CONFERENCE CURRICULUM
YEAR 1 – Refreshed by God

Day 3: God's Comfort in The Wilderness

Overview:

Key Focus: God comforts you when you're scared

Bible Story: Elijah in the Wilderness and God's Still Small Voice

Scriptures: 1 Kings 19

Week's Memory Verse:

Psalm 34:8 Taste & see that The Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Lesson:

Hello again campers! We are ready for another exciting day on our camping trip today! I really hope we do not see any bears while we are out exploring! Bears can be really scary. I am so glad that God is such a wonderful, providing God who protects me from anything I could be afraid of.

I love knowing that I can trust in him and live in peace. Sometimes situations in our lives can look or feel really scary, but God is always going to comfort us, protect

us, and prepare us for what is ahead. We will see what this looks like today in our story! We can find our story in the book of 1 Kings 19. This is another Old Testament story in the Bible!

Today we are following Elijah who was a prophet living in Israel. Remember, a prophet is like a special messenger of The Lord! So, Elijah had a close relationship with God!

At the time, Israel had corrupt leaders that did not follow God's commands. They did not like Elijah because he wanted to get the Israelites back to following God. In fact, they disliked like him so much, they wanted to kill him! Elijah was scared, so he ran away into the wilderness. *"But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, 'It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!'"*1 Kings 19:4. Elijah did not want to keep running. He was so scared of what the leaders might do to him. He was tired and thought that giving up would be the best option. But God knew exactly what Elijah needed.

Elijah fell asleep under the broom tree. He was not sleeping for long before an angel woke him up. The angel told Elijah to eat. Elijah looked beside him and saw there was a cake baking on coals and some water for him to drink. He ate the cake, drank the water, and went back to sleep. Again, the angel came to Elijah. *"And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, 'Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.' So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God."* 1 Kings 19:7-8. The word says that when Elijah ate the food and drank the water that appeared by the angel, that he was strengthened. Because of the meal and the sleep, Elijah was restored enough that he was able to travel for forty days and forty nights all the way to the top of Mount Horeb. There, Elijah wanted to spend time with God and hear what He had to say.

On the mountain, Elijah was waiting to hear God's voice. *"And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'"*1 Kings 19:9. Elijah told God that he was alone because everyone in Israel was not following The Lord's commands anymore, and that the leaders were looking to kill Elijah. God told Elijah to stand on the top of the mountain. As he stood on the top, there was a great gust of wind that was so strong that it ripped through the rocks and broke them. God said that He was not the wind. Then there was a mighty earthquake that shook the whole ground. But God said that He was not the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a hot, burning fire that completely surrounded Elijah. But God was not the fire. After it all, there was a still small voice. The voice told Elijah exactly what he needed to do. God was the still small voice that was speaking.

The wind, the earthquake, and the fire were all things that made Elijah feel like he was in danger. They were loud, destructive, and terrifying to be standing in the middle of. Elijah was shown that God was not like those things. That instead, God was a peaceful, quiet voice that brought comfort and wisdom. God knew how Elijah felt. He knew he felt alone and frightened by his circumstances. God knew that Elijah needed to be reminded that he was protected and loved.

There are times in life that will feel scary. Maybe you have had to move to a new place, or you have known someone who got really sick, or maybe you have had people be mean to you. These are things that can make you feel alone and in danger. God will always make sure that you are ready to face these. When Elijah was scared, God knew he needed time to rest and eat before he would be ready to go back to Israel and face his challenges. So, he made a way for that. Then, God wanted to remind Elijah about who he really was. The great wind, the earthquake, and the fire were overwhelming elements to experience. But God was not any of those things. God had a still small voice that comforted Elijah and told him exactly what he needed to do to save Israel. So, when we are in scary situations, we know that God will take care of us, comfort us, and restore us when we need it!

Pop Quiz!

Let's see how much you remember about today's story! You can ask these questions in groups, as a whole class, or pass out the questions on an activity sheet.

- Where in the bible is the story of Elijah found? (1 Kings 19)
- What was Elijah? (A prophet)
- What is a prophet? (A special messenger of The Lord)
- Where did Elijah live? (Israel)
- Were the leaders of Israel following God's commands? (No)
- Why did the Leaders want to kill Elijah? (Elijah wanted people to know and follow God)
- What did Elijah do? (He was scared, ran away to the wilderness)
- Elijah got tired and stopped where? (Under a broom tree)
- Who woke up Elijah? (An angel)
- What were the angel's instructions for Elijah? (Wake, eat, and drink)

- What did the angel prepare for Elijah? (A cake cooking on coals and water)
- How many times did the angel visit Elijah and tell him to eat and drink? (Two)
- How long did it take Elijah to travel to Mount Horeb? (Forty days, Forty nights)
- Where did Elijah sleep on the mountain? (In a cave)
- What did Elijah tell God about his situation? *("But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, 'It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!'"*1 Kings 19:4. *You may want just a short version of this answer from the kids instead of the whole verse.)
- What was the first thing God showed Elijah? (A great wind)
- What was the second thing God showed Elijah? (An earthquake)
- What was the third thing God showed Elijah? (A fire)
- Was God any of these elements? (No)
- What was God on the mountain? (A still small voice)
- Who can you call on when you need help? (God)
- Who can say the whole week's memory verse? (Let kids take turns saying it on their own, younger ones may need more help)