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# Preschool Sunday School Lesson

## *"A Still Small Voice"*

**The Calling of Elijah**  
(1 Kings 19:1-20)

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**For Ages:**  
Older Preschool (ages 3-6)

### **Teacher Bible Study:**

Today's Bible story sounds so much like my life. I am always looking for God in the loudness and busyness of my day. Have you ever wondered what God would have you do? Have you ever wondered why you can't hear His voice? I think Elijah was much like us; he was looking for God in the hurricane, not in a still small voice.

One of my favorite activities is to walk in the state park near my home. I like to walk and talk to God; in this beautiful place I find that I can also hear God. Is it because that is the only place God can be heard? Of course, we all know that you can hear God anywhere as long as you are willing to listen.

On this "Consider Your Call"® Sunday, I hope as you prepare this lesson that you will think about what God would have you to do. I hope that you will not miss God's still small voice because your life is making too much noise. Take time to reflect and consider God's call on your life.

As you prepare to teach preschoolers, think about their unique circumstances as you prepare this lesson. Our concept for today is "I Can Obey." Your time today will help preschoolers know what it means to obey, how they can obey, and how God will provide.

Thank you for teaching preschoolers and your commitment to serve God.



*a still small voice*  
1 Kings 19:11-13



## **Leader's Spiritual Preparedness:**

### **Leaders' Preparation of the Classroom—**

1. Make a sign for classroom door (might you locate Bible picture of Elijah?)—Today we are learning how Elijah obeyed God; we, too, can obey God.
2. Have in place a security system/means for “matching” parents/guardians with preschoolers at end of learning session.
3. Collect resources needed for each of the learning centers.
4. Have fun today as you nurture preschoolers' faith!

## **Learning Session (35-40 min.):**

### **Learning Centers—**

Learning centers are designed to help preschoolers in making good choices and to accommodate the preschoolers' limited attention span. As preschoolers move from center to center, teachers are encouraged to talk about the activity and its connection to the Bible story.

### **Blocks—**

Place a teaching picture in the block area (use a picture of Elijah from old literature or a picture of a child helping). Encourage preschoolers to build a mountain out of blocks. Talk about how Elijah went up on a mountain to talk to God. Use Bible verse “God helps us” (Psalm 46.1). Place Bible open to the Bible verse on the floor.

### **Homeliving/Dramatic Play—**

In the homeliving area you may offer a variety of opportunities. Have some plastic dishes available for preschoolers to wash. Limit the amount of water to two inches; have towels available for drying dishes and containing spills. Consider plastic aprons to protect children's clothing from water spills. An alternative to washing dishes is to have items such as towels or socks available so preschoolers may take turns folding them.

You may also have children's cleaning supplies (child-size broom, vacuum, duster, etc.). Preschoolers pretend to help with these household chores. As preschoolers play, talk about how preschoolers may obey by doing what their parents ask them.

### **Nature—**

Have a variety of funnels and measuring cups, sand in a plastic tub, water (limit amount of water to two inches) in a plastic tub, plastic table cloth, and/or a towel to place under the tubs to aid in cleanup. Allow preschoolers to measure and pour sand and/or water. Talk about how Elijah had been in the desert and how God provided him with water and bread. This is a good time to taste bread (pita bread works great). Use Bible verse “God gives food to us” (Psalm 136:25). Place Bible open to Bible verse on the floor. You could also have a picture of Elijah in your nature center, or you may choose to have pictures of a desert.

### **Puzzles/Manipulatives—**

Provide a variety of theme-related puzzles. Puzzles may be store-bought or homemade. You may use old literature pictures of Elijah and/or children doing chores/helping family members. Cut into 10-12 pieces, adhere magnetic tape to backs of pieces, place on cookie sheet for preschoolers to use to complete the puzzle.

Puzzles of animals, clothing, etc. work well, too. You may connect these to your Bible story by talking about taking care of these items as a way of obeying parents. To make puzzles, glue the picture/photo to a 9” x 12” sheet of construction paper, then cut the paper into six or eight pieces. If photos/pictures are small, glue two identical photos/pictures to 4” x 6” index cards; preschoolers match the index cards, much like game of “Memory.”

Magnetic letters are a great way to practice letter recognition for older preschoolers. Choose words related to your Bible verse or story such as “Elijah,” “obey,” “God,” “hear,” “help,” etc. Write the words on separate index cards and have the magnetic letters to match. Provide a cookie sheet for preschoolers to use to spell their words. Use Bible verse “God helps us” (Psalm 46.1).

