

# Elijah in the Wilderness

1 Kings 19



# The Story

What do you think God looks like?

Who has seen God?

Do you think God can make himself look like whatever He wants to look like?  
Why can God do that?

In today's lesson, we are going to see that Elijah isn't doing what God wants him to do. Elijah thinks that there is no use for him to keep on preaching the Word of God to the people of Israel, because they worship the false god Baal anyway. Elijah wants to die. God has to come to Elijah to tell him that he is acting in a wrong way.

God sent four things in front of Elijah and said 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?

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 in a wrong way.

After Elijah had killed all the prophets of Baal, Queen Jezebel found out. She was very upset and promised to kill Elijah before the next night. Elijah heard this and ran out into the wilderness where no people lived.

Elijah was not happy. He was worried. He sat under a tree and prayed to God that God would end his life. After Elijah prayed, he fell asleep.

Then, suddenly, an angel touched Elijah and woke him up. The angel said, "Get up and eat." Elijah looked and there was bread and a jar of water. So, he got up, ate the bread and drank the water.

Elijah fell back asleep after he was done eating.

Again, the angel came to Elijah and told him, "Get up and eat for you have to make a long trip." Elijah woke up and saw more bread and water. He ate the bread and drank the water. This food gave him enough strength so that he didn't have to eat for the next 40 days!

Elijah went to a mountain and stayed in a cave. It was the same mountain where God had talked to Moses in the burning bush. God talked to Elijah and asked, "What are you doing here?" Elijah complained to God and said, "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, 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 also 7,000 people who have not bowed down to worship the false god Baal. You are not the only one left."

Elijah left the mountain and went to

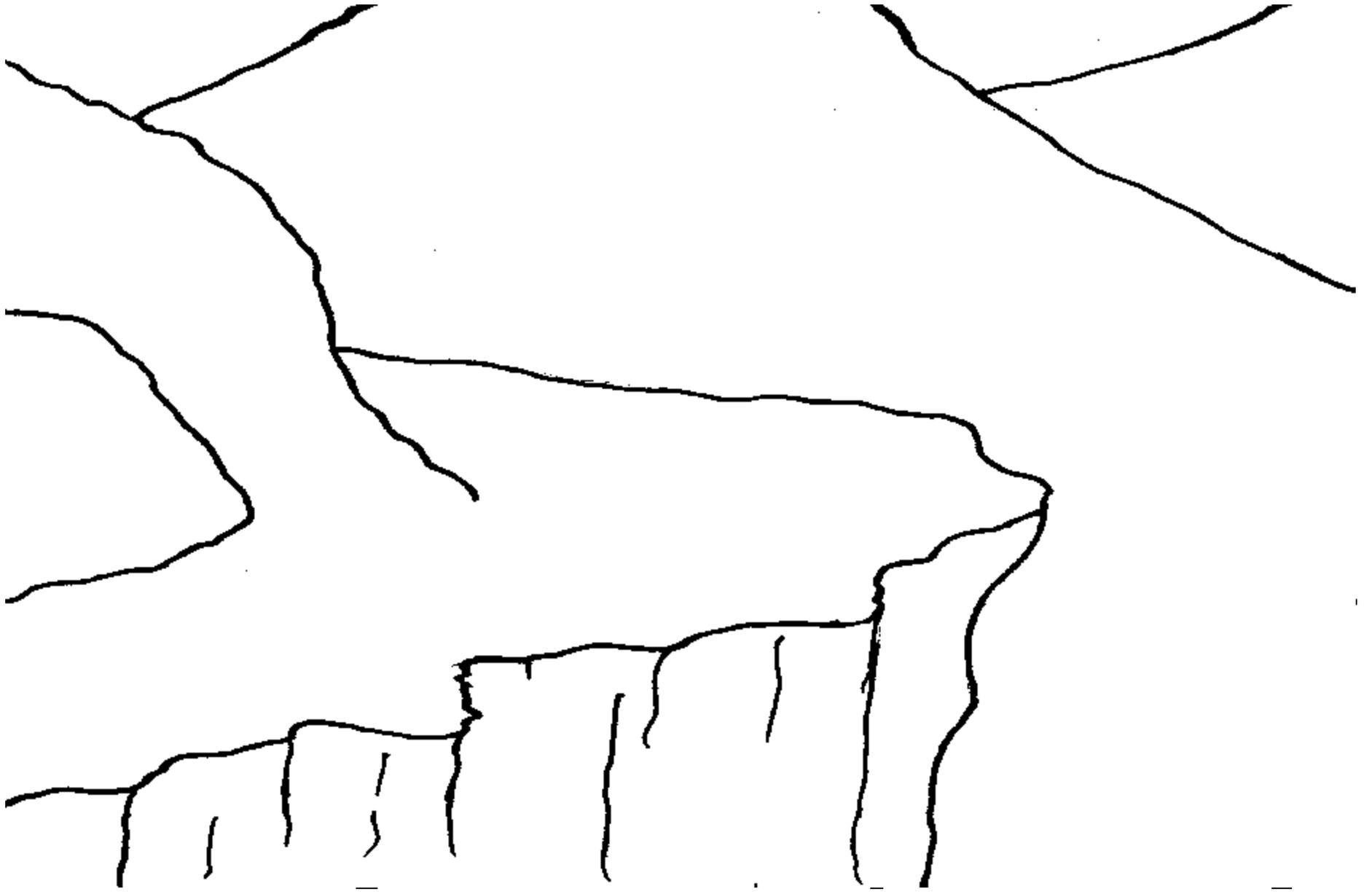
find Elisha. He found him and threw his coat on Elijah saying, "The Lord wants you to be the next prophet." Elisha knew that

