

## Listening for God with Patience

The prophet Elijah faced people who expected God to be a certain way. They expected Him to be easily known and heard through obvious signs and demonstrations of power. ***Do people in the world today expect much different?*** Elijah's experience of the all-powerful God shows us that He is known in gentler ways.

**On one occasion, Elijah was fleeing for his life in the wilderness after punishing false prophets who worshipped a false god. Elijah knew that he alone was the only true prophet left in Israel.** God's people had abandoned faith in the one true God to worship false gods. Elijah was ready to accept death, but God still had plans for him. God called him to journey forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb (the mountains in the picture below).

"And there [at Mount Horeb] he came to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him. . . . And he said, 'Go forth, and stand upon 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; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave" (1 Kings 19:9, 11–13). The Lord spoke to Elijah and gave him plans to rekindle faithfulness in Israel. Elijah left Mount Horeb to carry out His plans.

**God wasn't heard in an impressive and powerful way. Instead, He was in "a still small voice" (19:12).** This shows us that God is gentle and unimposing when approached in prayer. But to hear Him, Elijah had to be patient and silent.

**Elijah went to a mountain to hear God. Where we pray helps us hear His "still small voice."** However, it's hard to be silent and still in prayer, especially when we're suffering. With the virtue of patience, we can endure hardships calmly while we strive to hear God's voice.

### Journal Reflection

***Where can you go and what can you do to help you patiently listen for God's "still small voice"?***  
Write your answer on the journal page. [Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.](#)