

“The Lord Speaks to Elijah”

1 Kings 19:9-18 ESV

Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

The Lord Speaks to Elijah



We often hope, or perhaps even expect, that God would speak to us in a clear and booming voice or come to us in obvious ways.

We might be tempted to give up on faith when times get tough

or when we don't "feel like" God is present. This message explains to children that God is always with us and frequently comes to us in unexpected ways. The story of Elijah on Mount Horeb reminds us that God is not always in the earthquakes and fires but makes himself known with simple whispers.

Law/Gospel Theme: We sometimes tend to think that we can do enough to get ourselves closer to God. We want to hear His voice in booming audible tones, or we expect Him to show up in certain specific ways and feel disappointed when He doesn't follow our "rules." Through Christ, God was made man and lived among us, and people missed Him then, too! God provides for us and comes to us in strange and unexpected ways sometimes. He might reveal Himself through quiet whispers or through other people. We trust in His care and look to His Son for hope and strength.

Materials Required: cardstock, paper, straws and decorative material, hair dryer, fan, Ping-Pong ball, pom-pom, Bibles. Object lesson props include noise maker/attention-grabber; lighter, fan/hair dryer, alarm

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Target Audience: Elementary School, adaptable for K-6th Grades

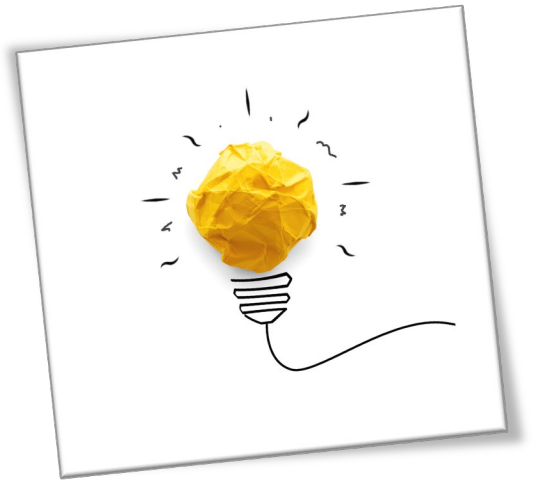
More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#)
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#)
- Watch the [video Bible Story "Elijah in the Wilderness"](#) from Saddleback Kids
- Watch the [video Bible Story "God's Story: Elijah"](#) from the Crossroads Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible Story "Overview: 1-2 Kings"](#) from the Bible Project
- For more free Bible illustrations, we recommend [Christian Clip Arts](#).

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Object Lesson (5 minutes)



Greet children, and start off by using noise to grab their attention...

Hello, children of God!

(After noisemaker) Did that get your attention? What does someone do if they want to make you pay attention? How do your parents call for you or get you to listen? What about alarms? How do you wake up in the morning? *(Demonstrate a few alarm sounds from a phone or other device.)* Some things are a bit louder than others. Some alarms are much stronger or more blaring than others! Sometimes things get our attention in unexpected ways or take more careful listening than other times!

How do you listen to God? How do you think He gets our attention? Sometimes we would hope that God would speak to us in a big booming voice or be obvious. But there are a lot of ways that we can encounter the voice of the Lord. He often comes in quiet or unexpected ways.

This reminds me of a story in the Bible. There was a man named Elijah, who was a prophet that told people about God. Elijah had worked very hard for the Lord but was sad and discouraged that his hard work might not amount to much. God led Elijah up onto a mountain and told him that His presence would pass by. Several things happened. First, there was a huge wind, blowing through the rocks—but that wasn't God. Then there was an earthquake! That wasn't God, either...then there was a fire, but even that was not the presence of the Lord. Do you know what came next? A whisper. A still, silent, simple whisper. And then God spoke to Elijah, asking what his plans were and what he was doing.

So you see, God doesn't always show up in wild and obvious ways. He comes to us in moments of silence. Sometimes He speaks to us through other people. He speaks through His word, the Bible. And there might be times when we feel that God is silent. But He is ALWAYS there. His presence is always with us, and He always welcomes our prayers. No matter what happens, we know that He hears us and wants us to hear Him. We might encounter Him in quiet whispers or strange perceptions. But always He is near if we are willing to listen and hear.

