

God Speaks in the Silence

Storyteller: (*spreads out the Desert Bag*) This is the Desert Bag. So many wonderful and important things happen in the desert, we need to know what it is like. We can't get the whole desert into our church, so here is

just a little piece of the desert. *The Storyteller smooths the sand while s/he talks.* The desert is a dangerous place. There is little water, and almost nothing grows there. It is hot in the daytime and cold at night.

When the Children of Israel entered the promised land, they asked God to give them a King. Some kings did good and were blessed by God, and some kings did evil.

Hold out the figure of Ahab. King Ahab did more evil than all the kings before him. He paid false priests to worship the false god, Baal.

Ahab told his wife Jezebel what Elijah had done and that he had killed the prophets. *Pick up Elijah and hold him in your other hand.* She sent a message to Elijah: "You killed my prophets. Now I'm going to kill you! I pray that the gods will punish me even more severely if I don't do it by this time tomorrow." *Put Ahab back in the basket.*

Move Elijah along the sand by the edge of the Desert Bag, making tracks. Elijah was afraid when he got her message, and he ran to the town of Beersheba in Judah. *Lay down the River Jordon near the edge of the bag where Elijah is.* He left his servant there, then walked another whole day into the desert.

Cross Elijah over the Jordon, and into the middle of the desert bag. Set down a bush near him. Finally, he came to a large bush and sat down in its shade. He begged the LORD, "I've had enough. Just let me die! I'm no better off than my ancestors."

2 Kings 19

Ahab told his wife Jezebel what Elijah had done and that he had killed the prophets. She sent a message to Elijah: "You killed my prophets. Now I'm going to kill you! I pray that the gods will punish me even more severely if I don't do it by this time tomorrow."

Elijah was afraid when he got her message, and he ran to the town of Beersheba in Judah. He left his servant there, then walked another whole day into the desert. Finally, he came to a large bush and sat down in its shade. He begged the LORD, "I've had enough. Just let me die! I'm no better off than my ancestors." Then he lay down in the shade and fell asleep.

Suddenly an angel woke him up and said, "Get up and eat." Elijah looked around, and by his head was a jar of water and some baked bread. He sat up, ate and drank, then lay down and went back to sleep.

Soon the LORD's angel woke him again and said, "Get up and eat, or else you'll get too tired to travel." So Elijah sat up and ate and drank.

The food and water made him strong enough to walk forty more days. At last, he reached Mount Sinai, the mountain of God, and he spent the night there in a cave.

While Elijah was on Mount Sinai, the LORD asked, "Elijah, why are you here?"

He answered, "LORD God All-Powerful, I've always done my best to obey you. But your people have broken their solemn promise to you. They have torn down your altars and killed all your prophets, except me. And now they are even trying to kill me!"

"Go out and stand on the mountain," the LORD replied. "I want you to see me

Story Materials

- Desert bag
- Felt river Jordon
- Fimo dolls
 - Ahab
 - Elijah
- bush
- bread
- water jug
- Mount Horeb rocks

Tray, basket or shallow open box to hold the story

when I pass by.”

All at once, a strong wind shook the mountain and shattered the rocks. But the LORD was not in the wind. Next, there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. Then there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.

Finally, there was a gentle breeze, and when Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his coat. He went out and stood at the entrance to the cave.

The LORD asked, “Elijah, why are you here?”

Elijah answered, “LORD God All-Powerful, I’ve always done my best to obey you. But your people have broken their solemn promise to you. They have torn down your altars and killed all your prophets, except me. And now they are even trying to kill me!”

The LORD said: “Elijah, you can go back to the desert near Damascus. And when you get there, appoint Hazael to be king of Syria. Then appoint Jehu son of Nimshi to be king of Israel, and Elisha son of Shaphat to take your place as my prophet.

“Hazael will start killing the people who worship Baal. Jehu will kill those who escape from Hazael, and Elisha will kill those who escape from Jehu.

“But seven thousand Israelites have refused to worship Baal, and they will live.

Lay Elijah down under the bush. Then he lay down in the shade and fell asleep.

Suddenly an angel woke him up and said, “Get up and eat.”

Elijah looked around, and by his head was a jar of water and some baked bread. *Set the bread and water jar near Elijah's head. Stand him up, notice the bread and jug, then lay him down again.* He sat up, ate and drank, then lay down and went back to sleep.

Soon the LORD’s angel woke him again and said, “Get up and eat, or else you’ll get too tired to travel.” *Stand Elijah up.* So Elijah sat up and ate and drank.

The food and water made him strong enough to walk forty more days. *Walk Elijah across the Desert, making tracks. Set the two rocks near your left knee, in the desert bag, leaning against each other so there is a cave.* At last, he reached Mount Horeb, the mountain of God, and he spent the night there in a cave. *Lie Elijah down in the cave.*

While Elijah was on Mount Horeb, the LORD asked, “Elijah, why are you here?”

He answered, “LORD God All-Powerful, I’ve always done my best to obey you. But your people have broken their solemn promise to you. They have torn down your altars and killed all your prophets, except me. And now they are even trying to kill me!”

“Go out and stand on the mountain,” the LORD replied. “I want you to see me when I pass by.”

Pass your hand rapidly in front of the mountain, as the wind. All at once, a strong wind shook the mountain and shattered the rocks. But the LORD was not in the wind. *Shake the rocks, knocking them together.* Next, there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. *Hold your hands in front of the mountain, fingers pointing up and wavering like flames.* Then there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.

Finally, there was a gentle breeze, and when Elijah heard it, he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. *Move Elijah in front of the rocks.*

The LORD asked, “Elijah, why are you here?”

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