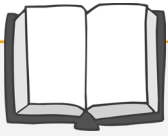


GOD'S GOT THIS

2. Elijah - I've had enough! SECONDARY



Bible Passage

1 Kings 18-19

Read this to familiarise yourself with the story and summarise it when required.



Aim

To help the children think about the things in life they find tough and how they can take them to God who is there and understands.



You will need

- ◆ Bible printouts
- ◆ small bits of card or paper
- ◆ pens
- ◆ a jar or sealable container

NB: Check with the school what their policy is for handing paper and pens out and change the outline accordingly.

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

Ask if anyone has created an avatar of themselves on their phone. See what people look like and decide which one is the best look alike. Then ask the group to draw (or find on their mobile) an emoji that sums up how they feel right now and also to give two words that describe how they feel. Take turns to show the emoji and say the two words explaining why they chose them. A simpler version is to ask them to 'rate your week' out of 5, saying why.

At this point highlight there are many emotions and we can go from one extreme to another in a day or even in an hour. Does anybody in the group have an example of this? What emotion words describe how they think people feel right now?

BIBLE (5 minutes) SETTING THE SCENE

Ask the group to put their hands up if they have ever said or thought, "I have had enough!" Get some examples of what they have had enough of.

When we think of lockdown, we might all be saying, 'I have had enough!' Today we are going to look at a character from the Bible who said those very words – Elijah. We can find this in 1 Kings 19:4. The next two steps will explain why Elijah has reached this point.

Firstly, set the scene. People worshipped other gods and Elijah said this was wrong, so he made a test. The test was that both Elijah and the other people built altars and the god that was real would send fire from heaven on to their altar. The only real God, whom Elijah worshipped, sent fire. This was fantastic... so why did he say, "I have had enough!"? (You could ask the young people to draw or suggest an emoji that would fit this.)

Secondly, any good story has strong characters and here we have three. Challenge the group to read the full story when they get home. We remember these characters were real and not made up.

Elijah	God's prophet (the good character)
Ahab	A bad king who ignored God (the greedy character)
Jezebel	A very evil queen who hated God and anyone who followed him (the evil character)

Read 1 Kings 19:1-5

ACTIVITY (5 minutes) CHAT JAR

Remind the group of the emoji they chose earlier. What emoji would Elijah have right now? Why do they think Elijah went from one extreme to the other? As they chat, point out how Elijah was tired, exhausted, felt alone, scared, heard the Queen wanted to kill him and he was even more scared about what was going to happen next. How many of us can identify with Elijah? We can be on a real high one minute then a real low the next.

Show the group a jar with a lid or a container. Depending on the school's policy about sharing resources either ask the young people to write their response to the following questions and put them in the jar or you could write down the responses as they tell you them.

- ◆ What have you, or have people, had enough of today? What do we find hard?
- ◆ Ask everyone to think of something they find really tough. They can be as honest as they want because they won't be asked to tell anyone. Instead ask them to write the emotion word that best describes how it makes them feel. Put these words in the jar.

Tell the group that you will come back to the jar later.

BIBLE (9 minutes)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Comment on how we often want God to do what we want him to do in helping us. I wonder if you were God what you would do for Elijah. You might send an army to get rid of Jezebel and make Elijah king instead of Ahab. Let us look at what God actually did.

Summarise 1 Kings 19:6-9 by saying Elijah fell asleep and an angel woke him and fed him. Elijah then travelled for 40 days and nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night. Tell the group the next thing that happened was a conversation between God and Elijah.

Ask for two volunteers to read the following verses. You might need to read it for them if you are not allowed to give out paper.

God: "Elijah, why are you here?" (v.9)

Elijah: "I have always served you the best I could. But the people of Israel have broken their agreement with you. They have killed your prophets with swords. I am the only one left and now they are trying to kill me too!" (v.10)

God: "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." (v.11)

So, God was going to show himself, but how?

Read 1 Kings 19:11-12

Ask the group why they think God showed the wind, earthquake and fire but was not in it and why he was in the whisper. He could have just shown the whisper, but he showed these powerful forces first, why?

CHAT (5 minutes)

ELIJAH AND OUR JAR

We might have thought Elijah needed the wind, earthquake and fire, but he actually needed God's touch and God's whisper. We think the

challenges we face currently face are tough and really big, but God is bigger .

Pick up the jar and say it contains big issues, things that are really tough. They need to be treated carefully. I could read them but not fully understand or not think it's an important issue to me. The great thing is each one is important to God. He knows what is in the jar and why you wrote it. To help us understand why that makes a difference let us return to the story .

Read 1 Kings 19:15

“Go back...”. God did not take the problem away like Elijah might have wanted. Instead God helped him face the problem. The difference is God is with us. He understands us and knows exactly what we need.

PRAY (1 minute)

Finish by praying, asking God to help us with the things we find tough.

If it is allowed, you could give the group cards with the verse, “After the fire there was a quiet gentle whisper” 1 Kings 19:12.