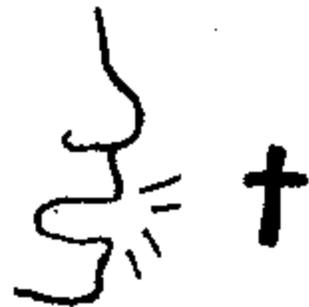
God was choosing him to be the next prophet, so he followed Elijah.

**Activity One** - Answer the following questions by drawing lines to the correct answer in the second column. If you need it, get help reading the questions and answers.

Why did Elijah leave to go into the wilderness?	◆	◆	<i>An angel.</i>
Why was Elijah so sad?	◆	◆	<i>He was getting away from Jezebel who was going to kill him.</i>
Was he the only one left?	◆	◆	<i>No, there were 7,000 people that believed in God.</i>
Who came to tell Elijah to eat?	◆	◆	<i>The still small voice.</i>
What was special about the food that Elijah ate?	◆	◆	<i>We learn about Jesus and how He saved us from our sins. This is the Gospel message.</i>
What did God have pass in front of Elijah?	◆	◆	<i>He uses His Word the Gospel.</i>
Which one was God in?	◆	◆	<i>He thought he was the only believer left in Israel.</i>
Why do think God was in the still small voice and not the powerful things?	◆	◆	<i>A windstorm, an earthquake, a fire, and a still small voice.</i>
What does God use to come to us?	◆	◆	<i>God used it to show that His power is the Gospel</i>
What is in God's Word that is so important for us?	◆	◆	<i>God blessed it so after he ate it he didn't have to eat for 40 days.</i>

**Activity Two** -Color the background picture on page 4. Then color the figures on page 5. After you have colored the figures, cut them out along the dotted lines. Glue the figures to popsicle sticks and use them to retell the story.





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

## Passages

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

Should we ever worry that the Lord will leave us? *No he will always keep us safe.*

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."

What should we do with this Word that God has given to us? *We should use it to tell others about Jesus dying on the cross for us.*

What does this Word, the Gospel message do for us? *It has the power to save 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 giving us the Gospel so we can tell others that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. Thank You for sending Him as our Savior. In Your name we pray. Amen.

