

Jonah

Jonah 1- 4

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

God told Jonah to go to a very large and very wicked city called Nineveh and tell its people that God would destroy them because of their sins and their unbelief. Instead of obeying God and going to Nineveh, Jonah tried to run from God. He got onto a ship sailing very far from the city of Nineveh.

The Lord knew what Jonah was doing and He made a storm come up which made the water full of waves. The sailors were afraid their ship would sink, and they prayed to their false gods for help. The storm did not stop. The captain of the ship asked Jonah who he was and what he was doing. Jonah told the sailors that he was running away from God and that the storm was because of his sin. God was teaching him not to run away and disobey Him. Jonah told the sailors to throw him into the sea so that the storm would stop. The sailors threw him over the ship into the water. Immediately the storm stopped.

But God did not let Jonah die. He loved Jonah and wanted to forgive him and save his life. God caused a large fish to swallow Jonah alive! For three days and three nights Jonah lived in the belly of the fish. Jonah was sorry for his sins and he prayed to God to forgive him. God heard Jonah's prayer and caused the fish to spit Jonah up onto dry land.

God told Jonah again to go to the wicked city of Nineveh and tell them God was angry with them because they did not believe in Him and did bad things. This time Jonah obeyed God and told the people of Nineveh what God had said. The Lord caused the people to be sorry for their sins and to trust in Him to forgive them and save them. Even the king of Nineveh was sorry and turned to God. God saw their hearts and knew they trusted in

Him and He did not destroy them.

Jonah should have been happy that God forgave so many people, just as God had forgiven him. But instead, he was angry that God did not destroy them. God told him that he should show love and kindness to all people because God wants all people to believe in Jesus and be saved. In the Bible we hear God tell us the same thing. We will want to love others and tell them about Jesus' forgiveness also.

God wants all people to know about Jesus and be saved.

Passage

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - "God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Hymn - TLH #400 v. 5 (Sup. #786 v. 5)

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Help me to see my sins and feel sorry for them. Help me to trust in You for forgiveness. Thank You for dying for all people. Help me to love all people and tell them about You. Amen.



Classroom Activity - Review Lesson Action Songs - Sing these songs and make up actions for the first song and do the actions of the second to review the lesson.

Jonah and the Big Fish

(sing to "I'm A Little Teapot" tune)

Jonah ran from God to get away
He didn't want to hear what God had to say.
He climbed on board a boat and sailed to sea
Jonah wanted God to let him be.

God knew that Jonah tried to hide
He sent a storm they were scared inside.
As soon as the sailors threw Jonah in
A great fish came and swallowed him.

Jonah prayed to God three nights and days,
"I have sinned in many ways."
The fish spit Jonah to the land and then
On to Nineveh Jonah went.

Jonah

(sing to "London Bridge" tune)

Jonah was swallowed by a great fish,
By a great fish, by a great fish.
Jonah was swallowed by a great fish.
Swallowed whole! (*rub tummy*)

Jonah prayed to God above
God above, God above.
Jonah prayed to God above
And was forgiven! (*fold hands in prayer*)

Classroom Art Activity - Lunch Bag Fish - Have the children color a lunch bag (preferably white) and make fish eyes. Staple the crease of the bag to make a tale. Color and cut out Jonah at right. Tape inside of lunch bag as shown.





Jonah is swallowed by a great fish and asks the LORD for forgiveness.