

November Faith @ Home box

Use Spirit & Truth Narrative Lectionary guides

The Widow of Zarephath, Jonah & the Big Fish, Isaiah's Vision in the Temple, A New Covenant

November boxes

- 1.
- 2.

Print:

Raven picture: https://www.freepik.com/premium-vector/raven-bird-halloween-silhouette-clip-art_2926622.htm

Week 2 – Finding God in the belly of a fish a & b

https://c5fef7c9-7576-40e1-a028-f9ac19aa5386.filesusr.com/ugd/c98ac9_08ac96a7178446a086740bb261048382.pdf

Wow picture to color: <http://getdrawings.com/get-coloring-pages#christmas-batman-coloring-pages-16.jpg>

Week 4: Crossword Competition Activity Sheet

Airplane Template: <https://www.sundayschoolkids.com/activities-kids-sunday-school-crafts/craft-god-loves-me-airplane.htm>

Supply list:

Blue (light & dark), brown, black & orange (sm), various (1), pink or red and light green paper

blue tissue paper

flour, oil, and water

foam cup

black paint

yellow or orange pipe cleaner + various (1)

2 googly eyes

Clay

Wax paper

blue & white cardstock

1 googly eye

clothespin

white paper

2 colored pencils

Index cards (2)

Stickers x 2

Paper Clip

Band-Aids

Week 1 Reading – 1 Kings 17:1-24

Elijah Announces a Great Drought

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

Elijah Fed by Ravens

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath

Sometime later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him: “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

“As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

Sometime later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

“Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!”

The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!”

Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”

Week 2 Reading - Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10

Jonah Flees from the LORD

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."

Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased." Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

Jonah's Prayer

Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said:

"In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.

I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'

The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.

"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

"Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them.

But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.'"

And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Week 4 Reading – Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-28; 31:31-34

Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll

In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² “Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. ³ Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin.”

⁴ So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll. ⁵ Then Jeremiah told Baruch, “I am restricted; I am not allowed to go to the LORD’s temple. ⁶ So you go to the house of the LORD on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the LORD that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns. ⁷ Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD and will each turn from their wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the LORD are great.”

⁸ Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; at the LORD’s temple he read the words of the LORD from the scroll.

Jeremiah 36:21-28

The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi brought it from the room of Elishama the secretary and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him. ²² It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him. ²³ Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe’s knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. ²⁴ The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes. ²⁵ Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

²⁶ Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a son of the king, Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the LORD had hidden them.

²⁷ After the king burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch had written at Jeremiah’s dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁸ “Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to [a](#) them, [b](#)” declares the LORD.

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

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God Sightings

From Spirit and Truth Publishing (unless otherwise noted)

Week 1: The Widow of Zarephath – 1 Kings 17:1-16

Activity #1 – Setting the Scene Diorama (from kidfrugal.com)

Supplies: Dark & light blue & brown construction paper, raven pictures, glue, scissors, blue tissue paper

Read the story (attached)

After God's promise to David, David sinned. Solomon became the next king, prayed for wisdom, and built and dedicated the temple. Solomon became wealthy and sinned by turning to the gods of his wives. Following this, more kings did evil in the sight of the Lord. The people served other gods, giving Baal and others credit for their provisions. God stopped the rain to show the people that God provides water for them.

Elijah the prophet proclaimed God's message to King Ahab that it was not going to rain. Then God led Elijah to a brook so he could drink. God also sent ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat each morning and night. After many days without rain, the brook dried up. God sent Elijah to Zarephath, a Canaanite city that would be unwelcoming to an Israelite. Elijah commanded a widow to feed him. Elijah told her to take the little bit of meal (flour) and oil that she had left and make him a little cake. Day after day, God filled her jars of meal and oil, so she never ran out. The woman's son became ill until he could not breathe. Elijah carried the boy to his room and cried out to God for help.

Because of the healing power of God, the child was brought back to life.

Create a picture of the Kerith Ravine using colored paper. Use the dark blue paper as the background. Add the river by cutting and gluing the light blue paper & tissue paper. Make the mountains out of the brown paper & cut the ravens out and glue them onto the mountains and the river.

Activity #2 – Baking Elijah Bread (from kidfrugal.com)

Supplies: flour, oil, and water

Can you really make bread with just oil and flour? I googled it, and sure enough, you can. Click [here for the recipe and full instructions](#).

Recipe:

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 T olive oil
- 1/2 cup water

Combine all ingredients and knead for 5 minutes. Roll 1/8 inch thick. Bake in preheated oven at 350 for 20 minutes.

You have to add water too, but we know that the widow had access to water, because she was willing to get that for Elijah.

Discuss the following questions while the bread is baking.

How much oil did the widow have?

How much flour did she have?

Elijah's instructions in verse 13 are very specific. What does he tell the widow she is to do first?

Why do you think he didn't say she could feed herself first? (We discussed that he wanted her to trust God to provide for her, if she fed herself first, she wouldn't really be trusting him. We talked about putting others before ourselves.)

How did it take faith to make Elijah's bread first? (We looked at little flour and oil was in the jars and discussed how much bread could be made with that amount.)

Who said the bowl would not run out of flour?

How long did God say the flour and oil would last?

How is this proving God is God? (Provision, his control over the elements. We discussed that he did not make a whole bunch of flour and oil - there was always just enough to make the bread - the amount in the vessels never changed.)