# 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."

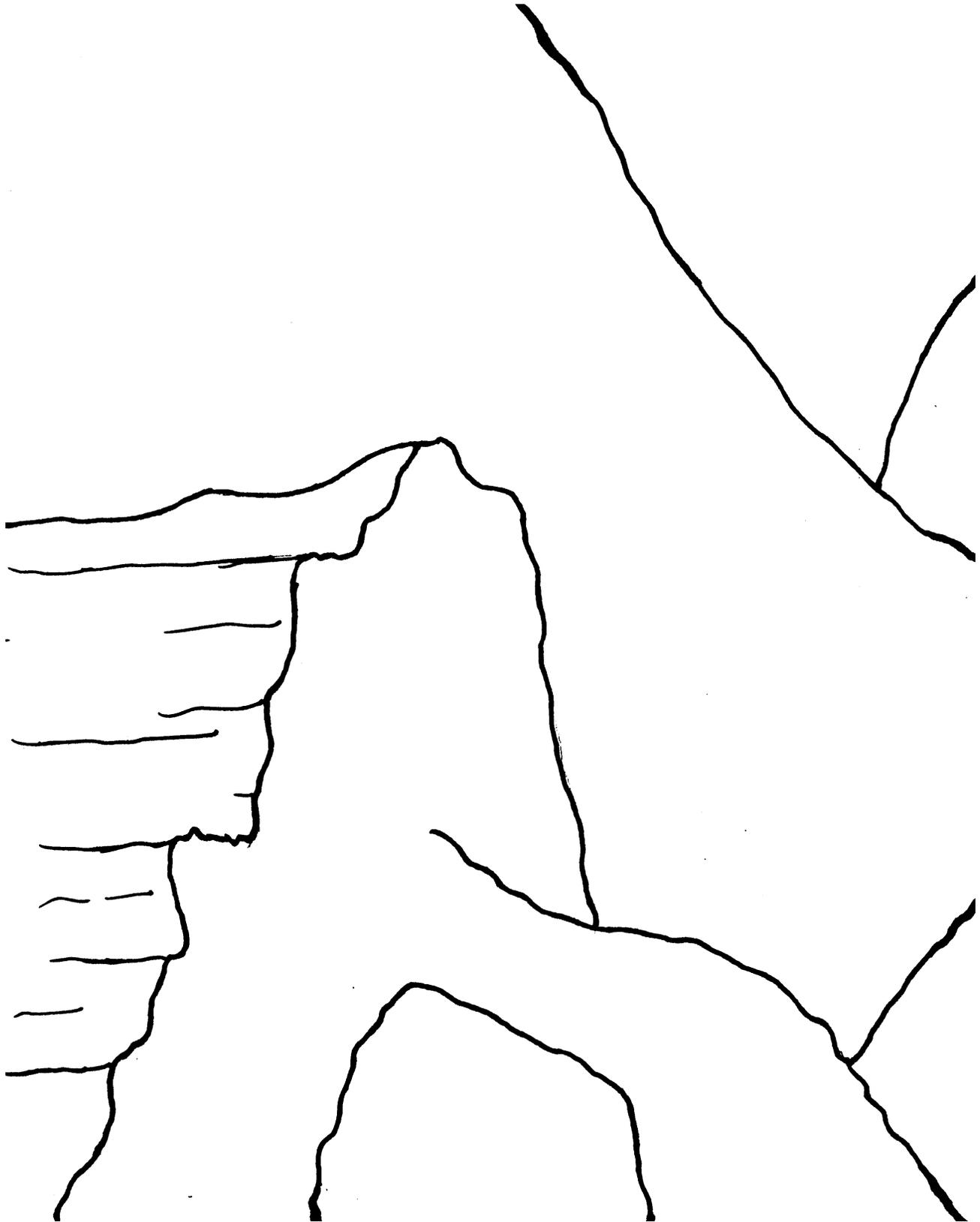
Elijah left to find Elisha who would be the next prophet. He found him plowing a farm field with some oxen. As soon as Elijah saw Elisha, he threw his coat on Elisha and told him that he would be the next prophet. Elisha knew God had chosen him so he followed Elijah.

