

Elijah in the Wilderness

1 Kings 19



The Story

What do you think God looks like? *(Answers will vary)*

Who has seen God? *(Real people have actually seen God, Moses, Adam and Eve, Elijah, disciples)*

Do you think God can make himself look like whatever he wants to look like? *Yes.*

Why can God do that? *Because He is God and he is all-powerful.*

In today's lesson we are going to see that Elijah isn't doing what God wants him to be doing. Elijah thinks that there is no use for him to keep on preaching the Word of God to the people of Israel because they just worship the false idol Baal. Elijah wants to give up and die. God has a most wonderful, miraculous message for Elijah to teach him that it is not right to feel so discouraged.

God showed Elijah four mighty works and told him that He was in one of those four things. The first was a strong wind storm. The second was an earthquake. The third was a fire. And the fourth was a quiet, small voice. Which one do you think God was in? *Let each student pick one of the choices. (If there is time ask them why they picked their answer.)*

Listen carefully to today's story and we will see in which one of the four things God came to Elijah to tell him that he was acting wrong.

(Write this outer aim on the chalkboard.)

God came to Elijah to tell him that he should not ever be discouraged.

Queen Jezebel found out that Elijah had killed the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. She sent a message to Elijah saying, "may the gods deal severely with me, if, by this time

tomorrow, I do not make your life like that of one of the dead priests."

After Elijah heard this, he ran 100 miles into the countryside where no one was so that he could hide. He sat under a huge juniper tree and prayed that God would end his life. He had worked so hard to make his people believe in their God. He had preached so loud and so long. He did not think that his hard work had made a difference. Now Queen Jezebel was after him.

Elijah fell asleep until an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." Elijah woke up and found some bread and a jar of water. He ate the bread, drank the water, and fell back asleep. Then The Angel of the Lord came back again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat because you have a long trip to make." Elijah got up, ate the food and drank the water. Then he got up and walked for 40 days and 40 nights without eating.

Elijah then went to a mountain called Horeb. This was the same mountain on which God talked to Moses from the burning bush. Elijah lived in a cave on the mountain. God came to him there and said, "What are you doing here?"

Elijah complained to God saying, "I have served you Lord, but the children of Israel have worshiped other gods, and killed your prophets. I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me too."

The Lord told Elijah to stand on the mountain, and He would pass by Elijah. A strong wind blew across the mountain

and knocked down rocks. But the Lord wasn't in the strong wind. Then there was an earthquake that went in front of Elijah, but the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. Next came a fire that passed by, but the Lord wasn't in the fire either. Finally, a small voice whispered to Elijah. When Elijah heard it, he was afraid because the Lord was in that small voice.

God's voice said again to Elijah, "What are you doing here?" Elijah gave the same answer as before. Then

the Lord told Elijah, "Go, and find Elisha. He will be the next prophet after you. There are 7,000 people who have not bowed down to worship the false god Baal. You are not the only one left."