Activity #3 – Raven Craft (from iheartcraftythings.com)

Supplies: foam cup, black paint, paintbrush, yellow or orange pipe cleaners, black and orange construction paper, googly eyes, scissors, glue

1. Start by painting the outside of your small foam cup with your black paint. Let it dry completely.
2. While your paint is drying, cut out an orange beak and black wings from your paper.



3. Make your crow feet out of your pipe cleaners. Start by cutting one of your pipe cleaners in half and then one of those halves in half again. Wrap the center of one of the smaller pieces all the way around the large piece near the bottom. This will leave you with three toes. Then wrap your other smaller pipe cleaner around the same section to make a fourth toe. You'll have to cut off any excess of length in any of the toes.
4. Once your paint is dry, glue your gray beak and black wings onto your foam cup. Then glue on your googly eyes.
5. Finish your foam cup crow craft by poking the end of your feet into the bottom of the foam cup. Wrap them around the bottom of the cup and back up to the front of the cup. Then wrap the end of the pipe cleaner around the foot to secure it shut.

Activity #4 – Does God Test our Faith? Devotion (from lessonsfromhome.co)

What is the Story of Elijah and the Widow?

When we think of Elijah, we often think of the great prophet that called fire down from heaven as well as one of two men in the Bible who did not die but were taken to heaven alive. Yes, a great man of God, no denying that!

While our focus is on the widow, let's take a moment to fully embrace the setting of the story. King Ahab, ruler over Israel, and his wife, Jezebel insist on Baal worship in

Israel. Both are extremely wicked rulers to the point that the Bible says that “Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.” (1 Kings 16:33) How would you like to be remembered like that? Makes me shudder to think about it.

Because of his wickedness, Elijah tells Ahab that no rain will fall until Elijah gives the word, beginning a two-year drought. Two years of no rain meaning no crops could grow and water sources dry up. God leads Elijah to a safe place and there he spends the drought by the Brook Cherith where ravens bring him food. Talk about God taking care of his own! Once the brook dries up, God commands Elijah to go to Zarephath where he has a widow to take care of him.

Enter the mother. We see her gathering sticks to make a fire. She has been rationing and scrimping and saving for two years now. Her efforts to gather food to provide for herself and her son have proven futile. She knows there is nothing left to do but prepare their last meal and then wait for them to starve to death.

Can you imagine? Watching your son starve to death?

Elijah comes to her and asks for food and water. She protests telling him her plan to eat their last meal. And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go *and* do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring *it* to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’”

(1 Kings 17:13)

Our widow has a choice now. Does she believe this supposed man of God?

So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah. (1 Kings 17:14)

Can you imagine her delight?

One would think the story ends here but it doesn’t. After this, mother steps out on faith and obeys God’s word, her son becomes sick and dies. What?!?!

She goes to Elijah accusingly (wouldn’t you?) “What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?” (1 Kings 17:18) Elijah is just as surprised as the woman. He takes the boy up to his room and lies him on the bed. Then he cries out to the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?” And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.” (1 King 17:20-21)

God hears Elijah’s prayer and the boy comes back to life. The woman expresses her faith “Now by this I know that you *are* a man of God, *and* that the word of the Lord in your mouth *is* the truth.” (1 Kings 17:24)

Lessons We Can Learn from Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

Isn’t that an amazing story? So how can we relate to Elijah and the widow of Zarephath? What lessons does she have to teach us?

First, have you ever been in a drought? Physically they are frustrating enough, but spiritually they are dangerous. Walking through a dry and barren land in which you do not feel God’s presence can lead you into fear, anxiety, depression, sin, addictions, and negatively affect your relationships and choices.

Have you experienced periods like this? Where God feels far away?

It's been my experience that God allows these droughts to go on for a period of time only to have you come face to face with what has caused them. Not sure what is causing your drought? As God often does, He gives the woman a choice. Elijah does not just go over and take her food. He promises her that if she gives him the last of her meal and oil that God will provide her more. Quite a choice, isn't it? Some man proclaiming to be a prophet comes and requests the last meal she has for her son. We MUST step out in faith before our miracle is fulfilled!

The woman does obey God's voice and all is well until suddenly her son dies. She is obviously distraught and completely beside herself. Why would God do this? After all she was hosting His prophet right here in her house. She had given him the last of her food and God had faithfully taken care of her and her son.

Why would God do this?

Have you ever prayed this? "God, why did you do this?"

There is not a simple, single answer to satisfy that question, but I did learn that faith isn't faith until it is tried.

This mother learned the same thing. She confesses her faith, not after her meal and oil is replenished, but after her son is raised from the dead.

This leads us to the question, does God test our faith?

Yes, yes He does.

Now, it is important to understand that God does not bring bad things upon us, but He does allow the evils of this world to nudge us to Him. Just like our widow of Zarephath and the prophet Elijah.

Faith isn't faith until it's tried.

Family Devotions for the Week

Sunday—Read 1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]

God provided for the widow of Zarephath. What is a need that your family has? Pray together and ask God to provide what you need. Monday—Read 2 Kings 2:1-12 Elijah met God. Use chairs to create a chariot. Sit in the chariot and ask God to help you see God's activity in your lives.

Tuesday—Read 2 Kings 2:1-12

Elijah ascended to Heaven. Look at the clouds and find shapes that look like objects that you recognize.

Wednesday—Read 2 Kings 4:1-7

Elisha told a woman to gather empty vessels that miraculously filled with oil, so she could pay off her debt. Measure out a quantity of popcorn kernels into a small measuring cup. Pop the popcorn and see how many cups would now be needed to hold all of the popcorn.

Thursday—Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-7

The Torah that was missing was discovered and followed again. Take turns hiding and searching for household objects. Alternatively, clean a closet or drawer and discover things you forgot you had or thought were missing.

Friday—Read 2 Chronicles 34:29-33

The people started over in their commitment to the covenant. Work as a family to create, review, or renew rules of the household.

Saturday—Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-21

While under an evil ruler who would not listen to God, Jerusalem was captured. Build a city out of blocks or other building toys. Take a picture and admire your work. Destroy the city.

Week 2: Jonah and the Big Fish – Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10

Activity #1 – Finding God in the Belly of a Fish

Supplies: Bibles, Activity Sheet #3-9A & #3-9B, Pens or pencils

As the story is read and discussed, use arrows and symbols to map out Jonah's travels on land and sea: far from Nineveh, on the boat, in the fish, on land, and to Nineveh. Use Activity Sheet #3-9.B as a guide.

Read Jonah 1:1–2:1 and 2:10. 4. Using your maps, you will track Jonah's journey.

According to verse 3, where did Jonah get his boat ticket? [Joppa.] Where was he supposed to be going? [Nineveh.] Where did he go instead? [Headed to Tarshish.] Did Jonah get to Tarshish? [No.] What happened that stopped him? [A big storm.] Draw an arrow from Joppa where he got on the boat, toward Tarshish but stopping at the storm clouds.

Based on the map, which do you think was the shortest and easiest trip: going to Nineveh or going to Tarshish? [Nineveh.] Why do you think Jonah thought it was harder to go to Nineveh? There is a hint in verse 2. [Maybe he did not want to have to face the people with a hard message; maybe he did not like the people because they were wicked; maybe he was afraid the people would kill him if he spoke against them or criticized their ways.] After the crew threw Jonah off the ship and he ended up in the belly of a big fish, which direction was he headed? [Toward Nineveh.] Draw an arrow from where the first arrow stopped, back to Nineveh.

While Jonah was in the fish, he prayed to God. He said he would again look to God. He would follow God's direction. Read Jonah 3:1-10. 9. When Jonah repented and followed God's lead, God protected him and helped him do what God had for him to do. As a result of his obedience, the people of Nineveh also repented, were spared God's judgement, and began to follow God. In what ways can our disobedience affect the way others see God? [They might not believe God loves when we mistreat them and yet say we follow God, etc.] Who do you think had a God sighting in this story? [Jonah, the crew, the king of Nineveh, the people of Nineveh.] Add shapes like triangles, circles, and even stick figures of a ship, a fish, and people, to show where the God sightings took place on your map. [See the key; on land, in a boat, in a fish, on land.]

Look at the shape of the path of Jonah's journey on the map. What road sign does it remind you of? [U-turn sign.] It is not always easy to follow God or to do what God wants us to do, yet Jonah found that doing God's will was not as difficult as he thought it might be. What do you find hard to do when it comes to following God? [Answers will vary.] What in our reading or on your map helps you know better now how to handle times when you find yourself going in the wrong direction? [Take a U-turn (repent), God will help you get back on track; things will work out when you follow God's plan even though it seems scary to do so.]

Activity #2: Second Chances

Supplies: Clay, Wax paper

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh with a message for the people to turn to God. Jonah disobeyed and traveled by boat far away in the other direction. God caused a storm on the sea. Waves slammed against the ship. While Jonah slept in a lower level of the ship, the crew threw their belongings off the boat to keep it from sinking. The captain woke Jonah and asked him to call on his god. Jonah knew the storm was because of

his disobedience. He told the people to throw him overboard. Instead of letting him drown, God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the fish's belly for three days and nights. While there, God spoke to him again and told him to give the message to the people of Nineveh to turn to God. This time Jonah obeyed. The people of Nineveh turned from their evil ways.

No matter what we do, God's love for us never changes. God is always there to forgive and to help us get back on the path of following God. God's love for us is not a result of our actions or our ability to stay on track. God loves us as we are. God's love for us is not a license to sin. Rather, God wants us to confess sins and leave them behind and follow God, but when we fail and fall back into old ways, God still loves us. God welcomes us back with open arms.

Repentance is a change of mind, a reorientation of life. Although it includes being sorry for sins, it is more than that. Repentance is recognizing the sin in what we are doing and making a deliberate about face: an active decision to walk in the direction toward and with God and away from a particular behavior. God has a way of life for us to live, and repentance is a process of change and transformation toward this new life

Activity:

Line your table with wax paper to protect them from the clay. Think about the story of Jonah. Form one object out of your ball of clay to go along with the story. It is up to you what object you make, but if you need ideas, you might make Jonah, or a city, or a boat, or a storm (a cloud, lighting, rain, etc.), or a big fish. While you are working, talk or think about what you are molding out of clay and how it relates to the story. After the object is made, you will have another chance to form a story-related object. We are going to go back to where we started. Roll the object back into a glob of clay. Repeat this shape and reshape pattern as many times as seems fitting.

Thanks to God we get to have do-overs in life, too. God gives us opportunities to repent and start our walk with God again.

Activity #3 – Whale Craft (from outuponthewaters.com)

Supplies: blue cardstock, 1 googly eye, scissors, white cardstock, glue, crayons, clothespin

I ran across an article asking whether we should teach our children the story of Jonah. It really made me think about putting Jonah on the back burner. The writer made several good points. Namely, that Jonah is generally portrayed as the hero when we teach this story to children, when in all actuality he was a racist jerk, that in the end cares more about a plant than a whole people group.

