

WEEK 3

LESSON GUIDE

ANIMATED

BIG IDEA

God gives me comfort
when I feel sad.

BIBLE

Elijah Flees to Horeb:
1 Kings 19:1-13

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Animated Praise!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Abound in Hope" (Seeds Family Worship)
 - "No Matter How I Feel" (Lifetree Kids)
 - "Even When" (Yancy & Little Praise Party)
 - "God Loves You and You and You" (New Wine)

ACTIVITY | Emoji Hunt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ahead of time, print the emoji printables. Print and cut as many copies as you need for each kid to be able to find one. Hide the cutouts throughout the room and invite the kids to hunt for them. Once all emojis have been found and each kid has one, invite each kid, one at a time, to act out or express their emotion for the group. Ask them to share a time or situation when they might've felt this emotion. Example: They find the sad face and act out crying and tell of a time when their favorite toy broke and they felt sad and cried.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers can hunt around the room to find the emoji printables (place them in very open, obvious places), but will need help identifying what the emotion means and how it looks. Show them each emotion and have them mimic the action after you. They will not share a time or experience when they felt this emotion.
- Sometimes, identifying how we feel can be hard, and today, our emotions are hidden all over the room. You will look around the room to find cards with faces of different emotions on them. Just find one!
- When we're done, you'll have a chance to act out this emotion and tell me a time when you might've felt this emotion. (Once each kid has found a card, have them take it back to their seat or seat them in a circle on the floor to wait for the others to finish.)

ACTIVITY | Voice-Over Training Day

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** After showing this [video](#) to your group, invite the kids to try out their own voice acting skills! Provide a few hand puppets and have kids take turns supplying the voices while you (or other leaders) move the puppets' mouths. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers can play changing their voice using something like [this](#) to hear different animated sounds.
- These actors were all doing voices for different animated movie characters. **Can you hear how much feeling they put into their voices?**
- Today, we're going to train to be voice-over actors – like the actors we just saw – by being the voice of these puppets!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 19:1–13 (Elijah Flees to Horeb)

- So far, we've been talking about the word "animated," which describes movies or TV shows that have drawings that move, like cartoons!
- **Can anyone give me some examples of animated movies or TV shows?**
- One of my favorite animated shows is *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* because we can learn so much about what we can do when we feel big feelings!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this](#) video, "Things to Do When You Feel Sad" from *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* before you tell the Bible story. For the Scripture readings, feel free to use an easy-to-understand Bible translation of your choice. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- In this animated clip, we saw how Daniel Tiger was very sad. **What are some things he did to feel better?**
- Today, we're hearing all about the prophet, Elijah, who also was feeling very sad. Elijah loved God so much, he had a contest with a bunch of people who believed in a different god to see who was the real God.
- Of course, it was no contest. The real God made the fake god and all its followers look silly. But then . . .
 - [Read 1 Kings 19:1–5a.]
- A mean queen named Jezebel, who worshiped the fake god, got really mad at Elijah. Elijah was scared so he ran away!
- He ran and ran until he got so tired and so sad. But an angel came and gave him food and water.
 - [Read 1 Kings 19:5b–9.]
- When Elijah heard this, he talked to God about how he was feeling. Elijah was sad because God had helped him when he went up against the followers of the fake god, but now God seemed far away.
 - He said: [Read 1 Kings 19:10–13.]
- God told Elijah to go out and stand on the mountain and wait for God.
 - A mighty wind came, but God didn't appear with the wind. [Make wind sounds.]
 - Then, an earthquake shook everything, but God didn't appear with the earthquake. [Invite kids to stomp on the ground with you.]
 - And then a fire burned, but God wasn't there either! [Wiggle your fingers like a flame.]
- Then, Elijah heard a gentle whisper. It was God speaking softly and directly to Elijah! This was God's way of comforting Elijah and letting him know he wasn't alone.

