TUESDAY

God has the power to

COMFORT!

Glacier Bay Resort and Convention Center

GLACIER BAY RESORT

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'He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.'
2 Cor. 1:4

God provides for Elijah

CLIFF

"With God, all things

GOD COMFORTS

Did you Know?

As Elijah fled from King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, Elijah hit one of the lowest points in his life—he even told God he had had enough and asked God to end his life! No wonder Elijah desperately needed God's comfort.

Jezebel, the powerful queen of Israel, wanted to kill him; he was the *only* prophet in Israel serving God, as Jezebel tried to have all the other prophets of God killed, and the few who were left were in hiding; and even after God had demonstrated his great power, Jezebel *still* wouldn't worship God.

Before Elijah began his 40-day trek to Mount Sinai, he stopped to rest under a broom tree. The broom tree is common in this desert wilderness (modern-day southern Palestine), and it would have been the only shrub big enough to offer Elijah any shade. The broom tree can grow to be 10 feet high.

Instead of appearing in the mighty wind, earthquake, or fire, God presented himself in
a gentle whisper. Why? God had just shown his great power to the people of Israel by
withholding the rain to create a significant drought and by sending down fire to consume
the sacrifice offered by Elijah at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18). But God revealed that he is
more than just a powerful God who can control the elements of nature—he is a God who is always present, sometimes revealed in overwhelmingly astounding ways and sometimes in the quiet.

God had more for Elijah to do! In our Bible lesson for Day Two we read about another story of Elijah. In this Bible lesson we will learn how God comforts Elijah.

Why it Matters

Our world is an imperfect place, and it's filled with things that make kids scared or sad or fearful—hurtful words from a child at school, a frightening storm, a fight between parents. Kids find comfort in things like a warm hug, an encouraging word, or a cozy stuffed animal. But nothing compares to the comfort of knowing God is always by their side—they are never alone! Today at VBS share with kids the encouraging message of God's peace and his ability to comfort us no matter what we face in life.

Pack Your Bags

Look for these items in your daily supply bag:

- ☐ Daily poster
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 3 long sheets of butcher paper (3ft each)
- ☐ Use blue plastic table cloth from yesterday
- ☐ 20 sheets of paper (wad up to make look like rocks)
- ☐ Index cards: 14 of each color, one word of scripture on each card
- ☐ 11x17 blank sheet of paper (5 per class)
- ☐ 8.5x11 blank sheet of paper (1 per kid) – Upper Elementary
- ☐ Photo pictures (1per kid) – Lower Elementary

You do not need to provide anything from home today.

Here are some things you should do to set up before you begin:

To "set the scene" for today's story make sure that you have a spot in your room that has a small tree, large leaf or palm frond, a broom, etc. and maybe some brown paper to represent the place where Elijah runs and hides. It should be a large enough area for the kids to lie down and rest.

During your break, Managers should hide the different colored scripture cards around the room.

Check In

Welcome back to Glacier Bay Resort! I'm so glad you're here! Are you ready to experience another totally true Bible adventure?

(Pause as guests respond.)

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Me too!

Let's go!

(*Ask your guests to gather in the groups they had yesterday. If you need to make adjustments to your groups, now is the time to do it.)*

Today at Glacier Bay, we're learning that God has the power to comfort. And let's face it—we all need comfort sometimes. You know, a guy in today's Bible story
was feeling the same way. He needed comfort big time! And guess what? It's someone you already know!

Who can tell me what happened in yesterday's Bible adventure?

(*Let kids call out answers.)*

Yup, Elijah is back! Yesterday we left him by the brook, where God was miraculously providing for him. But a lot has happened since then. For one thing, Elijah has made King Ahab even madder than in yesterday's Bible story!

Right before today's story, something big happened. You know that Elijah was a prophet of the one true God. Well, he had a show-down—kind of a competition—with some prophets of a false god. And guess who won?

(Pause.)

That's right, the God Elijah served—the one true God—won! And that made King Ahab even madder than before. King Ahab's wife was so mad she said they should kill Elijah! Elijah was scared!

Lets' take a look at our map. Yesterday Elijah was here in Tishbe.

(Point to the map).

In today's Bible Lesson Elijah runs from this spot…

(Find the place on the map where Elijah burned the idols of Baal at Mt. Carmel)

*…*all the way down to this place.

(Run your finger down to the spot where Elijah hid under the tree at Beersheba.)

The Bible says that Elijah was afraid and ran away for his life.

(*Hold up a Bible, opened to 1 Kings 19.*)

When I count to 3, show me your best scared face. Ready? 1…2…3!
(*Pause as guests show their afraid faces.)*

Now, can you think of a time you were really afraid? Maybe you were scared of a bully or a bad storm or the dark—tell your Bellhop and friends about a time you were really afraid.

(*Give kids time to talk, and then ask for a few children to share.)*

Those do sound like scary times! Elijah was in a scary time, too! So he went off by himself into the wilderness to get away from King Ahab. Come with me—we'd better get away, too!

