SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND

“FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.” MATTHEW 6:21 (NIV)

Read 1 Kings 19:5-18, The Lord Appears to Elijah

PRAY
Dear God,
Please show us how to find you every day.
Amen

CREATE BINOCULARS OR A TELESCOPE
• This one is easy! Grab two toilet paper rolls and tape them together for binoculars or use a paper towel roll for a telescope. You can also just use thick paper, rolled up. Pringles cans make super cool toys as well!
• Older kids can wrap their binoculars in yarn to make a cool design.
• You can use stickers, markers, paint, construction paper or other art supplies to make your searching tools unique. You could even write a Bible verse on it.
• If you want to get really fancy, use some clear plastic bags or plastic wrap and color it with a permanent marker to make "lenses" for your telescope or binoculars. The world might look pretty interesting through rainbow binoculars or a green telescope. What happens if you put a different color on each eye? On either end?
• Go for a walk and pray about the things you see through your binoculars or telescope. Thank God for the people, places and things you notice.

CHAT
• Have you ever lost something? What did you do?
• Why did God provide food for Elijah?
• How many days did it take to get to the mountain of the Lord?
• Have you ever been on a long trip/ journey? How did it feel? What was it like?
• How did God appear to Elijah?
• What did God tell Elijah to do?
• Why does God want us to seek him?
• Why is it important to seek God?
• Does Jesus ever hide from us? (No)
• How do we know we will find God?

SEEK GAME
Hide something. For older kids, this might be a small item. For younger kids, it might be a big stuffed toy. For your first time playing the game, make it easy to find. Talk about how that was easy, but not every search goes as easily as that one did. Sometimes when things get lost we have to search room to room. We dig in the couch cushions, rummage through the trash, look under furniture, and search until we are worn out. And if we still don’t find it? We go back and we search again. God wants us to have hearts that seek after him, and he promises us that when we seek him, we will find Him. We can seek God and never stop seeking because God wants us to search for him, and he wants to be found.

You can make the search harder now if you want. You could also play Marco Polo, Hot/Cold or Hide & Seek.

WORSHIP
The More I Seek You song
https://youtu.be/NL_YliutzA

Days of Elijah song
https://youtu.be/X4if5YMsfnQ

WATCH
Elijah
https://youtu.be/s0n2kucjrk

God’s Story: Elijah
https://youtu.be/2T5gAXoerjw

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https://youtu.be/2T5gAXoerjw
5 Then he (Elijah) lay down under the ___ and fell asleep. All at once an ___ touched him and said, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked around, and there by his head was some ___ baked over hot coals, and a jar of ___.

He ate and drank and then lay down again. 7 The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and ___, for the journey is too much for you." 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

9 There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the ___ came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the ______ in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the ______. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the __________.

12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When ______ heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the ___.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

15 The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you ____, and go to the desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."
“FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.”
MATTHEW 6:21
Have you ever lost something really, really special to you? When I (Heather) was a little girl, I brought my favorite doll to school with me for show and tell. When I arrived at school, my backpack was unzipped, and my special toy was nowhere to be found. I was so sad and spent every recess searching the entire playground, in the grass and asking other kids if they’d seen it. My poor doll was missing, and it was all I could think about all day. The moment the school day ended; I was running to search the sidewalk on the path that I took to walk to school. I made it all the way home and burst into tears. My grandma asked me what was wrong, and I sobbed that my favorite doll was lost forever. I didn’t know where else to look but I wasn’t going to give up. She suggested that I go back to school and ask if it was in the lost and found box. I had never heard of a lost and found box but off I went to check and sure enough, there was my missing doll, safe and sound! Someone had found it on the ground and picked it up to keep it safe. I was so happy! I was also glad that I hadn’t stopped searching until I found what I was looking for. 

In this week’s Bible story, we meet up with Elijah, and he is a very tired man. Elijah was feeling alone and afraid. But when Elijah goes out into the wilderness, he finds God. Actually, it’s the other way around; God came and found Elijah. Elijah learned that when we seek God, God will be found. We can trust God to take care of anything!

I told you about when I lost my doll, but did you ever notice that the things you look for are always in the last place you look? That sounds silly when you first hear it, but think about it a moment. What happens when you find that lost item? You stop looking!

God wants us to search until we find. He wants us to pray daily, to worship, to read the Bible. When we have a question or need help, God wants us to ask Him.

God wants us to seek, but he’s not going to make it hard. When we call God, he will always answer. He never misses it when we talk with Him or when we are sad. He is never too busy.

Jesus loves you and wants you to get to know Him. Jesus wants to be invited in. If you don’t know what it means to invite Jesus into your heart, be sure to ask your parents about that or send me a message and we can chat or meet together.

How is your search going? Jesus wants us to search for him, and when we do, he promises we will find him. We don’t have to do life all on our own. Let God give you rest just as he did for Elijah.
Elijah was tired and alone. God sent an angel to wake him up and give him some food.

Elijah walked for 40 days to follow God’s directions. God asked him to stand on the mountain to wait for God to pass by.

A big wind came through that was so strong it broke rocks but God wasn’t in the wind.

An earthquake shook the ground but God wasn’t in the earthquake.

Even a blazing fire showed up but God wasn’t in the fire.

After the fire, Elijah heard a gentle, quiet voice. In that voice, God spoke to Elijah and Elijah talked with God.

"BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL."