**Sunday School from Home**

**September 6, 2020**

Following his triumph at Mount Carmel, Elijah is forced to flee because his actions have angered Queen Jezebel, who worships Baal. But once again God provides rest and refreshment, and finally a successor in Elisha.

* Read 1 Kings, chapter 19 in your Bible. Parents of young children: read through this passage ahead of time and decide if you need to delete some parts that refer to violence. Some children may find this frightening.
* Acknowledge the similarities in the names Elijah and Elisha which may cause confusion, and point out that this is merely coincidental. Discuss names of people we know today that are similar. If you have letter toys try using them to spell each name. Elementary children working on handwriting or cursive might practice writing each name to reinforce the spellings.
* In the story, Elijah listens for God. Sometimes we hear the voice of God in the middle of noise, sometimes we find God in the quiet. Send the children on a scavenger hunt around the house to find something noisy and something quiet. Have them demonstrate each, and then at your signal let everyone make as much noise as possible! At the next signal, have everyone be very quiet. Continue this game for as long as everyone is enjoying it. You might challenge the kids to go find another loud/quiet object in between rounds. Point out that God is always with us, no matter how loud or quiet the world around us might be. Our job is to listen!
* Have you ever decorated the yard with something that makes noise in the wind? Try making a wind chime at home! There are a variety of ideas [HERE](https://www.kidsartncraft.com/wind-chimes-crafts/) that use objects you probably already have around the house.
* For something quiet, trying making a [WIND SOCK](https://www.madewithhappy.com/paper-wind-sock-craft-tutorial/), or for older kid, a [PINWHEEL](https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/easy-diy-craft-paper-dahlias).
* Elijah put his cloak on Elisha. Research why this is a significant action. Why was the cloak so important in their time? Sometimes we say “pass the mantle.” What does that mean and what is its connection to the story?
* Play a game inspired by Elijah passing his cloak to Elisha. Select a coat or shirt that everyone in the family will be able to put on. Have everyone stand in a line and give the coat to the person at the end. At your signal, everyone must in turn put on the coat and then take it off and pass it to the next person in line. How long does it take to make it all the way down the line? Can you go faster and beat your time?
* In the beginning of the story Elijah fasted for 40 days. 40 is an important number in the Bible. Who else is said to have fasted for 40 days? (Hint – check Deuteronomy 9 and Matthew 4). What other stories in the Bible include the number 40? Use online resources to find some and then look them up in your Bible. What important season in the church year is 40 days long?
* In our story Elijah found God in the quiet. Spend a quiet moment at the end of your day to reflect where you heard the voice of God. This might be a good this to do as a family over dinner, or as you tuck the children into bed at night. Let each person answer the following:
* What did you love about today?
* What parts of your day were difficult?
* How successful were you today in sharing God’s love with others? Where could you improve?
* When did you feel the presence of God today?

After each person has shared, take a moment to pray together to thank God for the day, and to ask for help in noticing and responding to God’s presence tomorrow.