It was a great point. So I needed to sit and ruminate on that for a moment. Then it occurred to me: The Whale!

Jonah being fed to a whale wasn't punishment! It was a sign of God's compassion and mercy. God could have let Jonah drown in the middle of the ocean. Instead, he sent a whale to swallow him and later spit him out on dry land.

That whale is a symbol of God's character. A symbol of his mercy. God saved Jonah by sending that whale, even when Jonah was being crazy and running from what the Lord had called him. In the end, Jonah never really learned his lesson. But we can learn from that whale that God loves us, cares for us, and has mercy.

Activity:

Cut out a whale shape from your blue cardstock.

Cut out a Jonah shape from your white cardstock and color him in.

Cut your whale in half horizontally.

Glue your googly eye on your whale (or draw the eye on with marker).

Glue each half of the whale to the clothespin. (Make sure that both halves line up. Also make sure that you glue only the edge of each half-whale to one half of the clothespin.)

Glue Jonah on the *reverse* side of the clothespin, so that he peeks out when you open the clothespin.

Activity #4 – Running to God Devotion (from onepassiononedevotion.com)

Instead of running FROM God we need to RUN to God.

For Jonah it was in the whale. It was in the Darkness where Jonah turns and finds God, where Jonah runs TO God. Jonah prays: Jonah could have prayed on the dock, on the shore, even on the boat. But it took the whale experience to bring repentance and surrender.

Jonah encounters God. Jonah's heart has turned. He was running from God and is now running to God. He acknowledges how bad the situation is. He cries out to God his only hope. He sees his salvation in suffering. He offers his voice and praises to God because that is all he has to give. "Salvation Belongs to the Lord!" It is in this dark place that Jonah finds the saving Grace of God.

This is an open invitation. You might be 3 steps out the door, 3 miles down the road, 3 days in the belly of a whale. But the invitation is there. Our God is compassionate and merciful.

What is your turning point? What is the turning point where you STOP running FROM God and start running TO God?

For some of us it is the storm and the whale that stops us in our tracks. For some of us its one day we wake up and realize that our hearts are cold and we can't remember the last time we had peace with God. For some of us it's when the wheels fall off our marriage, our finances, our health. When the anger overtakes us and we fall apart emotionally. When we feel like we're drowning and that we're at the end of our rope.

Let me tell you, you are never too far away from God. Jonah was in the belly of a whale. He had run as far as you could away from the will of God. He was a prophet – his job was to hear from God and he stuck his fingers in his ears and rebelled.

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: 'In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, when my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you.'

BUT let's look at it this way. Does your turning point need to be at the lowest when you've hit the wall?

Every day we have the opportunity to say YES to God. Yes, I will choose to forgive.

Yes, I will choose grace. Yes, I will choose to hold that gossip in. Yes, I will choose to be grateful. Yes, I will choose to be salt and light.

You don't need to run to turn.

And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Mark 1:16-18 Immediately the disciples followed Jesus. They turned from their old life to their new life.

Family Devotions for the Week

Sunday—Read Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11]

Jonah found God while in the belly of a fish. Eat fish for dinner or pretend to eat fish at devotions time. Talk about the difference in the reason for a fish being in your stomach and Jonah being in the stomach of a fish.

Monday—Read Jonah 1

Jonah tried to run away from God. Attach bells to shoes or shoe laces. Play hide and seek with the bells on.

Tuesday—Read Jonah 3

The people of Nineveh repented and followed God. Work together to rearrange a room and throw out any junk. The people of Nineveh rearranged their lives to let God in, leaving their old patterns behind to follow God's plans.

Wednesday—Read Jonah 4

Jonah was angry that God showed mercy to the people of Nineveh. Pray together for someone who you think has done something bad. This could be someone you know or someone on the news. Instead of praying for punishment, pray for God's love to reach that person.

Thursday—Read Exodus 33:7-23

Moses sees God. Make an altar in your house or set aside a spot to talk to God. Kneel and ask God to meet you there as you wait quietly and then pray.

Friday—Read Exodus 40:18-38

Moses sets up the tabernacle. Use clay or blocks to make a model of the way Moses set up the tabernacle.

Saturday—Read Exodus 40:34-38

The glory of the Lord led the people all day and night. Turn off all of the lights except a night light. Thank God for God's presence lighting your way

Week 3 – Isaiah’s Vision in the Temple – Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

Then said I, here am I; send me.

Activity #1 – Visions of God

Supplies: Paper and 2 colors of pencil or pen

Read the story (above)

What do you think God looks like? Brainstorm and fill the paper with the descriptions you come up with. When you imagine God, where is God and what else is going on there? Add these answers as well.

Read one verse at a time through Isaiah 6:1-8. After each verse, stop and think about how God is described. Using a different color marker, circle anything on the paper board that you previously listed and add anything new that was read in Isaiah’s description. These include God sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; with a huge train—robe—filled the temple; above God stood the seraphim; “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of [God’s] glory;” the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called; the house was filled with smoke; God was forgiving.

If you were Isaiah, how do you think this experience would have changed you?

[Answers will vary.] A holy God calls sinful people to do serve God and others. We can listen for God and do what God asks of us.

Activity #2: - God Sightings

Supplies: Index cards, pencil or pen

We have seen several “God sightings” where God instructs, enables, and guides people for God’s purposes. For example, Jonah at first refused to preach God’s message to Nineveh, but was given a second chance. God showed God’s self to Moses in the tabernacle and promised to guide and be present with the people wherever they went. Today we see how God used an ordinary person like Isaiah to receive God’s prophetic messages and pass them along to the people.

