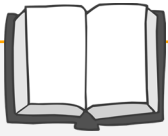


# GOD'S GOT THIS

## 2. Elijah - I've had enough! PRIMARY



### Bible Passage

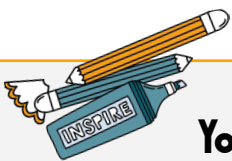
#### 1 Kings 18-19

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)

Play a game of 'In the manner of the word'. Select a volunteer and give them an emotion e.g. anger, happy, confused. The volunteer then acts out eating their breakfast in a manner that shows this emotion. Can the rest of the group guess what the emotion is?

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

### BIBLE (5 minutes) SETTING THE SCENE

This section introduces Elijah and why he wants to run away.

Ask the group to put their hands up if they have ever said, "I have had enough!" This is exactly what Elijah said in 1 Kings 19:4. The next two steps 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 draw your own pictures to help tell this story or use [freebibleimages.org](http://freebibleimages.org) and search for Elijah.

Secondly, introduce three characters in the story.

Elijah	God's prophet
Ahab	A bad king who ignored God

Jezebel A very evil queen who hated God and anyone who followed Him

Read 1 Kings 19:1-5

## ACTIVITY (5 minutes) CHAT JAR

Start by asking the group to share their thoughts about the character of Elijah so far in the passage. As they do this, point out that 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. This is how many of us may feel right now.

Show the group a jar with a lid or a container. Depending on the school's policy about sharing resources either ask the children to write their response to the following questions and put them in the jar or you could write 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?

Depending on the time available discuss or ask this question, "If you were God, what would you do with Elijah?"

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)

God was going to show himself, but how? Get another leader or child to draw a sketch of a really powerful wind, an earthquake and a great fire as you read verses 11 and 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. They could discuss this in pairs.

## 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 currently face are tough and really big, but God is bigger and knows exactly what we need.

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.

### **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.