

Saturday MORNING: More storms

INTRODUCTION

- We go home today.
- We return to real beds and less physical work and we'll see our friends and family.
- But you know what?
- There will be storms, there, too.
- So let's end where we started, with the story of Elijah and the storms.

READ 1 Kings 19:11-16

11 [God said to Elijah], "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; **12** and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. **13** 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?" **14** Elijah answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." **15** Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. **16** Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

ASK (answers in parenthesis)

- What do storms do to us? (destroy things, scare us, force us to act)
- What was God NOT in? (the storms)
- When does Elijah hear God's voice? (before and after the storms)

TELL

- Wherever we go, there will be storms.
- I hope that one thing that you have learned this week is the reminder to listen for God's voice and look for God's presence before, in and after the storms.
- It's not always so easy to hear God and see God's presence, so that's why it's better to seek God with other folks who are trying to do the same thing.
- I am very honored and thankful that you joined me, that we joined each other, in this week's adventure where we kept seeking God despite the storms that we encountered.
- As you return home and encounter whatever storms that will arise there, I hope that you remember to seek God's voice and presence just like you did this week.
- And, I hope that you remember that there's a place and a people at *[name of your church]* -- some of whom you now know pretty well -- who will help you and join you in seeking God's direction in the midst of the storms.

CLOSING PRAYER *Recommended format:* Adult Leader asks for prayer requests and then leads the prayer (start to finish) in a pretty succinct matter that mentions the named prayer requests, maybe mentions something from the scripture story and then asks/invites God's help and guidance and blessing for the journey home. Amen.