Why don't we say a prayer and ask God to help us listen for His voice?

Prayer:

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for coming to us

Even in unexpected ways

Help us to listen for your voice

And recognize when you call.

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions (10 minutes)



Wind power...Since today's tale involves wind, start out with a blowing race.

1. Provide students with a straw and a small item such as a pom-pom or Ping-Pong ball.
2. Two or three at a time (depending on space), have the students race to see who can maneuver the ball from one mark to another– using only the straw and aiming their air at the ball.
3. For younger students, have them hold up a hand to feel the air coming through.

Explain that we are going to talk a little about wind. Do we see wind? No, but we know it is there because we see the effects of it as trees bend and sway or hair blows about wildly. In this story, we get to witness Elijah's experience of God's presence and power.

Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)



This story is fun to act out as you teach, follow the prompts below in parentheses to give the children direction.

Ask students what they know about the life of Elijah. Remind them of his conflict with the wicked king and queen; how God cared for Him at the river and with the widow; and how he defeated the false priests of Baal.

After the whole priest-expunging incident, King Ahab was all the more feverish about having Elijah's head, so he was again forced to flee. (**Have students go under a table or in a corner**). At this point, the prophet was extremely discouraged and exhausted, and quite willing to just give up. Have you ever felt this way? Elijah wondered why he was the only prophet of God left. But God hadn't abandoned Him...

1 Kings 19:3-8 ESV Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. (4) But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." (5) And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." (6) And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. (7) And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise

and eat, for the journey is too great for you.” (8) And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

God made us with physical needs. He knew that Elijah could not continue without nourishment and provided for his stamina with miraculous encouragement. **(At this point, walk around handing students a cracker or other small item to nibble).**

1 Kings 19:9-11 ESV There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (10) He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” (11) And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

God was getting ready to do something wild for Elijah. We cannot experience God and walk away the same. Elijah had to prepare himself for meeting God and must have wondered what was coming.

1 Kings 19:12 ESV And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.

(At first, come around with a blow dryer blowing kids for the “wind”). A rushing wind blew through; surely God would be present there, but no...then an earthquake came by **(if possible, shake the table or scootch the kids)**. But although it was remarkable, this was

not the Lord either. Instead, He appeared in a soft real whisper. Sometimes we wait for how we expect or hope God will act, or we think He must be a huge booming force. But perhaps the Lord will present Himself in the smallest and simplest of ways...

1 Kings 19:13 ESV And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Close with prayer and reminder of God's work in our lives. Ask God for wisdom and strength in making choices, and for gratitude in what He has already granted. Ask God to help us honor Him in all that we say and do.

Craft Activities (15 minutes)

How do we hear from God? How do we know He is near? Sometimes we wish that we could hear Him with a mighty voice or obvious signs, but God comes in mysterious and unexpected ways. He can speak to us through various means, sometimes in the slightest whispers! These crafts celebrate the story of Elijah on Mount Horeb, recounting how God is present with us and communicates, even when we don't feel or hear Him as we think we should. A "mystery sound bag" uses odd items to make a game of listening to varied sounds, reminding us to listen for God's voice. A "God Whispers Wheel" tells the story with a decorative element.

Verses or Captions to Consider... (1 Kings 19:1-15)

Where is God? Listen for His voice!

Earthquake...Mighty Wind...Fire...Whisper!

Craft one: "Mystery Sound Bag"

You will need:

- Paper bag
- Crayons or markers
- Popsicle sticks (any size)
- Balloon, bubble wrap, dried noodles, beads, etc. (items that make noise).
- Stickers or decorative items.



Procedure:

1. Decorate the outside of the paper bag. Add verses and captions as desired.
2. Inside the bag, place items that make noise (bubble wrap, balloons, dried noodles, etc.)
3. Use the bag to play a "what's that sound?" game: blindfold one player, draw out an item, and try to guess what the item is according to the sound only.
4. If desired, hang bag in a spot to recount the story and importance of listening to God's voice.