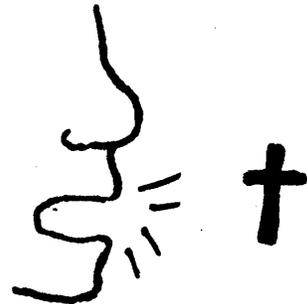
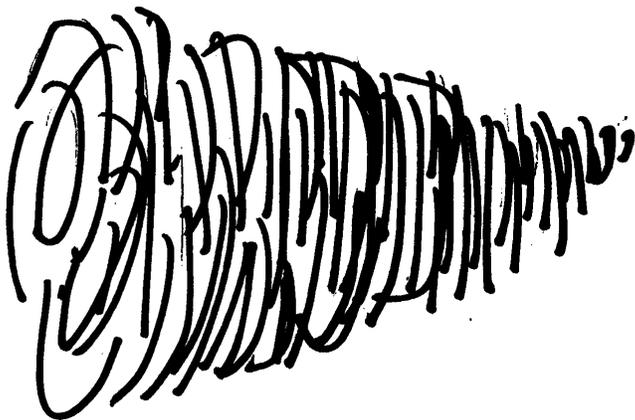
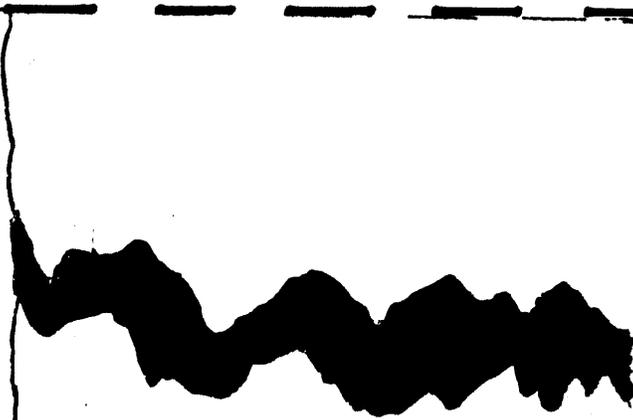
**Activity One** - Answer the following questions by telling the answer from the lesson.

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.

# Elijah in the Wilderness

## 1 Kings 19

Raise your hand if you have brothers or sisters. What do you do or should you do if you see them doing something your parents told them not to do?

How would it make you feel if they kept doing it and your parents didn't even seem to notice or care?

That's exactly how Elijah felt today in our story. He served the Lord faithfully and he had just defeated the prophets of Baal by killing them on Mt. Carmel. All the people saw God send down the fire to prove that He was the True God of Israel and not a false god. But still, the children of Israel kept on worshipping this false god. It made Elijah so upset that he didn't even want to serve the Lord by preaching anymore. He didn't think the people would ever believe and he just wanted to die.

Is this the kind of attitude that God wants us to have? Why not?

In today's story we are going to see how God showed Elijah that he needed to change his attitude, to go and preach to the people.



## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

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

## The Story - 1 Kings 19

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. {2} Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

{3} And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. {4} But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my

life, for I am no better than my fathers!" {5} Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

{6} Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

{7} And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." {8} So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the



mountain of God.

{9} And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

{10} So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

{11} Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD."

And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; {12} and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. {13} So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

{14} And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

{15} Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. {16} "Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. {17} "It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. {18} "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

{19} So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. {20} And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you."

And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

{21} So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

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**Outer Aim - God showed Elijah that he needed to change his attitude to go and preach to the people.**

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**What God's Word Tells Us** - Read the Fourth Petition (©Sydow Catechism 2000) below and answer the questions.

**The Fourth Petition**

**"Give us this day our daily bread."**

**What does this mean?**

**God gives daily bread without our asking, even to unbelievers, but we pray in this petition that He would teach us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**

1. Why wasn't Elijah's attitude very good when he was praying to God?
2. Elijah complained and felt sorry for himself. How did God respond to Elijah's complaints?
3. What does this show us about God?
4. Do we need to be concerned about our physical needs? What is the most important thing in life?
5. God's way of salvation in the Gospel message seems foolish to so many people. What do they fail to realize about this Gospel message?

**Your Turn** - Label the following pictures from the lesson.



wind storm
earthquake
fire
quiet voice

**What the Story Tells Us** - Cut out the sentences and put them in the correct order so that they tell the story presented in the lesson.

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Elijah had the prophets of Baal killed on Mt. Carmel.

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Jezebel promised to kill Elijah before the next night.

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Elijah ran away into the wilderness.

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Elijah prayed to God asking God to take his life.

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Elijah ate the miracle food that gave him strength for 40 days.

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God said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

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Elijah said, "I have served you Lord, but the Israelites worship other gods. I alone am left."

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God told Elijah to come out of the cave and He would pass before Elijah.

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A great windstorm passed by tearing down rocks, but God wasn't in it.

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An earthquake came before Elijah, but God wasn't in it.

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A fire passed in front of Elijah, but God wasn't in it.

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A still small voice spoke to Elijah and God was in it.

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God asked Elijah again, "What are you doing here?"

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Elijah gave the same excuse as before.

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God told Elijah to go and get Elisha for he would be the next prophet of Israel.

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

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## Passages

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

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."

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

## Hymn

 - TLH #292 v. 1, 2, 8, 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.

A trusty weapon is Thy Word,  
Thy Church's buckler, shield and sword.  
Oh, let us in its power confide  
That we may seek no other guide!

In these last days of sore distress  
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness  
That pure we keep, till life is spent,  
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

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 giving us Your still small voice, the Gospel message which is the power of salvation for all who believe it. Let us trust in Your ways for they are good and perfect. Thank You for making Your plan of salvation complete for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross to take away all our sins. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

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## 1 Kings 19

Raise your hand if you have brothers or sisters.

What do you do or should you do if you see them doing something your parents told them not to do?

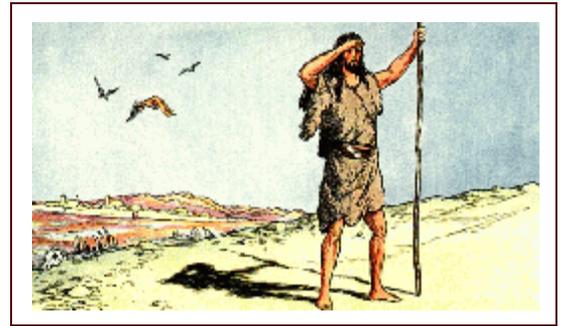
How would it make you feel if they kept doing it and your parents didn't even seem to notice or care?

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people saw that God sent down the fire to prove that He was the True God of Israel and not a false god. But still, the children of Israel kept on worshiping this false god. It made Elijah so upset that he didn't even want to serve the Lord by preaching anymore. He didn't think the people would ever believe and he just wanted to die.

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### Prayer

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### The Story - 1 Kings 19

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came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" {5} Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

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came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." {8} So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

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And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; {12} and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. {13} So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

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**Outer Aim** - God showed Elijah that he needed to change his attitude, to go and preach to the people.

**What the Story Tells Us** - Answer the following questions.

1. Why was Elijah running into the wilderness?
2. Why was she going to kill him?
3. What was special about this food?
4. Why did God ask Elijah what he was doing in the cave?
5. What does Elijah's response show us about Elijah?
6. In whom was Elijah putting his trust and confidence?
7. How did God show that Elijah was being foolish?
8. Why do you think God came to Elijah in the still small voice and not the powerful destructive wind, earthquake, and fire?

9. What do you think that still small voice is?

10. How did God comfort Elijah by using the still small voice?

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

**Your Turn** - Read the Fourth Petition (©Sydow Catechism 2000) below and answer the questions.

### The Fourth Petition

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

What does this mean?

God gives daily bread without our asking, even to unbelievers, but we pray in this petition that He would teach us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Why wasn't Elijah's attitude very good when he was praying to God?

Elijah complained and felt sorry for himself. How did God respond to Elijah's complaints?

What does this show us about God?

Do we need to be concerned about our physical needs? What is the most important thing in life?

