

God Speaks: Through PEACE!

Today we will be looking at God speaks to us, and you how! God sometimes PEACE! You might think, And yet, there are times in experience of PEACE was provided that God was



a second way in which might just be surprised at speaks to us through how is that possible? the Bible when the the very evidence WITH the people He was

speaking to! When we think of peace in this way, we might consider it in this way: PEACE as an experience of calm and security, free from anxiety or fear. You may have heard the word “chaos”, which means “disorder or confusion”. Well, those experiences are the OPPOSITE of God! God is the provider of PEACE! We all have times when we feel scared or uncertain or confused, and we may find it hard to think or make decisions. And yet, God truly wants us to lean on Him and trust Him, which allows us to have PEACE even in really difficult situations. In our story for today, Elijah the prophet experiences God in a deep, gentle whisper—PEACE.

Memory verse: 1 Corinthians 14:33

“For God is not a God of disorder but of PEACE”

Scripture lesson: 1 Kings 19: 1-18 God speaks to Elijah as a whisper!

Thinking about it:

When we first encounter Elijah in this story, he is afraid for his life after confronting Ahab and Jezebel. God provides for Elijah’s needs, such as giving him food and water and rest. These things strengthen Elijah for the next step in his journey, which takes him to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. When Elijah reaches this place, God asks him why he is there. Elijah explains that he has been doing work, hard work for God, and now there are people who are trying to kill him. Elijah is fearful and confused and feeling chaotic. So God tells Elijah to go stand on the mountain in the presence of God, for He is about to pass by him. Incredible natural events happen when Elijah steps out—a great wind, a powerful earthquake, and a fire! And yet, each time Elijah knows that these events are NOT God. Once these events pass by, Elijah experiences a gentle whisper—and since he knows it is God he covers his face with his cloak. Again God asks Elijah what he is doing there, and again Elijah explains what has happened to him while he was doing work for God. God then instructs Elijah to go back to Damascus, where the people he was fleeing remain. God gives Elijah peace that He is with him and that there are others who love and serve God much like Elijah—he is not alone. The peace God gives Elijah allows him to continue in his work for God with hope and a lack of fear.

Suggested video: God's Story—Elijah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T5gAXoerjw>

Suggested craft:

<https://www.parentsfirst.babyfirsttv.com/post/diy-wind-chimes>

Today's craft involves making a wind chime using cups, string or embroidery thread, and beads. Wind chimes blow when the wind picks up, and so even though we can't SEE the wind, we can see the EFFECT of the wind. The wind chime will make gentle sounds when the beads bump together, showing us the wind is present. God too is sometimes difficult to SEE, but we can see the EFFECTS of God in our lives and in other's lives. And often when we hear God, it is actually through a feeling of peace and calm. This wind chime can remind you to look for those peaceful moments and times when God is assuring you of His presence in your life—especially when you are feeling confused or chaotic or fearful!

Questions to ponder:

- Who tried to kill Elijah? (Jezebel, 1 Kings 19:2)
- What did Elijah do? (He ran, 1 Kings 19:3)
- Where did God send Elijah? (Mount Horeb or the mountain of God, 1 Kings 19:8)
- How did God speak to Elijah on the mountain? (in a soft whisper, 1 Kings 19:12)
- How does God help in times of trouble? God promises to never leave or forsake us.

Prayer:

Thank you God, for wanting us to feel Your peace and comfort! Thank you for giving us the ability to sense Your presence even in really hard times. Help us to trust that You always want the best for us, and that You will shower us with Your peace when we ask! In Jesus' name, AMEN.

