



LESSON 39

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Having faith. Calling out to God.

Bible Character(s): Elijah

Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 19



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read through 1 Kings 19.

As you read through Elijah's struggles, consider how children experience failure or disappointment. We will not spend a great deal of time on feelings of depression, but we will discuss how our feelings can change. Remember that Elijah just came off a mountain-top experience. As the drought ended, he had been filled with the Holy Spirit and used by God to show His mighty power over the idols of Baal. Now he is afraid because Queen Jezebel wants him dead. Notice how God mercifully supplies him with food and rest and then gives him direction and help. Think about times in your life when you have been broken and afraid. How did you respond during this time? Did you call on God for help and depend on His strength, or did you try to deal with things by yourself? How was God present through this time of struggle, even if you did not call on Him? Be prepared to discuss these times with your campers. Romans 12:1-2 are powerful verses to pray through as you study this lesson.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival, meet their parents, and welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Mt Carmel Times Review

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Mt Carmel Times" side (1 per camper)

Give each camper a copy of this review sheet and go through it as a class, filling in the blanks.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will continue our study of 1 Kings. We will see how Elijah responded during a challenging time of struggle, and we will learn how God wants us to respond in faith by calling out to Him in times of need.



SMALL GROUP TIME - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

If you did not complete the Mt Carmel Times review before Big Group, please complete it now.

What did you learn about in Big Group? Why was the staff member hiding and crying? (He messed up the lasagna dinner and was too afraid to face everyone, so he ran away.) **What did Elijah do when he was threatened?** (Elijah ran away, afraid of Queen Jezebel.) **What did God tell Elijah to do?** (God told Elijah that He was with Elijah, to not be afraid, and to go back the way he came. He also gave Elijah a friend to help him.)

Can anyone remember what we learned about last week? What did we read about Elijah and the prophets of Baal? (We saw Elijah stand up in faith against King Ahab and all of the prophets of Baal.) **What did Elijah do to stand up against them?** (Elijah was the only prophet still following the one true God, and he wanted to prove that his God was the one true God.) **Did Elijah depend on and trust in God?** (He was strong and courageous as he stood up for the Lord, trusting that God would be faithful to help him. God proved faithful and sovereign by showing His power over Baal.)

We're going to continue reading about Elijah today to see what happened after he faced off against King Ahab and all of the prophets of Baal. King Ahab told Queen Jezebel everything Elijah had done, and now she wants Elijah dead.

Let's begin reading the Bible in 1 Kings 19 [NLT] to see what happens.

1 Kings 19:3-4

3 Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. 4 Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died."

Elijah was afraid and discouraged. Do you ever feel that way? (Allow responses.) What happens when you feel afraid and discouraged? How do you act or what do you do? (Allow responses.) It's very easy to just want to give up on everything. It can be hard to trust God when we feel like a failure because we are so wrapped up in how we are feeling. Elijah was having a hard time trusting God or keeping his eyes on God.

Let's continue reading the Bible to see how God responded to Elijah.

1 Kings 19:5-6

5 Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, "Get up and eat!" 6 He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again.

God understood that Elijah was afraid and discouraged. After all of the miraculous things that God had done for Elijah, it could have been easy for God to be angry and disappointed that Elijah was not trusting in Him. But God loved Elijah, even when Elijah was afraid and discouraged. God did not get angry; He had mercy on Elijah. He sent an angel to encourage Elijah and provide him with food. Let's continue to read the Bible.

1 Kings 19:7-13

7 Then the angel of the LORD came again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you." 8 So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. 9 There he came to a cave, where he spent the night. But the LORD said to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

10 Elijah replied, "I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. The people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too."

11 "Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain.

It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake, there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire, there was the sound of a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And a voice said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Telephone



The purpose is for the campers to better understand the importance of hearing God, despite what is going on in and around our lives.

Explain to the campers that you are going to play the game of telephone. You will begin by whispering something in the ear of the camper to your right. That camper will whisper the same phrase to the camper to the right of him or her, and it will continue around the table. The last person will repeat the phrase to see how accurately the phrase was repeated through whispering. Remind children this is a quiet game – that we whisper to the neighbor and that we need to be good listeners.

Tie It Together



How easy was it to hear what was whispered to you? (Allow responses.) It was harder than hearing someone talk in a normal voice or yelling. Are you surprised that the Lord talked to Elijah in a gentle whisper? (Allow responses.) He did not speak about the powerful things he displayed, like the earthquake or the fire. God is all-powerful, but sometimes He reveals Himself in the smaller things, like a whisper. It is important for us to be aware of how God is speaking to us, whether through a big, powerful event or with a whisper.

Elijah responded to God by claiming that although he had been very zealous, or passionate, for God, the Israelites had rejected God and wanted Elijah dead. God gave Elijah clear directions on what to do, and He gave him Elisha as a special friend and helper. God told Elijah four things: 1) to return the way he came, to the Desert of Damascus; 2) to anoint Hazael king over Aram; 3) to anoint Jehu king over Israel; and 4) that Elisha would succeed him as prophet.

Let's review what we learned in Big Group about the steps God wants us to take in times of struggle.

Times of Struggle



The purpose is for the campers to remember to focus on God is instead of focusing on themselves in times of struggle.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Having Faith” side

Pens/pencils

Have campers choose the correct word from the list at the bottom to fill in the blanks for each step.

Tie It Together



When we struggle, God wants us to remember to stay focused on Him. Sometimes we feel discouraged. We may feel like a failure. We cannot always trust these emotional feelings. We need to look at the truth of God's word instead of focusing on ourselves and the way we feel. All of the steps on your paper point to God. He wants you to keep your eyes on Him, have faith that you are not alone, trust that He has a plan, and ask for a friend to help you stay on the right track. The last reminder says for us to ask God for a friend to help you. God provided Elijah with a helper.

Let's read the Bible to hear more about that now in 1 Kings 19.

1 Kings 19:19-21

19 So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. 20 Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!"

Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about what I have done to you."

21 So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

God created us to be in community and to be relationally connected with others. He does not want us to go through life alone. He provided Elijah with a friend who could support and encourage him. He also provides each of us with people who can love and support us. Your cabin in Camp Grace is one source of community because the other campers and your teachers are there to help you grow closer to God, to be there in times of need, to encourage you, and to pray for you. What are some other sources of community in your life? (Allow responses.)

Connecting With Others



The purpose is to see the value in friendship and being relationally connected.

Supplies:

Set of 3 leather strands tied at one end (1 set per bin)

Strand of leather (1 per session)

Read Ecclesiastes 4:12 and use the strands of leather to demonstrate the point. Pull the individual strand of leather until it breaks. Show how much stronger the three strands are.

Tie It Together



It is easy to see that three strands of leather are much harder to break than one. God wants us to be connected to other people who believe in Him. We can encourage, help, and support one another. God gives us friendships and family. He calls us to love and support one another. We can help each other stay on the right track and encourage one another to focus on Christ and not ourselves.

Community (Choose Option 1 or Option 2)



The purpose is for the camper to have an opportunity to appreciate community/teamwork.

Option 1: Card Making

Supplies:

Piece of paper (1 per camper)

Markers/crayons

Give each camper a piece of paper. Ask them to think about someone in their lives who has helped them through a hard time. Explain that **God created us to be in community with one another. He calls us to love others more than we love ourselves. We will spend a few minutes thinking of others by making a card for someone in our lives.** They can make a card for that person, using the markers/crayons and stickers.

Option 2: We Are One in Christ

Supplies:

Items for obstacle course (tables, chairs, etc., in a zigzag pattern)

Speak with your coach to see if this can be pre-set in your Big Group room after worship!

Have the campers stand in a line against one wall while you set up an obstacle course using tables, chairs, etc., in a zigzag pattern. Explain to the campers that they will lie on their stomachs in a single file line. Everyone grabs the ankles of the person in front of him/her. The person at the front of the line leads the group through the obstacle course, with all campers on their stomachs the entire time. Try not to break the snake - remember, "we are one!" Encourage the campers to help each other through and encourage those who are working well together.

Variations: The campers can be the ones to set up the obstacle course, or the first person can lead the snake wherever she/he wants, rather than using an actual obstacle course.

Tie It Together



God created us to be in community with one another. He calls us to love others more than we love ourselves.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help you recognize His presence in your life and to always depend and trust in Him. He is with you always, and you do not need to be afraid or discouraged.



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