God's way of Salvation in the Gospel message seems foolish to so many people. What do they fail to realize about this Gospel message?

**What God's Word Tells Us** - Answer the following questions.

1. Read Romans 1:16. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”* Why does this passage fit our Bible story today?
2. Read I Corinthians 1:18-21. *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”* In our story today, what would the world think about God coming in the still small voice?

3. According to that passage why has God chosen to use the still small voice to save people?
  
4. What is the only way to Salvation which the world thinks is foolishness but is really the wisdom of God?

## Passages

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

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."

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

## Hymn - TLH #292 v. 1, 2, 8, 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.

A trusty weapon is Thy Word,  
Thy Church's buckler, shield and sword.  
Oh, let us in its power confide  
That we may seek no other guide!

In these last days of sore distress  
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness  
That pure we keep, till life is spent,  
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

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 giving us Your still small voice, the Gospel message which is the power of salvation for all who believe it. Let us trust in Your ways for they are good and perfect. Thank You for making Your plan of salvation complete for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross to take away all our sins. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

**STORY**

Elijah in the Wilderness - I Kings 19

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Dear Lord, all of us are weak in so many ways. As your people, we are challenged on every hand and need Your wisdom, encouragement and strength every day. As a teacher of Your lambs, give me Your Spirit that I may help to prepare them to live in a world of sin. They need to know that in the midst of the struggles of life You will never let them down but will be with them always even unto the end of the world. Help us all to remember Your words, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mat. 5:10)

**VOCABULARY**

*Beersheba* - about 50 miles SW of Jerusalem

*Broom tree* - a type of juniper

*Mt. Horeb / Mt. Sinai* - Approx. 250 miles south of Jerusalem

**OUTER AIM**

Elijah is depressed by the unbelief of the people of Israel.

**INNER AIM**

God's kingdom will endure regardless of the unbelief of man.

**BACKGROUND** (*Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. I, pp. 352 - 356*)

Elijah was emotionally spent. For years he had preached, admonished, exhorted and rebuked the people of Israel in the Northern Kingdom. Yet, the constant slide toward make-believe gods of the surrounding nations continued. The teachings of this man-made religion appealed to their reason and their sinful flesh. God had made one last, clear and irrefutable testimony through the prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel. As a result for a short time, the people acknowledged the LORD God as the one true God and carried out the instruction of Elijah to execute the false prophets. This was in accord with the law of God. (Cf. Deut. 13:5; 12: 29 - 32)

This may seem extremely harsh. Yet, we must remember that the preservation of the promise of redemption in the Messiah was intricately connected with the nation of Israel. The LORD God was fighting for our life! At stake was nothing less than our life with God for time and for eternity.

As we recall from the previous lesson, Satan never quits. In the New Testament era our Lord nowhere instructs us to exterminate false prophets. The Messiah has come. His kingdom has been established in the Christ. Yet, the struggle goes on. This war against Satan and his followers is well described in Ephesians 6:10 -18.

**STUDENT PRAYER**

Lord God, before me stands the future. There are many unknowns, but I do know who holds the future. I pray that You will fill me with Your Spirit that I may face my tomorrow with a confident expectation. Help me to remember that You are always first in my life. Help me to confess Your name before all by word and action regardless of the consequences. I know that You will never let me down but will bless me. In Your holy name I pray. Amen



## PRESENTATION

Answers to introductory questions.

*Answers will vary*

*Real people have actually seen God, Moses, Adam and Eve, Elijah, disciples.*

*Yes.*

*Because He is God and he is all-powerful.*

*Let each student pick one of the choices. (If there is time ask them why they picked their answer.)*