Craft Two: "God Whispers Wheel"

You will need:

- Construction Paper or cardstock
- Paper plates
- Balloon
- Glue (tacky recommended)
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Pom-poms, stickers, glitter, or other extra decorations
- Markers or crayons

Procedure:

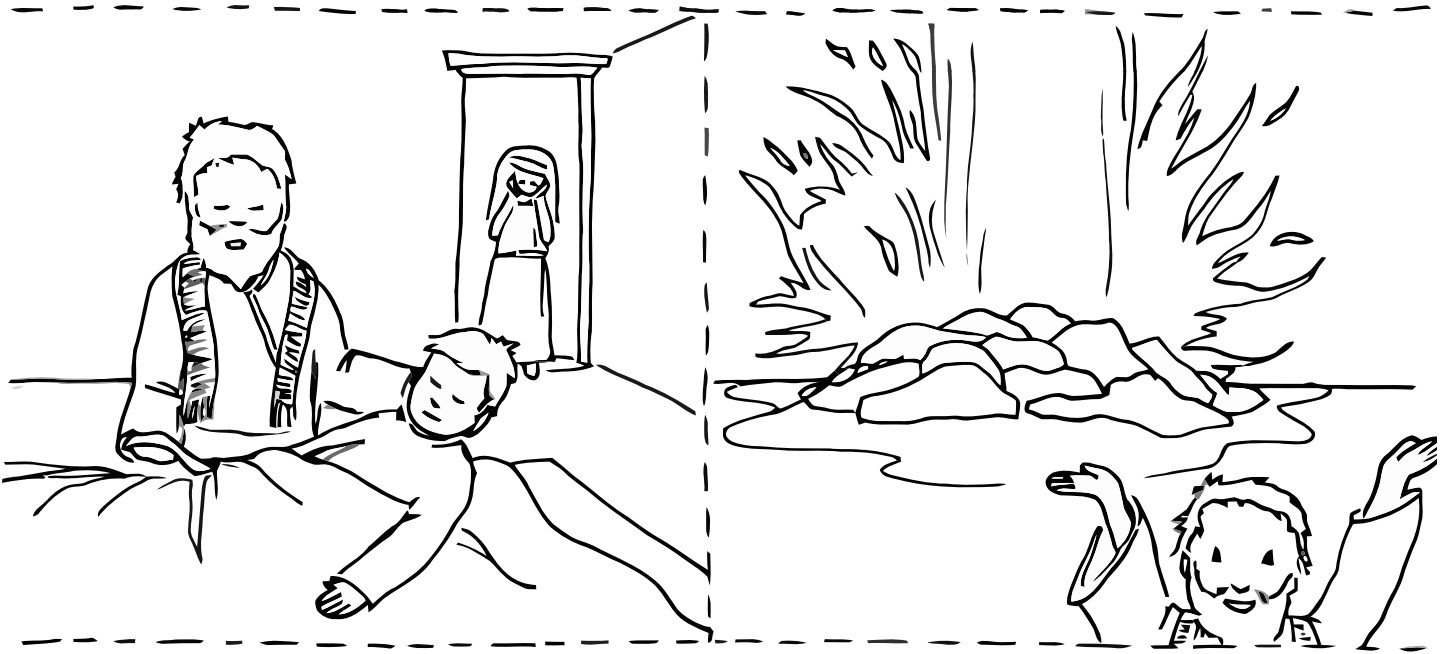
1. Divide one of the paper plates into fourths (quadrants).
2. In each quadrant, write a brief caption for "earthquake", "wind", "fire", and "whisper." Add extra decorations (stickers, pictures, pom-poms, etc.) as desired.
3. On the second paper plate, cut out a quadrant. Decorate with verses and captions to accompany the first plate.
4. Use the brad fastener to attach the plates. Spin the top plate to reveal the various parts of the story and recall how Elijah met God.



