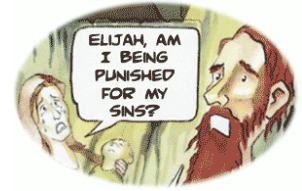


## At-Home Helps for Teaching with the Elijah and Jonah Software

Sunday Software's Elijah and Jonah software has been made available free-of-charge to the supporting members of Rotation.org and the families of their congregations. Rotation.org is a non-profit creative lesson sharing ministry. Remember to print the free Outline to Elijah and Jonah software either from Rotation.org or [Sunday Software](#).

### Elijah and Jonah software has interactive FOUR Bible stories in it:

1. Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath
2. Elijah, The Prophets of Baal, Ahab, Jezebel, and the Still Small Voice
3. Old Elijah and Young Elisha: The Mantle and Chariot of Fire
4. And Jonah's Story



The Elijah stories will each take 20 and 30 minutes to complete depending on the amount of time you spend with various games and activities. Jonah's story is a bit longer. You can pick and choose your way through all four stories. You can also return to some of the embedded games using the Game Menu seen on the opening screen. Some of the games are also linked on the "end page" of each story. The stories are nearly word-for-word from scripture.

The following are some insights and suggestions for teaching these four stories here in 2020 during this season of social unrest, the COVID pandemic, and church closings. It is times like these that God's prophets appear. Will you be one of them? The role of the prophets was to "speak truth to power," to confront those in authority about their corruption and unfaithfulness, and speak words of comfort and hope to the suffering. In the stories of Elijah and Jonah, we see the most famous and the most infamous, God's surprising care for both, and a message of forgiveness and change that would one day culminate in the teachings and person of Jesus.



### All four stories address timely subjects:

- What should we do when confronted with problems? Run away? Both Elijah and Jonah did, but God intervened.
- What do you do when you feel like you're overwhelmed or things won't get better? How does God help us?
- How does God feel about the poor, the outsiders, the oppressed, the foreigners? (and how should we?).
- How do you change people's minds about something important? (and what doesn't work)
- How does God speak to us? In a still small voice? Through a worm and plant? Are we listening?
- When you are asked to help (become a prophet), will YOU pick up the mantle?

### The stories of the prophets Elijah and Jonah share some common themes:

- Both Elijah and Jonah confront power, but each received different responses and results.
- Both Elijah and Jonah stories involve acts of compassion toward "outsiders" that the righteous didn't think deserved God's mercy (and it is Jonah who ends up on the outside looking in).
- The story of Elijah and young Elisha teaches the importance of setting an example for others to follow and pick up the work of justice and mercy.
- The story of Jonah the "reluctant prophet" ends without a conclusion. Will he be changed by his encounter with God? Will he too "pick up the proverbial mantle" that God has laid before him? What about us? How will today's challenges, and the way we meet them, change us and guide us in the future?

### Why teach about Elijah and Jonah?

Elijah is considered the first and greatest prophet of the Old Testament. The Jews expected him to return to announce the coming of the Messiah. Indeed, some asked if John the Baptist was Elijah returned. Elijah appeared to Jesus with Moses at the Transfiguration, and recall that some thought Jesus was calling to Elijah from the cross.

God sent a worm to eat Jonah's comforting shade – asking him how he could be upset about losing his comfort but care so little for others. Jesus is like that worm, and so are we – we are called to "afflict the comfortable and comforting the afflicted."

As you go through these stories with your youngsters, contemporize the situations to what they are experiencing today – the problems, the stress, the changes in routine, the need to listen for God's voice and call. How can we listen more closely to God's voice? Who does God want to send us to with the message of love, hope, and help?