

4.9 God Visits Elijah

Unit 2: God Calls Us

1 Kings 19:1-18

10/29 & 11/2

“But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

The Point & Call Back:
GOD > Calls US!

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

We will conclude our unit on being called by God. We have heard the stories of God inviting Samuel, David and Solomon, and now Elijah into leadership and service. How is God calling you to serve God’s people?

STORY SUMMARY: God Visits Elijah

The prophet Elijah challenged the priests of Baal to see whose God was real, a competition that God dramatically won. Elijah slaughtered the priests, and fled into the wilderness-to die, he says-but an angel cared for him and sent him to the mountain of God. God told Elijah to stand on the mountain because God was going to pass by. There was a strong wind, an earthquake, and then a fire, but God was in none of them. Then there was silence. When Elijah stepped outside of the cave, the Lord told him to anoint several kings, as well as Elisha, who would become a prophet. No matter how he felt or what he did, Elijah was loved and cared for by God. Even as Elijah begged for his life to be taken from him, God was present. An angel was sent with food and drink to sustain his body and to provide a gentle touch on two different occasions. And even as Elijah talked of being alone, the Lord sent him out to fulfill his work with promises of seven thousand Israelites who would remain. Amid their own difficult times, students can see God’s love and promises in the world around them.

THE POINT: God sometimes chooses to come in quiet ways.

God was revealed to Elijah not in a show of power but in silence. Elijah, like many of us, expected to sense God’s presence in dramatic and life-changing moments, events of power and glory. But God came to Elijah in the silence. More often than powerful “mountaintop” experiences, God speaks to us through quiet acts of love from people and situations that we do not expect.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Service

An angel visited Elijah to help provide for his physical needs and bring God’s message of love and mission to Elijah. There are times in each of our lives that we have relied on the words and actions of one another to just get by and in order to see what needs to happen next. Serving and loving one another is part of what make God’s presence known in each of our lives.

(S&T)

Hope Youth Volunteers

Poor Elijah was discouraged and depressed. He had big emotions. He had every right to feel that way. You may feel discouraged in your service to the Lord sometimes. You may feel alone just like Elijah. Elijah was not alone. God sent an angel to minister to him. God showed up in big and small

ways. He does the same thing for us today. He shows up for us. He ministers to us and helps us when we are discouraged. We serve a God who knows that sometimes we need a nap and a snack!

Blessings,

The Youth Team