1 Kings 19:9 ESV

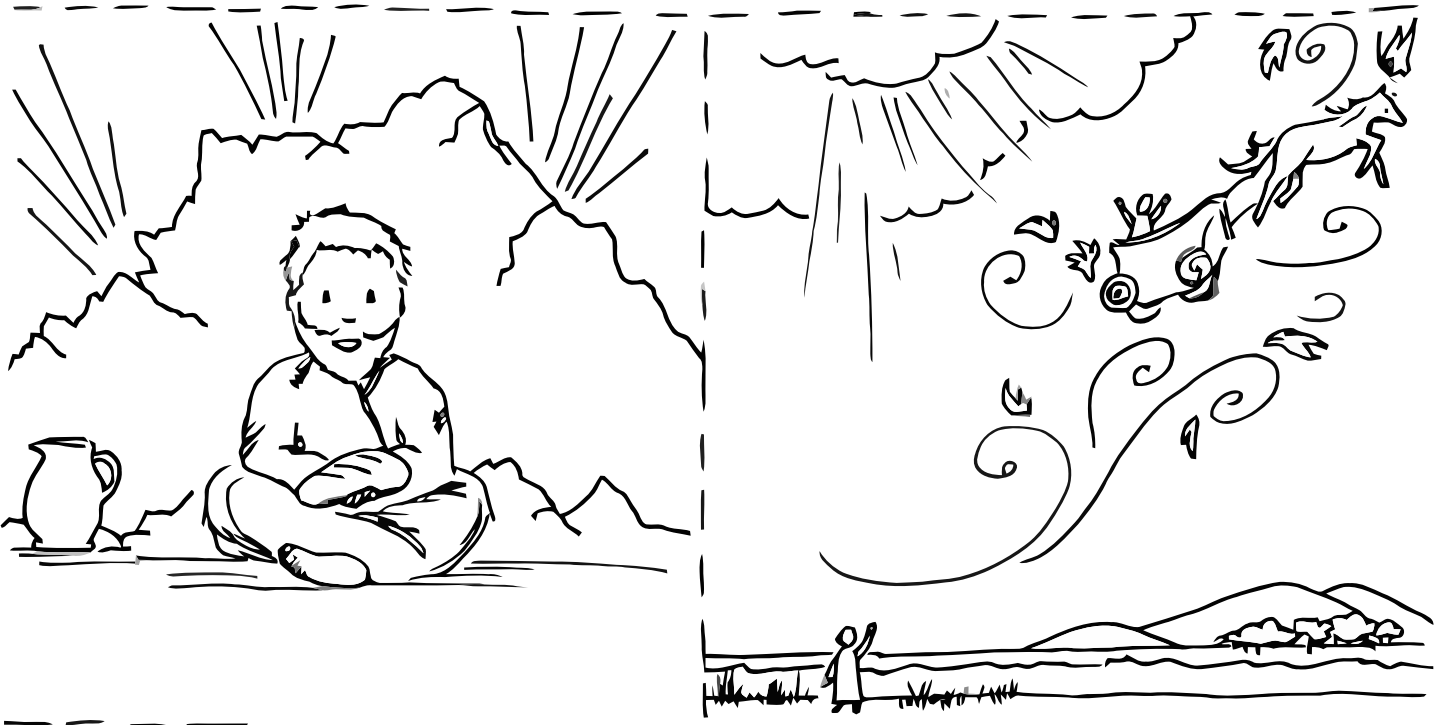
There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”





Elijah speaks God's truth...

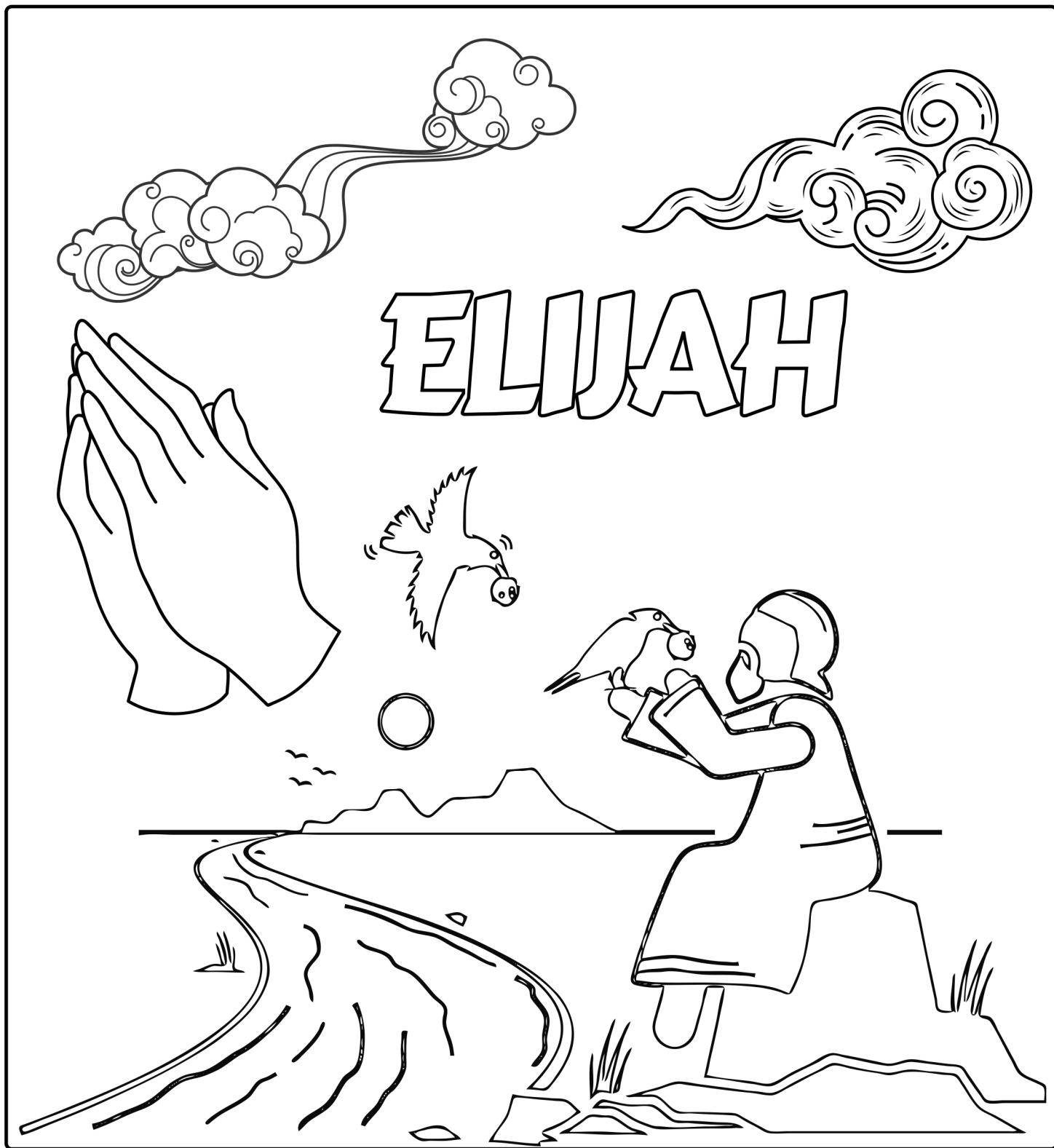
1 Kings - 2 Kings



Coloring!

Directions: Color the given picture.

The Lord Speaks to Elijah



Word Search!

Directions: Find the words given in the word search.

The Lord Speaks to Elijah

I	B	L	V	N	Q	W	X	G	D	F	H	P	K	R	I	U	S	W	D
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Z	M	E	Q	H	Q	L	E	K	M	E	O	V	T	S	R	E	Y	Y	J
T	G	X	D	I	I	G	I	A	R	C	K	Y	W	N	L	U	C	Z	Z
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F	I	S	D	C	A	V	E	G	N	N	B	C	C	A	C	B	B	E	B
C	P	P	M	M	S	B	M	C	X	E	O	K	I	N	H	I	T	R	R