Wake Up Call

(Lead kids around the room and then over to the tree you created.)

Look, here's a tree. Let's sit down and rest.

(Have everyone sit in their groups around the tree.)

Elijah slumped down and poured out his heart to God. Kneel as you continue. Elijah was *so* tired and *so* down in the dumps that he told God he just couldn't go on. "I've had enough, Lord," he said. "I've done my best but the king wants to kill me, and I'm all alone and scared. Being your prophet is just too hard!"

Ask: Have you ever felt like that? Like the job in front of you was just too hard to do? A time when you've tried your hardest but you still felt like a failure?

Tell your Guests about a time that you felt like Elijah.

Have any of you ever felt like Elijah?

(*Give Guests time to think. Then ask if anyone would like to share.)*

Thanks for sharing your feelings. I think we've all felt like Elijah at times—just too tired to go on. The Bible says that after Elijah talked to God, he lay down under the tree and went to sleep**.**

(*Stretch and yawn***.)**

I could use a little rest myself. Everyone lay down and close your eyes while I tell you what happened next. Get comfortable and relax.

(Have everyone lay down and close their eyes.)

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While Elijah was sleeping, he felt a touch on his shoulder. It was an angel, waking him up! You can sit up now!

(*Pause briefly.)*

The angel said, "Get up and eat!" Elijah looked around, and there was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water!

(*Pretend to eat and drink some water.)*

After Elijah ate, he went back to sleep.

(*Have kids lie down again and pretend to sleep.)*

The angel came again and touched Elijah, saying, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you."

(*Have everyone sit up again.)*

I think it's so cool that God knew exactly what Elijah needed and was able to comfort him with food, rest, and water!

After Elijah ate again, he finally had enough strength for the long journey ahead. Are you strong enough to go on a long journey with me? The Bible says Elijah had to travel for 40 days and 40 nights!

(Lead guests around the room, saying things like "My legs are tired!" and "Forty days and forty nights—I don't know how much longer I can go on." As you travel, slow down and pretend to be getting weary. Ham it up—wipe your brow, rub your lower back, and have kids follow your lead.)

Finally, Elijah got to a place called Mount Sinai. And he poured out his heart to God again. He said, "Lord, I've served you the best I could. I've tried really hard. And now I'm the only prophet left, and they're trying to kill me. This is too much for me!" Poor Elijah. He was still feeling really down.

God told Elijah, "Go out and stand on the mountain. I'm going to pass by." We know from other parts of the Bible that no human can actually look at God. So Elijah huddled in a mountain crevice and hid his face. We'd better do the same.

(Have members get into their groups. Have members of each group of guests huddle together on their knees, and cover each group of guests with the sheet of paper.)

Huddle under your blanket and close your eyes. Pretend you're hiding in a mountain crevice.

are possible." Matt. 19:26

(When kids are under the blankets, have your Assistant manager and Bell hops start making wind sounds. And then dramatically say:)

A mighty windstorm hit the mountain! It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose. Elijah cried out, "I'm afraid, God! You're not here! I'm so scared! Where are you?"

(Give a signal that the helpers are to stop the wind sound. Then say more quietly:)

But God wasn't in the mighty windstorm.

(*Remind the guests to stay hidden in the crevice.)*

After the wind, there was a terrible earthquake! The ground shook, and the rocks tumbled!

(*As you speak, have your helpers can toss paper-bag rocks on top of the paper sheets.)*

Elijah thought, "God, where are you? My life hurts! People don't like me! They want to kill me! Nothing in my life is stable!"

(*Have your helpers gradually stop tossing the paper rocks. Then more quietly say:)*

But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a huge fire! Elijah cried, "God, God, I feel like my life is being destroyed! Like it's burning up! Everything feels so hopeless!"

(Then more quietly say:)

But the Lord wasn't in the fire.

(*Pause.)*

Then, after the wind and the earthquake and the fire—there was a gentle whisper.

(*Briefly pause.)*

And God was in the whisper. And do you know what God whispered?

(*Go up to a huddled Guests, and whisper loud enough for them to hear:)*

"I love you!"

(*Whisper "I love you!" to each remaining Guest.*)

You can come out now. It's safe.

(*Have Guests come out from under the blankets and sit quietly staying in their groups.)*

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God wasn't in the terrible windstorm. He wasn't in the earthquake. He wasn't in the fire. Instead, God was in a gentle whisper. Sometimes God wants to speak to us quietly, in a gentle whisper. He wants to comfort us and remind us how much he loves us.

God told Elijah he wasn't the only one left who followed the one true God. There were others. God told Elijah that there were 1,000 other believers in the land! God said he'd send someone to help Elijah. This man would be called Elisha!

(Emphasize and repeat as needed the "s" in Elisha's name so kids know there is a difference between Elijah and Elisha.)

God wanted Elijah to be quiet and listen. Sometimes God wants that from us, too. Let's experience that now. Let's just be quiet before God. Spread out a little so you have your own space. Then close your eyes, and even cover your face if you want to. We'll just sit quietly before God.

Maybe you'll hear God whisper to you. Or maybe you won't. Maybe you'll feel the peace that comes from God. Maybe you'll just feel a little calmer. Just know that God loves you and wants to comfort you in a gentle way. After we sit quietly for a minute or so, I'll close with a whisper prayer.

(Have everyone sit silently for about a minute. Then whisper loud enough so everyone can hear:)

God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for comforting us. Help us learn to be quiet so we can hear your gentle whisper. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Check the clock. Time for snack? Do you have enough time to finish?

(If you still have time, here are some follow up questions to discuss:)

Why did Elijah and Jezebel want to kill Elijah?
Who fed Elijah when he ran away?
How far did Elijah have to travel where he hid in the mountains?
What were the three major acts of nature that God made happen when Elijah hid in the crevice?
How did God speak to Elijah?
How was Elijah comforted?
Elijah wasn't the only one left who served God. How many other people were there who still served God?

Turn Down Service

In the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel, we learn that God was angry when King Ahab and Queen Jezebel worshipped idols, and encouraged the citizens of their land to worship idols too.

What were the idols in this story? *(Answer: Stone gods named Baal.)*

As we heard in the story, these stone gods were powerless to help people. In the New Testament Jesus taught another definition of "idolatry" to his followers. Jesus said that idolatry (the worship of idols) happens when anything in our lives is more important to us than loving and following God.

Matthew 6:24 records Jesus' words: **"No one can serve two masters… You cannot serve both God and Money."**

One Christian rephrased Jesus' words this way: "Don't invest in goods that have a sell-by date; build up your balance in heaven. Don't let cash boss you around."

Think about it. Activities and material possessions that we enjoy all have an "expiration date." Our relationship with God is the only thing that will benefits us forever!

Continue for Grades K-2

Hand out the sheets from your supply bag that has a number of good and bad things listed. Make sure everyone has a crayon or marker or something to write with. Tell the guests to "cross out" anything on their papers that are harmful. Remember some kids might need help reading some of the words.

Talk about other things that, if they spend too much time or effort doing, can become like idols to them. It takes away time that they can spend with God and the good things He wants them to do. Some kids may disagree on what is harmful. Discuss with them that even dancing, sports, etc. can be harmful if it takes them away from going to church, doing their school work or spending time with family and friends. Make sure that they understand that these aren't "bad" things, just activities that can take them away from God and what He wants them to do.

Continue for Grades 3-5

Let's talk about the kinds of things that can become more important to us than God.

(Make sure that students stay in groups of three or four. Have your Assistant Managers and Bell Hops lead each group of guests. Give each group leader a sheet of

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paper and marker.)

We're going to make two lists: one list is for things that we know are harmful to us. The other list is for things that are good and wholesome but can become "idols" to us.

Accept ideas from the students from the following two categories:

1) Some things are obviously harmful to us, such as alcohol abuse, illegal drugs, cigarettes,

2) Other things are good and wholesome, but when having/doing them replaces God in our hearts they too can become "idols" such as too much computer time, nice cars, X-Box, sports, the latest fashions, money, etc.

Next give each guest a sheet of white paper and a marker. Ask them to write this phrase across the top margin of the paper: God is more important to me than:

Have them list or draw anything they have or do at home, school or with friends that has or could become more important to them than God.

Does anyone want to share what they have on their paper?

(Lead discussion as kids share.)

All these things may make us happy for a while, but they all have an "expiration date."

Electronic toys and games wear out, or they are replaced by a newer technology. TV programs, IPADS, XBOX, IPHONES and movies won't last forever or they get boring after a while. Clothes and the latest fashions, famous music artists and Hollywood actors will change all the time. But listening to God and following His commandments last forever.

Check the clock. Time for snack?
Do you have enough time to finish?

Check Out

Around the room I have hidden cards in different colors. I will assign a different color for each group. When I say "Go" I want you to look for your group's color. You'll have one minute to find all of your cards and return to your group.

When I say "Stop" you'll return to your group.

After all the groups have returned to their circle I will say "Go!" again and you will have one minutes to assemble your Bible verse for the day. The first group that finishes and stands up is the winner.

Does everyone know what to do?

(Make sure you set your time for one minute.)

Okay, ready, set, go!

(When time's up…)

Stop! Everyone have a seat.

Now, assemble your Bible verse. Ready, set, go!

(*Watch your time.)*

Great Job! Now I want everyone to stand up and repeat the verse.

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others."
2 Corinthians 1:4

Extra craft for Grades K-2

(If there is time, use the materials from your daily supply bag to make the "Where is God?" craft. There are two pages for each guest. The idea is to cut out the four rectangle covers with the questions on them and paste/tape over the matching answers on the other page. Guests can color the pictures and words before and as you help them attach the covers.)

NOTES