Isaiah was a man who served God. One day, he was drawn into the temple where he saw God. When he saw God and all of God's glory, he realized how magnificent and perfect God is. He also realized his own imperfections next to a holy God. "Woe is me!" he said. A seraphim (like an angel) touched Isaiah's lips with coal and told him that his sins were forgiven. God asked who to send with an important message, and Isaiah said, "Here I am, send me." At first, Isaiah did not feel adequate to do anything for God. Then, God showed Isaiah that God can speak through him.

God calls imperfect people to do God's work. As we read through the Bible, we see the stories of people who followed God's ways, but who also had flaws. God called these people and worked through them just as God calls and works through us.

What are the God sightings that you experienced? You might consider writing your God sightings on index cards.

Keep your eyes on the alert for God sightings this coming week.

Challenge yourself to continue looking for God sightings and to share them with us on Facebook or with someone else. Or just keep writing them down. You may be surprised how often God shows up – even in little ways.

Activity #3 – Good News Megaphone (from ministrytochildren.com)

Supplies: Construction paper, stickers, markers, tape, a pipe cleaner

The Bible demonstrates trends of behavior among God's people: a tendency to go astray, followed by a return to obedience and blessing...and then another falls away.

We know that God had a plan to send Christ as the Messiah and ultimately deliver His people permanently. He sent special messengers called prophets to prepare for that. In the Old Testament we see prophets doing a couple of things. Some prophets were sent to warn people that they had strayed from God's path and needed to come back to righteous behavior before punishment came. Prophets also served to give people hope, announcing the impending advent of a savior.

Isaiah was a man called by God to announce such things to Israel. The book of Isaiah has some amazing and powerful descriptions of God and His power, as well as predictions about the Messiah. When Isaiah is first called, we see a somewhat odd and astonishing image of God.

Isaiah realizes that God has made him with unique characteristics and a special purpose: to serve him and proclaim his news. He is eager to volunteer as a messenger to do God's will in whatever way he can. This will mean trial and difficulty, but he knows it is what God wants and how he can help God's people.

Create and decorate announcing "megaphones." Using a piece of construction paper, decorate with stickers or markers and roll up to create a megaphone. Tape it together. Attach a pipe cleaner handle.

Close with prayer and reminder of God's amazing plan. He has called all of us and equipped us with special qualities and purposes to do His wonderful work. Tell God you are ready for Him to use you. Watch for ways you can serve!

Activity #4 – Exclamation Marks (from sermonwriters.com)

Supplies: WOW! Picture, crayons or markers

The exclamation mark. It is put at the end of a word or sentence to make you pay attention. When you see this mark it is as if the writer is shouting; look at this – this idea is really important.

You will find lots of exclamation marks in comic books after words like; Bang! Pow! Wow! You may find an exclamation mark all by itself near the hero's head and that means the hero is surprised.

Exclamation marks show enthusiasm, extreme happiness or excitement.

Let me tell you about an exclamation mark I found in the Bible. I found it in a story about the prophet, Isaiah. (A prophet is a man of God who is able to tell what will happen in the future.)

Isaiah had a vision, or what we might call a dream, about the glory of God. It was a beautiful dream in which he saw the Lord sitting on a throne and heavenly creatures with great wings were above him.

Isaiah heard the Lord say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (6:8). In other words, who will take the God's message to the people?

And Isaiah said, "Here I am. Send me!" (6:8). He is enthusiastic about sharing God's message with others. It is as if he is saying: That's great! Awesome! Amazing! Let me be the one! I know how to do that! Yes, here I am; send me!

How wonderful to have exclamation marks in our lives!!!

Color the WOW! Picture and think about why did Isaiah think he could not speak for God? [He did not feel worthy; he said he was a man of unclean lips; he saw how imperfect he was next to a holy God.]

What was God's response to Isaiah? [God made a way for Isaiah to do what God had for him to do.]

When Isaiah understood that God would help him, what was Isaiah's response to God? [Here am I, send me.]

Family Devotions for the Week:

Sunday—Read Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah saw a vision of God in the temple. When God called Isaiah to be a prophet, Isaiah had a willing and meek heart. Place your fingers on your lips. Ask God to use you as you are.

Monday—Read Isaiah 11:1-9

Isaiah told of the coming Messiah who would bring harmony to the world. The Messiah would be wise, righteous, and faithful. Hold hands and sit quietly. Think about God, love, and peace. Enjoy the quiet together.

Tuesday—Read Isaiah 25:1-10

Rejoice and praise God for the Messiah who delivers people from oppression. Give thanks for God's strength and comfort. Sit in a circle and give each person a chance to say something they are thankful for.

Wednesday—Read Isaiah 38:1-8

King Hezekiah was deathly ill. God heard his prayer and promised him fifteen more years of life. He and his people would be delivered from Assyria. Make “bucket lists.” What are your dreams for all of the things that you want to do in your lifetime?

Thursday—Read Isaiah 44:1-8

There is no other God than the Lord. Isaiah said God gives water to the thirsty and blesses those who say that God is their God. Drink a glass of water and thank God for quenching your physical thirst as well as your spiritual thirst.

Friday—Read Jeremiah 1:4-10

God had a plan for Jeremiah. Even though Jeremiah thought he was too young to speak for God, God gave him the words to speak. Line up by age. Play “telephone” where the oldest family member whispers something to the next family member, and go down the line until the youngest person calls out the message.

Saturday—Read 2 Kings 23:1-3, 21-25

King Josiah destroyed all the idols and restored the Passover feast. He followed God, and the people followed his example. List the family’s schedule for the coming week. Is there anything you can do without, so the family can slow down and spend more time reading the Bible and praying together?

Week 4 – A New Covenant – Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-28, 31:31-34

Activity #1: Are You Listening?

Read the story (attached)

Today we will identify the difference between hearing and listening.

Supplies: Internet-connected video player (your phone or computer)

On YouTube, search for “Verizon Wireless test man launch” and watch the video. Talk about:

If a person says, “Yes, I can hear you,” does that mean the person is listening to you?

[No.] What is the difference between hearing and listening? [Hearing means the sound of the other person’s voice has registered with the ears and brain. Listening means we are processing each word, thinking about what it being said, and can repeat the ideas if asked.]

What are some examples of situations when we hear other people talking, but we do not actually listen to their words? [When we are bored or not interested, when we are tired, when we think the message does not apply to us, when we are in a crowd and the words are not intended for us.]

What are some situations when we listen closely to the words we hear? [When we want to know something; when we need to understand instructions].

We are going to hear a story today about people who heard God’s message but chose not to listen. Will you be listening?

Activity #2: Crossword Competition

Supplies: Crossword Competition Activity Sheet, Pens or pencils

In our daily readings since last week we have seen how God revealed God’s holiness to Isaiah, and how God’s power was shown through the faithfulness of two kings. God extended the life of King Hezekiah who was nearly dead and had prayed earnestly for more years of life. God used young King Josiah, who had turned to God with all his heart, soul, and might, to restore the people’s worship of God. Today we see God’s influence on the king of Babylon to release the prophet Jeremiah from jail so that he could be saved from the destruction God planned for that evil city.

The Lord spoke to Jeremiah with a message for the people of Israel. The message warned of future difficulties as a consequence of the people’s poor choices. Jeremiah asked Baruch to write the words of God’s message on a scroll. He sent Baruch into the temple to read the scroll to the crowd in hopes that they would tell God they were sorry and turn from their evil ways. Baruch did as Jeremiah asked. When the king found out, the king then commanded that the scroll be sent to him, (The king did not follow God.) Even as the scroll was read to the king, the king cut off the parts he had already heard and threw them into the fire. He did this until the entire scroll was burned. The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah again. God said to rewrite the words on another scroll. Then God added more words to the message. Even though the people broke the last covenant (agreement to worship and obey God alone), the Lord was being faithful to uphold the promise of a new covenant with the people. God promised be their God and to forgive their sins.

Give each person an Activity Sheet and a pencil. Work as a group or individually to solve the puzzle. Think back to the story of Jeremiah. See what you can do as a team to

answer the questions without using your Bibles. For the last few minutes, you will get to use the Bible to fill in any unanswered parts of the puzzle.

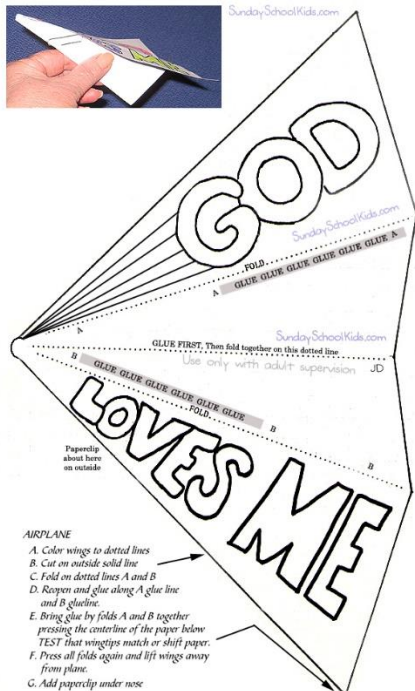
When the activity is over, review by asking the questions on the crossword puzzle. If you do not have an answer, use the answer key to provide the answer.

It is comforting to know that no matter what we do, God stands by God's promise, forgiving and forgetting the sins of God's people.

Activity #3: God Loves Me Airplane (from sundayschoolkids.com)

Supplies: Airplane Template, Markers, Scissors, Glue and a Paper Clip

No matter what we do, God promises a renewed relationship with us. Our weakness does not have the final say. Our imperfections do not determine God's love for us. Our response does not change the fact that God is faithful to stand by the promise of a new covenant. In keeping with the covenant, just as was prophesied in the Old Testament, the Messiah came to earth to deliver humankind. Although we are undeserving, The Messiah died so that we can have new life through Jesus.



Instructions:

1. Color wings to dotted lines.
2. Cut on outside solid line.
3. Fold on dotted lines A & B,
4. Re open and glue along the A glue line and the B glue line.
5. Bring glue sides A & B together by pressing the centerline of the paper. Test that the wing tips match or shift paper.
6. Press all folds again and lift wings away from plane.
7. Add paperclip under nose.

Activity 4: God's Old and New Covenants (from <http://subiaco.church>)

Supplies: pink or red and light green construction paper, scissors, glue, stickers, Band-Aids

Talk about what a covenant is and answer the following questions about God's different covenants. You can look up the answers in your Bibles if you don't know the answers.

Questions:

1. With whom did God make a covenant never to flood the whole earth again? (Noah, all people; Gen. 9:11)

2. With whom did God make a covenant to grow his family and bless the whole world? (Abraham, Gen. 12:1-3)

3. What was God's covenant with Moses and the people of Israel? (They would be blessed for obeying God's law and punished for disobeying, Deut. 11:13-17)
4. Whose family would have an everlasting kingdom? (King David's, 2 Sam. 7:8-16)
5. What was the new covenant promised through Jeremiah? (God would forgive sin and have a close and personal relationship with His people, Jer. 31:31-34)
6. What makes the new covenant better? (It replaces the old covenant and makes it possible for people who trust Jesus to live forever with God; Heb. 8:6; 9:11-15; 10:10-23)

God made many covenants with His people. He kept every one perfectly! God always keeps His promises because He is trustworthy and good. God promised to write His laws on our hearts and give us the power to obey them! He loves us and wants us to live with Him, so He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus forgives us and replaces our tricky, stone hearts with hearts that love God. Through Jesus and the new covenant, we can be forgiven and live as God's people.

Grab your piece of red or pink construction paper and a piece of light green construction paper. Fold each in half, draw half a heart along the folded edge, and cut out the shape from each color paper. They can then unfold the cutouts to reveal two hearts.

Glue the two hearts together, and write old covenant on the green side, and new and better covenant on the red or pink side. Decorate the red side with nice looking things (stickers, ribbon, glitter glue) and the other side with plain adhesive bandages.

God promised a new and better covenant. Under the new covenant, God said that He would write His law on peoples' hearts. That means that He would renew our hearts and give us power to obey Him. Because of the forgiveness and life, we have when we trust Jesus, our hearts don't have to stay stony; we don't have to live in sin!

Family Devotions

Sunday—Read Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-22, 27-28; 31:31-34

God spoke through Jeremiah with a new covenant. Work together to memorize the last part of Jeremiah 31:34. Say the first word, and take turns repeating it. Say the first two words and each take a turn repeating. Say the first three words, etc. Recite the verse together when you are done.

Monday—Read Jeremiah 39:11-18

When Jeremiah was captured, God gave him a message that God would destroy the evil city but protect him. God protected Jeremiah while he was being held by the guards and released. Sit in the car (or pretend to). Strap on the seatbelts. Imagine God's love wrapping around you, protecting you from enemies or harm.

Tuesday—Read Jeremiah 42:7-16

Jeremiah prayed to God to know if the people should stay or move. God's answer was to stay in the land, and God would watch over them there. Pray first and then make a decision together. This can be simple (about a meal, a program to watch, a family outing).

Wednesday—Read Jeremiah 44:1-10

The people continued worshipping idols. God used Jeremiah to remind them of how God dealt with the wickedness of previous generations. Discuss some things you will not do because you know those actions did not turn out well for others. What have we learned from others' poor choices?

Thursday—Read Daniel 1:1-17

The Israelites in the Babylonian court served the ungodly king while making sure they followed God's laws about food. Make a plan for what to do to show respect to others who do things differently while you also make sure to follow God's ways. Role play this plan in action.

Friday—Read Daniel 3:1-18

King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that the people worship his image of gold. Otherwise, they would be thrown into a fiery furnace. Listen to each other's heartbeat. Try the same with a stone or ring. Why would someone worship an object instead of the living God?

Saturday—Read Daniel 5:1-8, 13-16, 23-28

Daniel was brought in to the king to interpret writing on the wall. God gave him the ability to know its meaning. Make up a secret code. This code might use shapes for letters or for words, or it can add some silly sound to the end of words. Write and interpret messages.



Week 1 Reading - 1 Kings 17:1-24
Elijah Announces a Great Drought

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

Elijah Fed by Ravens

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there."

So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath

Sometime later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

"As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.'"

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

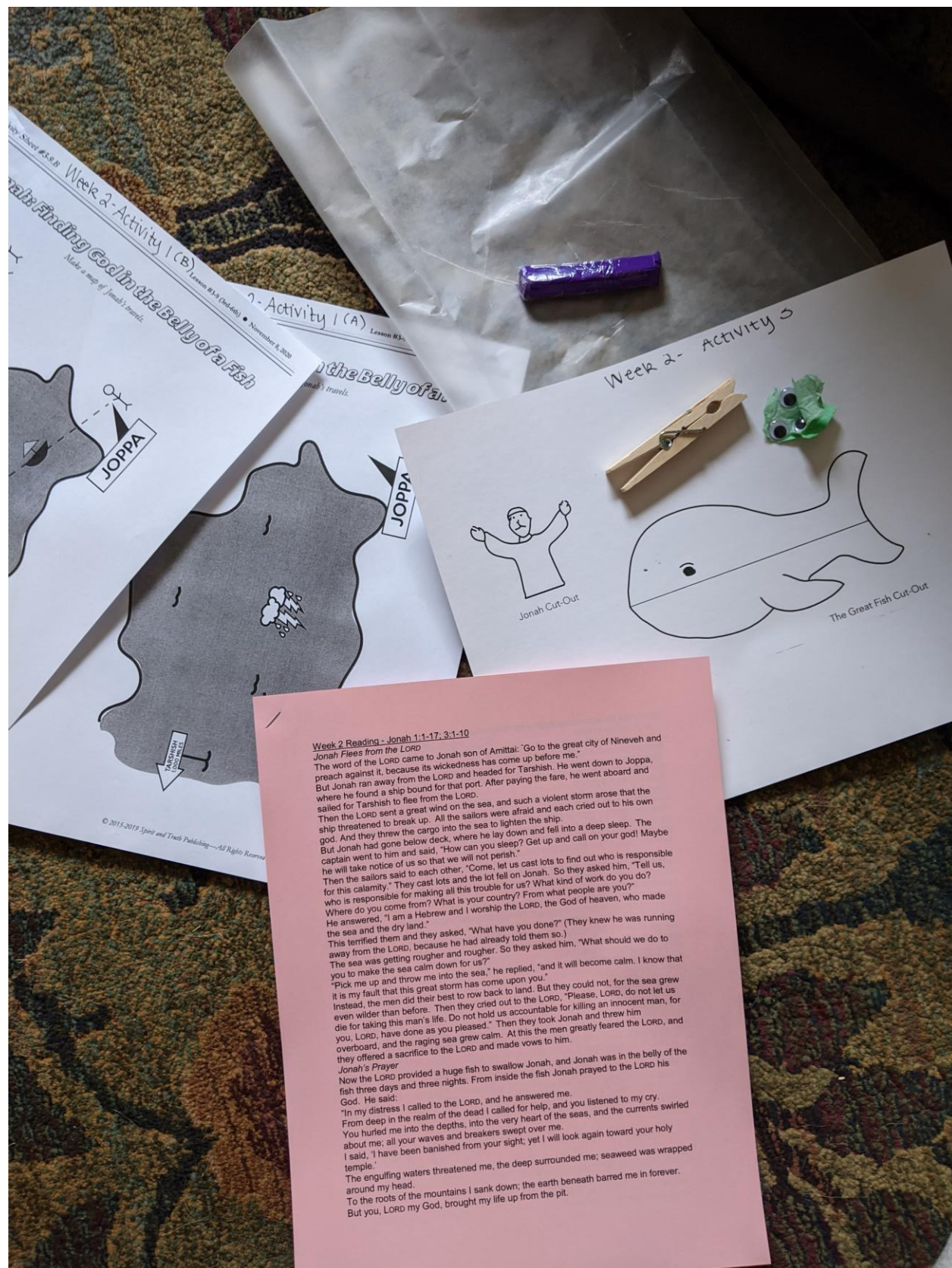
Sometime later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"

"Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?"

Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

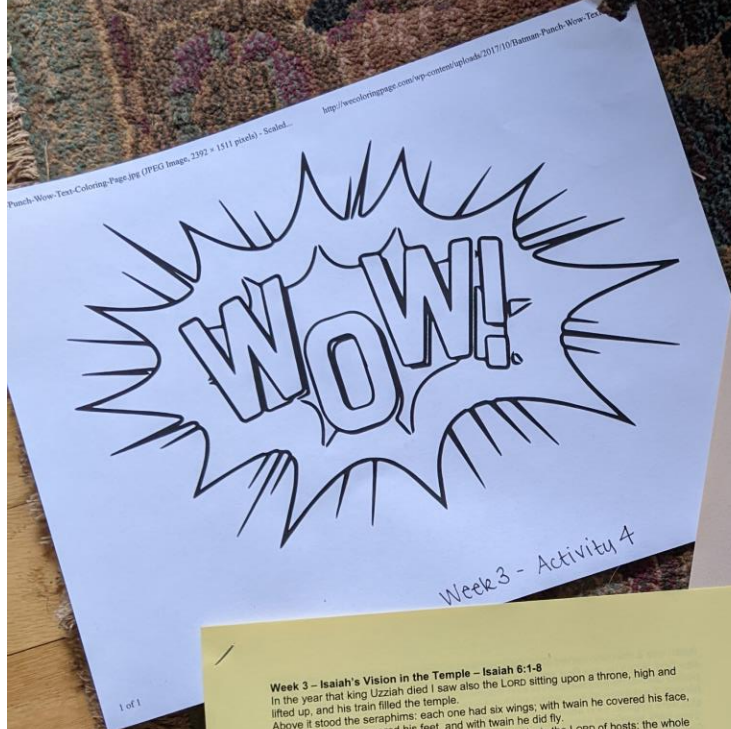
Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."



Week 2 Reading - Jonah 1:1-17, 3:1-10

Jonah Flees from the LORD
The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."
But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarsish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarsish to flee from the LORD.
Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.
But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."
Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"
He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."
This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)
The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"
"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."
Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased." Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

Jonah's Prayer
Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said:
"In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me.
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.
You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.
I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'
The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.
To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever.
But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit."



Week 3 – Isaiah's Vision in the Temple – Isaiah 6:1-8
 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet; and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me.

Activity #1 – Visions of God

Supplies: Paper and 2 colors of pencil or pen
 Read the story (above)
 What do you think God looks like? Brainstorm and fill the paper with the descriptions you come up with. When you imagine God, where is God and what else is going on there? Add these answers as well.

Read one verse at a time through Isaiah 6:1-8. After each verse, stop and think about how God is described. Using a different color marker, circle anything on the paper board that you previously listed and add anything new that was read in Isaiah's description. These include God sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; with a huge robe—filled the temple; above God stood the seraphim; "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of [God's] glory;" the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called; the house was filled with smoke; God was forgiving.

If you were Isaiah, how do you think this experience would have changed you?
 [Answers will vary.] A holy God calls sinful people to do serve God and others. We can listen for God and do what God asks of us.

Activity #2 – God Sightings

Supplies: Index cards, pencil or pen
 We have seen several "God sightings" where God instructs, enables, and guides people for God's purposes. For example, Jonah at first refused to preach God's message to Nineveh, but was given a second chance. God showed God's self to Moses in the tabernacle and promised to guide and be present with the people wherever they went. Today we see how God used an ordinary person like Isaiah to receive God's prophetic messages and pass them along to the people.