WORD BANK

CAVE
EARTHQUAKE

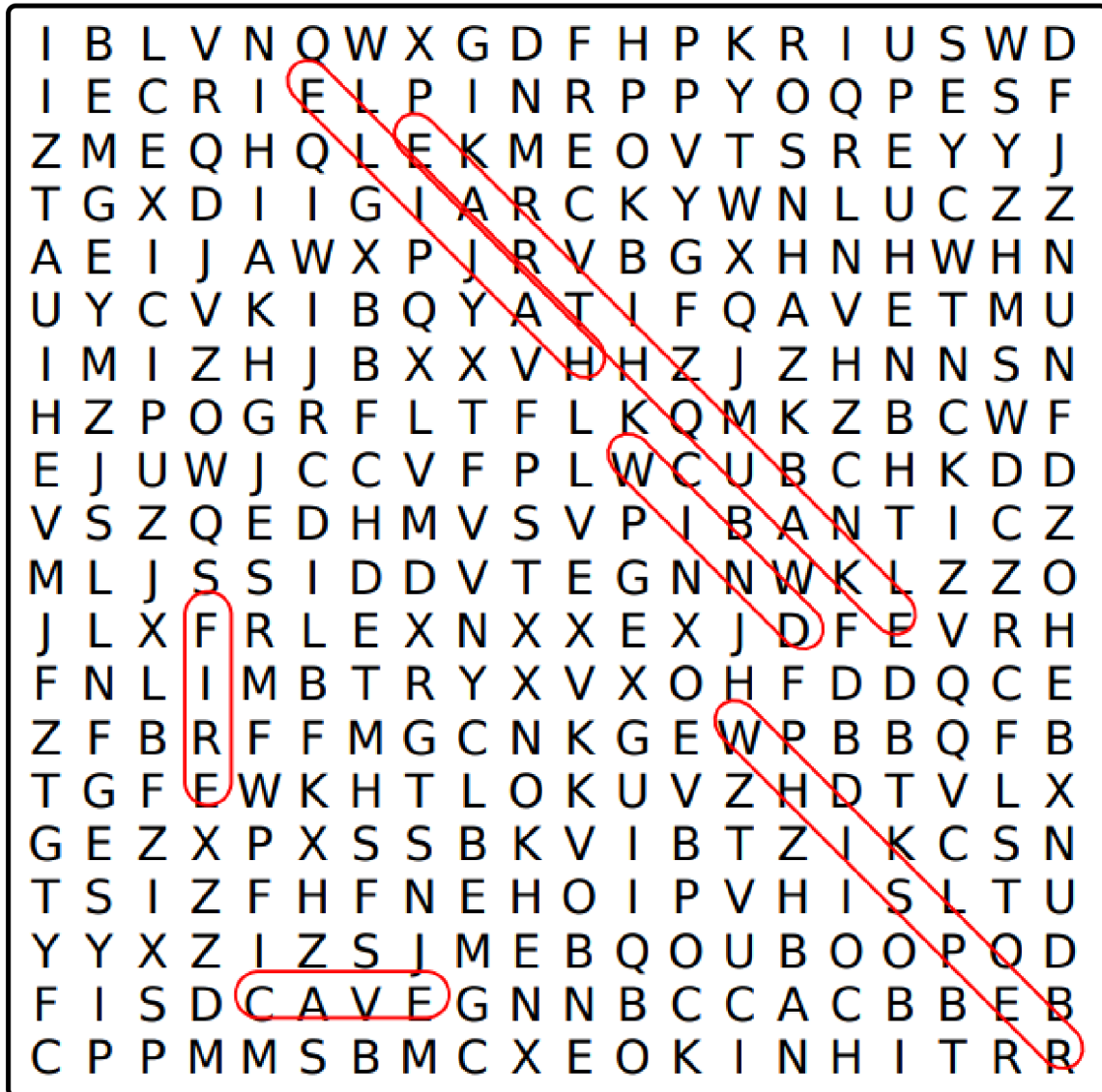
FIRE
WIND

WHISPER
ELIJAH

Answer Key

Directions: Find the words given in the word search.

The Lord Speaks to Elijah



WORD BANK

CAVE
EARTHQUAKE

FIRE
WIND

WHISPER
ELIJAH