### **Books—**

Make a comfortable place for preschoolers to come and read. Provide a variety of books from old literature or from your book collection that relate to obeying, following Jesus, or “I Can Help” books. As preschoolers join you in the book center, talk about how Elijah obeyed God by doing what he asked.

### **Art Center—**

Invite preschoolers to join others in the art center; limit to two preschoolers at a time. As preschoolers arrive, help them with putting on paint shirts. Provide each preschooler with a plain sheet of white paper (prior to today’s lesson, take a white crayon and print each child’s name on the white paper), watercolors, and a cup (with lid) of water. Encourage preschoolers to paint on their paper with the watercolors. As their names appear, talk about obeying and how they may obey. Use Bible verse, “God cares for you” (I Peter 5:7).

### **Clean-Up Time (5 min.):**

Give preschoolers a warning to finish their activities. Sing a familiar clean-up song as everyone cleans up.

### **Group Time (10-15 min.):**

Invite the preschoolers to join you in group time by following the Bible verse footprints (write one word on each footprint and place on the floor leading to group time.) After everyone has gathered, ask one child to walk the footprint path again as you read today’s Bible verse, “Love God very much” (Mark 12:30). Take turns tossing a beanbag to each preschooler. Have him or her name something he/she does to obey parents (setting table, going to bed, brushing teeth, etc.)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 19:1-20; lay it in your lap. Tell the preschoolers that today’s story is about Elijah and how he obeyed God. Tell the story of Elijah in your own words. (See Bible story at end of lesson.)

Offer a one sentence prayer: “Help me to obey.” or “Thank You, God, for providing for me.”

Show picture of Elijah and let preschoolers recall the story, by asking “Who is in the picture?”, “Where is Elijah?”, “Why is Elijah here?”, “What happened to Elijah?”, “How did Elijah obey God?”, “How did God help Elijah?”.

Let the preschoolers play “Jesus Came to Town” (*see page 4*).

### **Transition Time:**

Allow the preschoolers to play “Mother, May I?” as they wait for the extended care leaders or their parents. Another activity is to allow preschoolers to locate today’s Bible verses in the Bible. Place a bookmark at each Bible verse for ease in locating Bible verses. Preschooler may select one of the bookmakers (various colors); you as leader whisper the Bible verse to the preschooler who, in turn, “reads” or tells the Bible verse to the other preschoolers. Then, as a group we say the Bible verse. Since we’re sitting on the floor waiting for parents, and preschoolers need to stretch their muscles, we may jump up and say the verse together. Say goodbye to each child; thank the parents for sharing their children with you today.

### **Bible Story:**

#### **Elijah Obeyed God (1 Kings 19:1-20)—**

Elijah’s life was in danger. He left his home and went into the desert. He traveled until he came to a bush. Elijah fell asleep. An angel woke Elijah up and told him to eat and drink. God had provided water and bread. The angel appeared again to Elijah saying, “Get up, eat, you have a long journey ahead.” Elijah set out on his long journey. Elijah traveled for 40 days and nights. Elijah found rest in a cave. Again an angel appeared before him telling him to climb a mountain and he would see God. God spoke to Elijah and told him to go back through the desert to Damascus and what he should do when he got there. Elijah did what God told him to do. He obeyed God.

# “Jesus Came to Town” Game

Excerpted from  
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**Say:** Let’s play a game and pretend we’re following Jesus.

Help the children play a game similar to “The Farmer in the Dell” as they sing a song to the same tune. Have the children form a circle and choose one child to play the part of Jesus. Have the child playing Jesus walk around the inside of the circle as you lead the children in singing the first four lines. At line five, have “Jesus” choose a child to follow him/her. At the end of the eighth line, the two children will be standing in the center of the circle.

Repeat the third verse with the last child chosen becoming the “chooser,” until every child has been chosen and is standing in the center of the no-longer-existent circle. Sing the fourth verse to end the game.

**Sing:**

Jesus came to town.  
He shared the love of God.  
Hallelujah! God is here!  
Come follow him today.

He shared God’s love with *[chosen child’s name]*.  
He shared God’s love with *[chosen child’s name]*.  
Hallelujah! God is here!  
Come follow him today.

*[Chooser’s name]* tells *[chosen child’s name]*.  
*[Chooser’s name]* tells *[second child’s name]*.  
Hallelujah! God is here!  
Come follow him today.

No one stands alone.  
No one stands alone.  
Hallelujah! God is here!  
Come follow him today.

**Ask:**

- How did you feel when you were chosen to follow “Jesus”?
- How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus picked them?
- What are some ways we can tell others about Jesus?

**Say:**

Jesus loves us, and Jesus wants everyone in the world to follow him. We can help others follow Jesus by telling them that Jesus loves them.