BIG IDEA | God gives me comfort when I feel sad.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create two speech bubbles (or get [these](#)) with poster board and write “God gives me comfort” on one and “when I feel sad.” on the other. Invite volunteers to hold up each speech balloon and freeze in a funny, cartoon pose. Have the volunteers unfreeze and say what’s in their respective balloons when the kids yell, “Animate!”
- Let’s all say the Big Idea together: **God gives me comfort when I feel sad.**

VIDEO | Animated, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Cali’s World](#).

ACTIVITY | Act and React Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have all kids line up horizontally, shoulder to shoulder, on one end of the room. Kids will be running down to touch the opposite wall and come back. But, here’s the catch: You’ll be calling out environmental occurrences such as, “bees,” “snow,” “fog,” “wind,” “fire,” “rain,” and “lava.” When you call these out, the kids will have to act like they’re in the middle of that natural occurrence as they run down and back. Make sure you model what kinds of actions to do so they can follow.
 - ✦ **TODDLER HACK:** Let toddlers run down, touch the wall, and run back. Maybe have them repeat the Big Idea after you while they play, such as saying, “God loves me” when they run to the wall and then saying, “Even when I feel sad” when they run back.
- In today’s Bible story, Elijah felt big things from nature like wind, earthquake, and fire. In this game, we’ll act how we would if we were in the same situations Elijah was in!

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before prayer time each week, play this emoji music video, [“Jesus Loves Me,”](#) and have kids sing along.
- God, thank you for your comfort when I’m sad. Show me what I can do to feel better when I’m sad. Teach me how to comfort others who are sad. Thank you for always being with me. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Emoji Clementines

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw a different expression on each of the clementines or purchase [facial expression stickers](#) to stick on them. Here is an [example](#). Help kids peel the clementines while you talk with them about things that make them sad. Reinforce the Big Idea after every share.

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you ask questions and review the story, pass around the “wind in a bottle” and allow kids to swirl the bottle and view the vortex spinning and then calm down again. Remind kids God is as powerful as a strong wind but is also as gentle as a whisper!
 - **Why was Elijah so sad?**
 - **How did God appear to Elijah on the mountain?**
 - **What will you do the next time you feel sad?**

ACTIVITY| Doughy Teardrops

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Guide kids in making their own version of Play-Doh ([here's a tutorial on how](#)), then encourage them to use theirs to form the shapes of teardrops. After each kid molds their dough into the shape of tears, have them bring the tears together to re-mold them into a heart shape. You can give them heart-shaped cookie cutters to help with the shape.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** This dough is taste-safe and should be safe for toddlers to play with. They will need help making teardrop shapes and hearts. You might even consider just allowing them to play, squish, and squeeze the dough as you review the story rather than having them form specific shapes.
- Have you ever felt alone when you were sad? Maybe you were at home but felt like nobody would listen to you.
- Let's each create our own teardrops out of this dough. [Guide the kids in making their own teardrops.]
- Today's Big Idea tells us that **God gives me comfort when I feel sad.**
- Now, let's join our teardrops together to re-mold and create the shape of a heart. This will help us remember that God comforts our hearts when we feel sad. We're never alone because God is with us!

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 15:13a (NIV)

- **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Assign each kid a word from the memory verse. Have each kid say their word of the memory verse in a funny voice, like they are animated characters! Make sure the words are in the correct order of the memory verse. Do this until every kid has had a turn.

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

ACTIVITY| Expressive Emotions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will get to switch out different shaped eyes and mouths on a face to create different emotions. Here's an [example](#) of what it looks like.

ACTIVITY| Fire in a Bag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Add one to two tablespoons of yellow, orange, and red craft paint inside a gallon-sized zippered plastic bag. Then, press the seal closed after removing as much air as you can. Tape the zippered top well to keep the mess inside the bag. If you'd like, tape the bag in place on the table the kids will be playing on. Allow the kids to blend the colors together to create the look of fire. Talk about the Bible story as they play.