

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

Week 2: Our reading this week comes from the Hebrew scriptures. We hear about the prophet Elijah who, after fleeing for his life, meets the LORD in the wilderness.

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah, saying... "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces 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; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19.11-13

a sound of
sheer silence

Choose the reflective questions
that suit your family:

Elijah cannot hear the voice of the LORD in the wind or the earthquake or the fire. Only in the silence. We wonder why... God seems to wait for all the noise to fade away. Then Elijah can hear God's voice. Can we hear God's voice in silence?

Ages 3-6

We do not know how long the wind and earthquake and fire lasted. What if it was a long, LONG time? What must Elijah know?

Ages 6-9

The LORD comes to Elijah when he flees for his life. Elijah waits to hear the voice of the LORD rather than giving up. What kind of relationship do they have? We wonder what Elijah would say is the secret to this relationship.

Ages 9-12

When Elijah flees for his life, the LORD comes to him but he makes him wait. Why? Is it a test? Or do the other forces try to distract him? What does waiting for the silence do for Elijah?

Teenagers

Create Silence

This is something we can only do

TOGETHER.

Set a timer for 1 minute.

We make our bodies still.

Can we hold the silence together

for a whole minute?

What do we hear in the silence?

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other's answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.

Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

