

The Gentle Whisper

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Sometimes, when God wants to get our attention, he speaks to us in a gentle whisper.

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:11-12

Memory Verse: 1 Kings 19:12 - After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

The Children's Sermon

You know, the Bible tells us about a man named Elijah. Now Elijah was a prophet, a man who was chosen by God to tell the people God's messages. He did some things sort of like what a pastor does nowadays. Now Elijah ran away from the people that he was trying to help, and was hiding because an evil queen didn't like it when Elijah gave the people God's messages. He was hiding in a cave and trying to figure out what God wanted him to do next. So, God sent a strong windstorm, he sent an earthquake, and there was also a great fire. Elijah thought that he would hear God's voice in all of that bad weather, but he didn't. And you'll never guess how God finally spoke to him! Yes, he spoke to him in a (softly) gentle whisper. God told him what he should do, what he should say to the people, and promised that he would protect him from the evil queen. So Elijah did what God said and went back to the people and gave them God's message.

This story is so special because it teaches us about Elijah's Whisper. It's not just about the sound; it's about how sometimes the most important messages come in the quietest ways. Elijah was waiting for something big and loud, but what he needed to hear came in a whisper.

Now, let's think about when we are playing with our friends. Sometimes, we're all talking and laughing loudly, and maybe your friend whispers something to you. You have to stop and really listen, right? It's just like that with God. Sometimes, we expect big signs to know what God wants us to do, but often, it's in the quiet moments that we can hear Him best.

Elijah's Whisper teaches us to be quiet sometimes, to listen. It's like when you're playing hide and seek. You have to be really quiet to hear the footsteps of your friend who is "it" coming to find you. If you're too noisy, you might miss it. In the same way, if our hearts and minds are too noisy with worries, games, or even our own plans, we might miss what God is trying to tell us.

After Elijah heard the whisper, he wrapped his face with his cloak and went out to stand at the entrance of the cave. That's when he really listened to God. This part of the story shows us that Elijah respected and honored the voice of God. He knew it was special and important.

Elijah's Whisper wasn't just for Elijah; it's for us too. It tells us that God doesn't always speak in the ways we expect. He might not use a loud voice or a big sign. Sometimes, He speaks to our hearts in a way that's as soft as a butterfly landing on a flower.

Why do you think Elijah paid attention and did what God wanted him to do? Because when God spoke to him in a gentle whisper, just like my students, he had to listen and pay attention, so he could know what he was supposed to do and say!

Now, God may get our attention when there's a really big storm, for a little while, at least. But the times when God speaks to us the most is when we read the Bible, or a teacher or pastor teaches us something and we just feel or know in our hearts that He is speaking to us, telling us what He wants us to do. So, next time, we read the Bible, or when a teacher or pastor here at church tells us something about God, let's try to remember that, in a way, God is speaking to us, let's try to listen, and let's try to do what God wants us to do.

Elijah's Whisper is a reminder for us all. It tells us that no matter how noisy the world around us gets, we can find quiet moments to listen to God. It might be when you're lying in bed before you sleep, when you're looking at the stars, or when you're sitting quietly after reading a Bible story. In those moments, if we listen, we might hear God's whisper in our hearts.

And you know, sometimes, we can be like Elijah for others. When a friend is sad or needs help, instead of using loud words or big actions, sometimes a gentle whisper, a kind word spoken softly, can mean the most. It can be like a hug for their heart.

So, let's remember Elijah's Whisper in our lives. Let's find time to be quiet, to listen for God's gentle guidance. And let's use our whispers to help and encourage others, just like God does for us.

Let's stand and have our prayer. Dear God, help us to listen for Your whispers in our lives. Help us to know that even when You speak softly, Your words are very important. Help us to be quiet sometimes, so we can hear You better. And help us to use gentle words to help our friends, just like You do for us. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

1 Kings 19:12 - After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large, simple flame shapes ahead of time.
- Set up a quiet, comfortable space for the activity with all materials easily accessible.

Do This:

1. Start by reading the memory verse together. Emphasize the words 'gentle whisper' and explain that sometimes God speaks to us in quiet, soft ways, and we need to listen.
2. Give each child a flame-shaped paper and crayons or markers. Ask them to draw or write ways they can listen for God's gentle whisper in their lives. This could be during prayer, in nature, or when they feel peaceful and loved.
3. After they finish their artwork, gather the children in a circle. Let them share their drawings and what the 'gentle whisper' might mean to them. Conclude by praying together, asking God to help you all hear His gentle whispers.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small, battery-operated fan (or a piece of cardboard to create a gentle breeze)

- A few cotton balls
- A quiet, whispering voice

Get Ready:

- Ensure the fan is working or practice fanning gently with the cardboard.
- Place the cotton balls in a small basket or bowl.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in a circle and tell them we're going to learn about how God sometimes talks to us in a very special way, not loud but in a gentle whisper.
2. Turn on the fan or gently wave the cardboard to create a soft breeze. Let the children feel the breeze and then quietly place a cotton ball in front of the fan/cardboard to show how gently it moves. Explain that sometimes God's messages to us are gentle like the breeze and the soft movement of the cotton ball.
3. Ask the children to be very quiet and listen as you whisper a simple message about God's love or a Bible verse. Encourage them to whisper it back to you. Explain that just like they had to listen carefully to hear the whisper, we need to listen carefully in our hearts to hear God's gentle messages to us.

Snack Activity: Whispering Wind Crackers

You'll Need:

- Round crackers
- Cream cheese
- A plastic knife
- Blue food coloring (optional)

Get Ready: Mix a small amount of blue food coloring into the cream cheese to create a 'sky' color. This step is optional.

Do this:

1. Spread the cream cheese on the cracker using the plastic knife. Explain that the cream cheese is like the quiet sky, and sometimes God talks to us quietly, like a gentle whisper.
2. As they spread the cream cheese, whisper something nice to each child, like 'God loves you' or 'You are special.' This models how God's gentle whisper can bring us peace and love.
3. Encourage the children to eat their snack quietly, thinking about the gentle and loving ways God speaks to us, not through loud noises, but through quiet moments and feelings.

Game Activity: Whispering Winds

You'll Need:

- A quiet, comfortable space either indoors or outdoors
- A simple, child-friendly version of the story of Elijah from 1 Kings 19:11-12
- Small, lightweight scarves or fabric pieces

Get Ready: Before the activity, read through the story of Elijah and the gentle whisper to yourself. Make sure you have enough scarves or fabric pieces for each child. Choose a quiet space where children can sit closely and listen.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in a circle and tell them the story of Elijah, focusing on how God spoke to him in a gentle whisper. Emphasize that sometimes, we need to be quiet and listen carefully to hear what God wants to tell us.
2. After the story, explain that you will play a game called 'Whispering Winds.' Each child will have a turn to be in the middle of the circle with a scarf. The other children will gently whisper kind words or phrases like 'God loves you,' or 'You are special.' As they whisper, they will gently blow towards the scarf, making it flutter.
3. The child in the middle will try to catch the whispers (by catching the scarf) as a way of showing how we can 'catch' God's gentle messages to us if we listen carefully. After a few whispers, another child takes a turn in the middle. Remind the children to be as quiet and gentle as possible, just like the whisper God used with Elijah.

Craft Activity: God's Gentle Whisper Wind Chimes

You'll Need:

- Paper cups
- Yarn
- Markers or crayons
- Hole punch
- Small bells or beads

Get Ready: Cut the yarn into various lengths, enough for each child to have several pieces. Prepare the paper cups by making a small hole in the center of the bottom of each cup.

Do this:

1. Give each child a paper cup and markers or crayons. Let them decorate their cup with drawings or words that remind them of God's love and the gentle ways He speaks to us.
2. Help the children use the hole punch to make holes around the rim of the cup. They should make enough holes to hang their yarn pieces.
3. Thread a bell or bead onto each piece of yarn, tying it at one end to secure it. Then, thread the other end of the yarn through the holes in the cup, tying it off so that the bells or beads hang down from the cup. Tie an extra piece of yarn to the top of the cup to create a hanger.
4. Explain that just like the wind makes the chimes ring in a gentle whisper, God speaks to us in quiet, gentle ways. Encourage them to hang their wind chimes somewhere they can hear them and be reminded of God's gentle presence.

Prayer Activity: Whispers of God

You'll Need:

- A quiet, comfortable space
- A small bell or chime
- A picture of a calm scene (like a meadow or a gentle stream)

Get Ready: Set up the quiet space with the picture of the calm scene where all the children can see it. Place the bell or chime within reach.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the picture and explain that sometimes God talks to us in a very quiet voice, like a whisper, and we need to be very quiet to hear it.
2. Ring the bell or chime softly and then sit in silence for a short moment, encouraging the children to listen to the sounds around them after the bell has stopped ringing.

3. Ask the children to close their eyes and think about something nice that God might whisper to them, like 'I love you' or 'You are special.' Then, go around the circle and gently whisper one of these phrases to each child.