need 1 plain white pillowcase per student, fabric markers or permanent markers, Bibles, and heavy weight paper or cardboard. Optional: You can give each student a small bean bag pillow to decorate.

Procedure: Distribute a pillowcase (or beanbag) to each student and accessibility to fabric markers and permanent markers. Provide heavy weight paper or cardboard for students to slide inside the pillowcase while decorating. This will prevent bleeding through and will allow students to decorate both sides of the pillowcases.

Have students locate and read the following verses: James 5:13; 16 “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray... Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” Have students write a message about prayer on their pillowcase. Encourage students to decorate around the printed message.

Say: “Let’s use our decorated pillowcase to remind us to listen to God every day. Remember that we listen to God by reading His Word and praying. God promises to listen to us and help us to understand what His will is for our lives.”

Life Application Challenge: Encourage Others
Say: “In this lesson we learned that we are to pay attention to God’s voice. Elijah learned to recognize God’s voice because he paid attention when God spoke to him. God knew that Elijah needed encouragement and God knows that we often need encouragement. God encourages us through his Word, in our hearts, and through other people. We praise God for encouraging us. Because God has encouraged us, we need to encourage others.

“One of the ways we speak to God and He speaks to us is through prayer. Before we pray, let’s think of someone in our lives that could use encouragement. Write the name of the friend on a paper, fold it, and place it in the offering bowl. As you pass the offering bowl, say, “God, help me to encourage ___ this week.”

Remember that no child should be forced to pray but do encourage and invite each one to join you.
Elijah Flees to Mount Horeb

James 5:13; 16

"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray... Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."
Elijah went to a cave. God spoke to him there.

Find a  and a . Circle them. Color the picture.
Elijah proved on Mount Carmel that the LORD was the true God. That made Jezebel, who worshiped Baal, very angry!

She wanted to kill Elijah. He went away! He went to the desert to pray. He __________. An __________ woke him and told him to __________. He found a cake of __________ and a jar of __________ by his head. He needed strength for a __________. He traveled 40 days and 40 nights to Mount Horeb.

He went into a __________. God __________ Elijah what he was __________ there. Elijah said he felt he was the only one left __________ to God.

God told Elijah to go __________ on the __________. God would __________ by soon. So Elijah did as God said. There was a great __________, a strong __________ and a __________. But God was not in any of those. __________

How did God come to Elijah there? It was in a __________.
Listening Ears Headband