

The Gentle Whisper

LOWER ELEMENTARY 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:

- White paper
- Crayons or colored pencils
- A small, quiet fan (optional)

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials on a table.
- Create a quiet, calm space for the activity, possibly using a small fan to create a gentle breeze in the room.

Do This:

1. Ask the children to sit quietly for a moment and close their eyes, listening for any gentle sounds around them, like the whisper of the fan or their own breathing.
2. After a minute of quiet, have them open their eyes and share what gentle sounds they heard.
3. Give each child a piece of white paper and crayons or colored pencils. Ask them to draw a scene where they imagine God speaking to Elijah through the gentle whisper. Encourage them to think about how they can show quietness and calm in their drawing.
4. While they draw, remind them that sometimes God speaks to us in quiet ways, and we need to be still to hear His voice.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small, quiet fan or a piece of paper
- Cotton balls
- Quiet music or nature sounds (optional)
- Small, simple prizes (stickers, pencils, etc.)

Get Ready:

- Set up a quiet, comfortable area in your classroom.
- If using a fan, make sure it's on a low setting. If using paper, practice fanning gently.
- Have the cotton balls and small prizes within reach.

Do this:

1. ****Listen for the Whisper****: Explain that sometimes God speaks to us in a gentle whisper, not in loud or obvious ways. Turn on the quiet fan or gently fan the air with a piece of paper near the children, without them seeing it. Scatter a few cotton balls in front of the fan or where you are fanning. The children should quietly watch the cotton balls move. If using quiet music or nature sounds, start playing it softly in the background.
2. ****Hearing God's Whisper****: Ask the children to close their eyes and listen carefully to any sounds they can hear (the fan, the music, or any other quiet sounds in the room). After a minute, quietly whisper a simple, kind message or instruction, like "God loves you" or "Bring me a cotton ball." See if they can hear and follow the whispered instruction.

3. **Discussion and Reward**: After they successfully hear and respond to the whisper, discuss how it felt to listen for something so quiet and how this relates to listening for God's guidance in our lives. Reward their attentiveness and participation with small prizes. Encourage them to be still and listen for God's gentle whispers in their daily lives.

Snack Activity: Whispering Wind Crackers

You'll Need:

- Whole grain crackers
- Cream cheese
- A small knife or spreader
- Blue food coloring
- Cotton candy (optional for effect)

Get Ready: Mix a few drops of blue food coloring into the cream cheese until you get a light blue color, representing the sky.

Do this:

1. Spread the light blue cream cheese onto a whole grain cracker using the small knife or spreader. This represents the sky during Elijah's encounter with God.
2. Explain that sometimes God doesn't speak in loud, obvious ways. Just like when He spoke to Elijah not in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a gentle whisper.
3. If using, add a small piece of cotton candy on top of the cracker to represent the gentle whisper of God. Remind the children that God's messages to us can be soft and quiet, like a whisper, and we need to listen carefully.

Game Activity: Whispering Winds

You'll Need:

- A quiet, open space (indoors or outdoors)
- A blindfold for each child
- Small bells or noise-making items

Get Ready: Before the game, discuss the story of Elijah from 1 Kings 19:11-12, focusing on how God spoke to Elijah in a gentle whisper. Explain that sometimes God speaks to us in quiet ways, and we need to be still and listen.

Do this:

1. Have the children sit in a circle, and choose one child to be 'Elijah' for the first round. Blindfold 'Elijah' and place them in the center of the circle.
2. Give one child in the circle a bell or a noise-making item. This child is the 'Whisper of God.'
3. The children in the circle will gently pass the bell around, trying to make as little noise as possible. The 'Whisper of God' should occasionally make a soft, gentle sound with the bell.
4. 'Elijah' listens carefully and tries to point to where they think the 'Whisper of God' is coming from.
5. Once 'Elijah' makes a guess, remove the blindfold, and reveal the 'Whisper of God.' Then, choose a new 'Elijah' and repeat the game.

The aim is to teach the children that sometimes, we need to be still and listen carefully because God's guidance can come in quiet, unexpected ways.

Craft Activity: Whispering Wind Chimes

You'll Need:

- Paper cups
- Yarn or string
- Markers or paint
- Hole punch
- Small bells or beads
- Stickers or decorative items (optional)

Get Ready: Prepare a short explanation of 1 Kings 19:11-12, focusing on how God speaks to us in gentle whispers, not just in loud events. Gather all materials.

Do this:

1. Let each child decorate their paper cup using markers, paint, and stickers.

Encourage them to think about peaceful, quiet things while they decorate.

2. Use the hole punch to make a hole in the top of the cup and four evenly spaced holes around the bottom edge.

3. Cut four pieces of yarn or string, each about 12 inches long. Thread a bell or bead onto each piece of yarn, tying a knot to secure it at one end. Thread the other end of each yarn through each of the holes at the bottom of the cup and tie securely.

4. Cut another piece of yarn (about 18 inches long) to hang the chime. Thread it through the hole at the top of the cup, tying a knot inside the cup to secure it.

5. Hang the whispering wind chimes somewhere they can catch a breeze. Explain that just like we need to be quiet to hear the chimes, sometimes we need to be quiet to hear God's gentle whisper in our lives.

Prayer Activity: Whispers of God

You'll Need:

- A quiet room or space
- A small bell or chime
- Paper and crayons

Get Ready: Before the activity, create a calm and quiet space in your classroom where children can sit comfortably on the floor or at tables. Have the bell or chime and paper and crayons ready for each child.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in the quiet space and explain that sometimes God speaks to us in a gentle whisper, just like in the story of Elijah from 1 Kings 19:11-12. Tell them that today, they will practice listening for God's gentle whisper.
2. Ring the bell or chime softly and let the sound fade away. Ask the children to close their eyes and listen carefully until they can no longer hear the sound. Explain that listening for God can be like trying to hear the last bit of sound from the bell—it requires quiet and attention.
3. After the listening exercise, give each child paper and crayons. Ask them to draw or write something they think God might be saying to them in a gentle whisper. It could be a word like 'love,' 'peace,' or 'help others.' Encourage them to think quietly and listen with their hearts.
4. Allow time for the children to share their drawings or words if they wish. Close the activity with a short prayer, thanking God for always being with us and for speaking to us in gentle whispers.