**TriWonder Collective Worship 1 – Teacher guidance**

**Gathering**

**Slide 1**

Worship begins with music as the children are entering:

[Wonder](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haQ1earucJ0) Video

This song is called ‘Wonder’.

Begin the worship by lighting a candle and following the school’s usual gathering routine.

**Engaging**

**Slide 2**

Ask the children what the music video was about that we’ve just watched (obviously looking for the answer, ‘awe and wonder’).

Discuss what it means to be ‘filled with wonder’. Ask the children whether they have ever had this feeling.

**Slide 3**

Tell the children the story of ‘Elijah and the Still Small Voice’.

This is a story from The First Book of Kings, chapter 19 (in the part of the Bible that we call ‘The Old Testament’).

*This may be above the children’s heads but as a point of interest, ‘Elijah’ literally means ‘Yahweh is my God’. Yahweh is an ancient Hebrew name for God, as is ‘El’. (That's why ‘el’ appears in so many names inspired by Hebrew, like Michael, Gabriel, Samuel, and Eli.)*

**Slide 4**

This is a picture of King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel. They are arguing because Elijah, the holy man, had convinced Ahab to follow God but Jezebel didn’t like this idea – she wanted to carry on her life of selfishness and unkindness.

**Slide 5**

Jezebel had no intention of following God’s values of love and respect so in her anger, she sent a messenger to tell Elijah that, one way or another, she was going to have him killed.

**Slide 6**

Here is the messenger telling Elijah what Queen Jezebel has said. You can see that Elijah is very frightened.

**Slide 7**

So when the messenger had gone back to Queen Jezebel, Elijah and his servant fled for their lives.

**Slide 8**

After they had travelled for a while, Elijah felt sorry for involving his servant and putting him in danger too, so he told him to stay in a safe place and continued on his own.

**Slide 9**

Elijah travelled through the hot barren wilderness for another day.

**Slide 10**

Then, still feeling afraid and exhausted, Elijah tree he sat under a tree and prayed, ‘I have had enough, Lord and I have let you down because I didn’t trust that you would protect me.’ Then he lay down and fell asleep.

**Slide 11**

Shortly after he had fallen asleep, an angel touched him and said, ‘Get up and eat.’ He looked around, and found some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water.

**Slide 12**

After he had eaten, Elijah lay down and fell asleep again.

**Slide 13**

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him. Elijah woke up. ‘Get up and eat,’ the angel said, ‘for the journey ahead is too much for you.’  Elijah obeyed and got up and ate and drank.

**Slide 14**

Strengthened by that food, Elijah travelled for forty days and nights through the barren wilderness until he reached Mount Horeb. Mount Horeb is a holy mountain which is also known as Mount Sinai, the mountain where God had spoken to Moses and given him the Ten Commandments.

**Slide 15**

Elijah climbed up the mountain until he came to a cave, where he went in and spent the night.

**Slide 16**

God spoke to Elijah in the cave: ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ Elijah replied, ‘I have tried to turn everyone to your ways, Lord God, but they have all sunk into selfishness and I am the only one left. Now they are trying to kill me too.’ God answered Elijah by saying, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in my presence for I am going to pass by.’

**Slide 17**

Elijah went out of the cave and stood waiting for God to pass by. Suddenly a great and powerful wind tore through the mountain, shattering the rocks. But God was not in that powerful force.

**Slide 18**

After the wind there was a powerful earthquake and the whole mountain trembled and shook. But the Lord God was not in the earthquake.

**Slide 19**

After the earthquake came a storm of fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.

**Slide 20**

Then there was silence and a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. The gentle whispering voice asked, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’

**Slide 21**

Elijah replied as he had before, ‘I have tried to turn everyone to your ways, Lord God, but they have all sunk into selfishness and I am the only one left. Now they are trying to kill me too.’

‘Go back the way you came,’ the Lord quietly replied.

**Slide 22**

God explained that Elijah was not the only one left who followed God’s ways. There were 7,000 people in Israel who had not sunk into selfishness. Encouraged by the gentle answer from God, Elijah set off on the return journey.

**Responding**

**Slide 23**

Ask the children what it was that had filled Elijah with the most awe and wonder in the end (the still small voice of God).

Explain that sometimes awe and wonder can be found where we don’t expect it. For Elijah, God’s voice wasn’t in the mighty wind, the earthquake or the storm of fire, it was in the still small voice that filled him with hope.

**Slide 24**

Sometimes we can be inspired by God’s values or filled with awe by dramatic, out of the ordinary things.

**Slide 25**

But sometimes we can be filled with awe and inspired by God’s values in the small things that we take for granted.

**Slide 26**

***Use this example or others of your own:*** Did you know, for instance, that a dandelion is so determined to live that its leaves have the power to slowly break a crack through concrete 10cm thick?

**Sending**

**Slide 27**

Ask children to reflect on the thoughts that you have put forward about being filled with awe and inspired by God’s values in the small things that we take for granted. Ask them to think about this in the week ahead and tell them that you will be asking for any examples they have thought of in your next collective worship.

**Slide 28**

Finish with this prayer or an alternative according to the custom of the school.

Play the piece of music from the beginning of worship again as children leave.