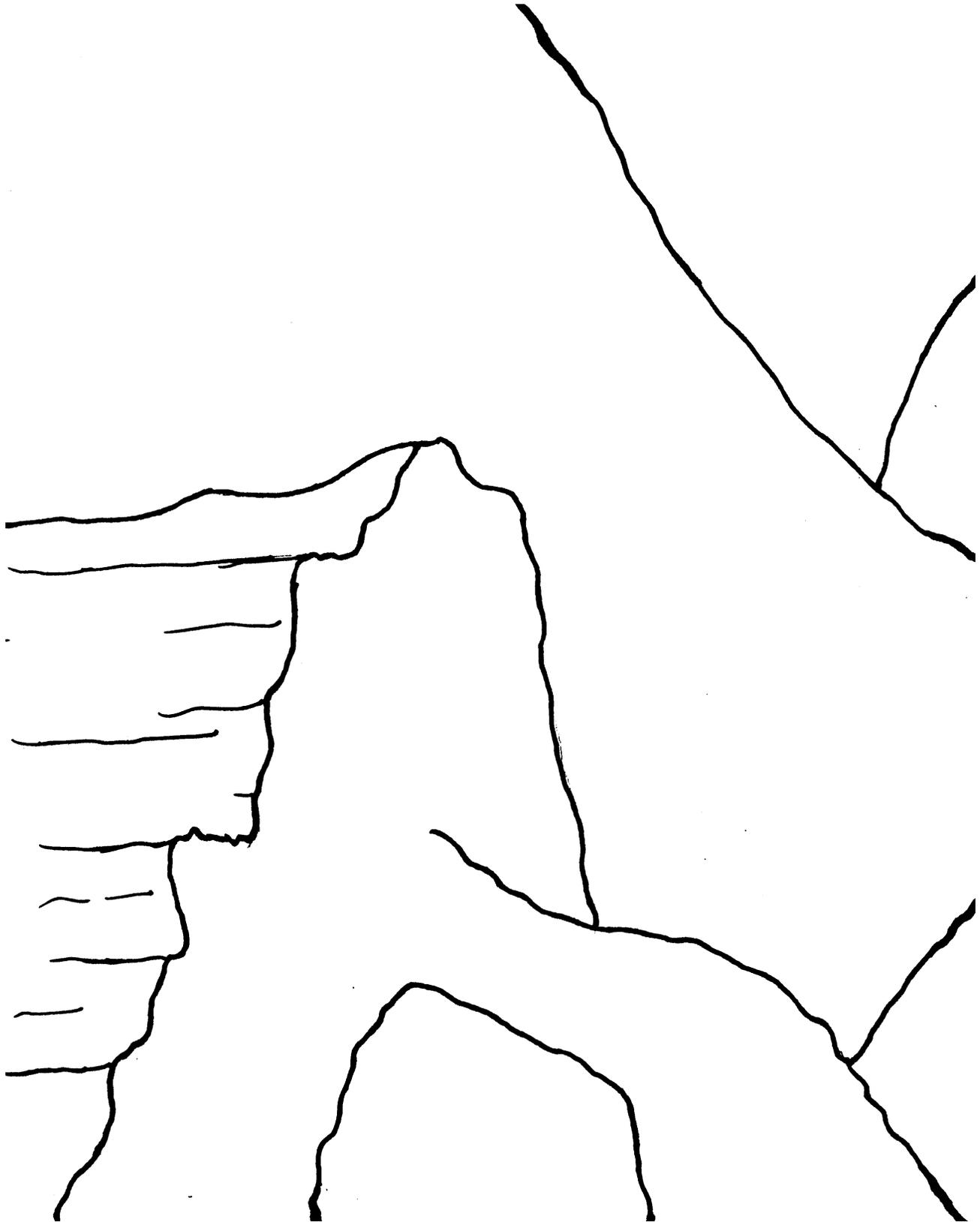
Elijah left to find Elisha who would be the next prophet. He found him plowing a farm field with some oxen. As soon as Elijah saw Elisha, he threw his coat on Elisha and told him that he would be the next prophet. Elisha knew God had chosen him so he followed Elijah.

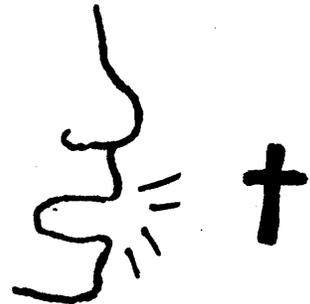
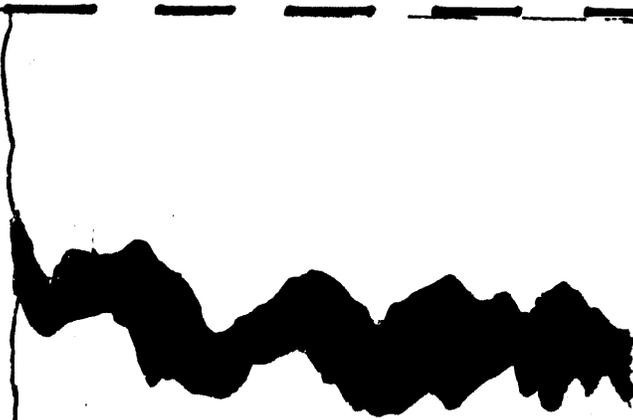
Activity One - Answer the following questions by telling the answer from the lesson.

1. Why did Elijah leave to go into the wilderness?
2. Why was Elijah so sad?
3. Was he the only one left?
4. Who came to tell Elijah to eat?
5. What was special about the food that Elijah ate?
6. What did God have pass by in front of Elijah?
7. Which one was God in?
8. Why do think God was in the still small voice and not the powerful things?
9. What does God use to come to us?
10. What is in God's Word that is so important for us?

The Gospel message is the still small voice that has the power to save us from our sins.

Activity Two -Color the background picture on page 4. It is side ways on the page. Then color the figures on page 5. Next cut out the figures along the dotted lines. Glue or tape the figures to popsicle sticks. Finally, use the figures to retell the story.





Passages

2 Timothy 2:19 - "The Lord knows those who are His,"

Should we ever think like Elijah did that we are the last believers on this earth?

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Should we ever worry that the Lord will leave us?

What does this Word, the Gospel message do for us?

Hymn - TLH #292 v. 1, 9

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.

Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus as our Savior. Thank You for giving us the Gospel so we can tell others that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. In Your name we pray. Amen.