*Write this outer aim on the chalkboard after the introductory remarks.*

## ***God came to Elijah to tell him that he was acting in a wrong way.***

**Activity One** - Answer the following questions by telling the answer from the lesson. The answers are in italics.

1. Why did Elijah leave to go into the wilderness? *He was getting away from Jezebel who was going to kill him.*
2. Why was Elijah so sad? *He thought he was the only believer left in Israel.*
3. Was he the only one left? *No, there were 7,000 people that believed in God.*
4. Who came to tell Elijah to eat? *An angel.*
5. What was special about the food that Elijah ate? *God blessed it so after he ate it he didn't have to eat for 40 days.*
6. What did God have pass in front of Elijah? *A windstorm, an earthquake, a fire, and a still small voice.*
7. Which one was God in? *The still small voice.*
8. Why do think God was in the still small voice and not the powerful things? *God used it to show that His power is the Gospel. (Ask this follow up question if they can't figure this last one out.)*
9. What does God use to come to us? *He uses His Word the Gospel.*
10. What is in God's Word that is so important for us? *We learn about Jesus and how He saved us from our sins. This is the Gospel message.*

Elijah had done the Lord's work faithfully. That is all the Lord asked him to do. Yet, in his assessment his labors were in vain. Jezebel had threatened to take his life "tomorrow about this time." Besides that, the children of Israel had forsaken the LORD and had given themselves to the worship of Baal.

Elijah had fled to Beersheba and went a day's journey into the wilderness. There he prayed that the LORD would take him from this world. But the LORD had something He wished for Elijah to do first. The LORD watched over him as he slept under a broom tree. The angel of the LORD prepared food on a fire and provided water. He was being prepared for the 200-mile trip to Horeb, "the mountain of God."

There in a cave the LORD came to Elijah with a very simple question: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah explained, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your

covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” (Vs. 10) Yet, the LORD had a very important lesson to teach Elijah, His faithful servant in a very graphic way.

First, there was the strong wind that broke rocks into pieces. The LORD was not in the wind.

Secondly, there was an earthquake violently shaking the ground. The LORD was not in the earthquake.

Thirdly, there was a consuming fire. The LORD was not in the fire. Finally, Elijah heard “a still small voice.” He covered his face in reverent awe and went out to hear the LORD ask again, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” What was Elijah to learn from this?

Ask the children to give their thoughts regarding this rather graphic display of God’s power and gentleness. How might one compare the wind, the earthquake and the fire? How do they differ from the “still small voice?” What was the purpose of asking for the second time, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Compare the condemning nature of the Law with the gentle loving nature of the Gospel. Had Elijah become so disturbed by the unfaithfulness of the people of Israel that he no longer could function in his ministry in a fashion pleasing to God? Is that why God asked His servant to answer that simple question, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” If Elijah would answer that question after examining his heart, he would find an answer to his inner turmoil.

## **APPLICATION**

All God’s people need to recognize that He who rescued us from the slime pit of sin and washed us clean in the blood of Jesus has one primary purpose for us, His purchased people, namely, “that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (I Peter 2:9) All of us wish to be successful in our endeavors in life. So also, we hope and pray for a positive response when we are engaged in the labors of our Lord’s kingdom. Yet, our success or failure is not determined by a hoped-for positive response. Our Lord wishes for us to realize that, as we work with Him and for Him He has given us a special duty. He has not asked much of us. He has simply invited us to share the blessings in Christ, which He has given to us. The only way we can fail is if we refuse to give His love to others. Our success is simply in the doing of it.

Our Lord never asks us to build His church. He has reserved that for Himself. “I will build my Church,” says the Lord. (Matt. 16:18) It appears Elijah lost sight of this all-important truth. As a result, he became extremely depressed and stopped sharing God’s Word with others. That was not good. The Lord also warned His disciples when they were filled with excitement because their work was producing positive results. The Savior cautioned, “Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 19:20) The fact that their names were written in heaven would be a constant, solid basis for rejoicing regardless of the reaction of their hearers to the Gospel. The kingdom labors will have many ups and downs, but our basis for rejoicing must remain constant and sure. Praise the Lord!

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

Luke 10:20 - "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

I Peter 2:9 - "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Matthew 5:10 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Ephesians 6:10-11 - "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

## **HYMN CHOICES**

All Praise To God, Who Reigns Above - TLH #19

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - TLH #262

Soldiers Of The Cross, Arise - TLH #501

How Firm A Foundation, Ye Saints Of The Lord - TLH #427