

# Old Testament

## Jonah

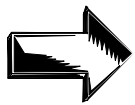
## Jonah 1-3

### Younger Verse

God sent His One and Only Son. 1st John 4:9

### Older Verse

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His One and Only Son into the world that we might live through Him. 1st John 4:9



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

### Welcome Time

Have you ever disobeyed your parents or teacher? Usually there is some kind of punishment when that happens. Let's see what happens when Jonah disobeys God!

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jonah was a man who was a messenger for God. God spoke to Jonah and he would tell the people what God said. One day, God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to an evil city called Nineveh. God wanted Jonah to tell the people that God was upset with them.

Jonah heard what God said but he didn't want to give them the message. So, he jumped on a ship that was going the opposite way and tried to run away from God.

Well, God knew exactly where Jonah was. God created a big storm that made the sea very choppy and rough. The men in the boat were terrified! Do you know where Jonah was? He was asleep! How could he sleep at a time like this?!

The men found Jonah and asked him to pray to God because they were praying too. The men asked Jonah what he had done that caused God to be so mad.

Jonah explained that His God was the only true God and He was the maker of the sea. The men were frightened. They asked Jonah what to do to make the storm stop. Jonah told them to throw him off the ship into the water.

The men tried to row back to shore and throw over heavy boxes. Still, the storm continued.

Finally, the men threw Jonah off the ship. Guess what? All of a sudden the storm stopped. It was completely clear and calm! The men all thanked God and promised to worship Him only.

### Lesson Goals

**Explain why it is important to obey God**  
**Share how God loves ALL people**

Where was Jonah? God made a big fish (or whale) swallow Jonah. Jonah was in a whale for 3 days and nights.

While he was in the whale, Jonah told God that he was sorry for running away. He thanked God for saving his life.

Then, God told the fish to spit Jonah out. Guess where he landed? He was very close to Nineveh, the town that God wanted Jonah to go to.

Again, God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time, Jonah obeyed God. He went to the people and told them that God would destroy them in 40 days if they did not change their ways and follow God.

The people became so upset that they put on rough clothes and even did not eat food for several days. The king even did this.

When God saw how sorry the people were and how they believed in Him, He decided to spare their lives. He did not punish them.

Jonah was upset at God. He did not like the people and he wanted them to be destroyed. These people were very mean and evil. He thought they deserved to die.

God explained to Jonah that He loves ALL people and He wants all people to know Him. God told him that He was happy that they wanted to follow Him and stop doing wrong.

God rescued Jonah and he rescued the people of Nineveh. He also made a way to rescue us. You see, our sin or wrongs separate us from God. Because we are separated from God, we cannot go to Heaven. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take our punishment and make a way for us to go to Heaven. Jesus died on a cross for all the sin we have done. If we believe in Him and ask Him to forgive our sin, Jesus will make us clean and take us to Heaven one day. Would you like to know more? Talk to us about how God can rescue you!

**Learning Activities**

This is such a fun lesson for kids. Help them see how they can learn something important from it.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Ask the kids how God showed us His love—by sending Jesus. Be ready to share how a person can believe in Jesus.

**Prayer Time**

Ask God to help us obey and follow Him with all our hearts.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Bring fish or “whale” crackers to eat.

Be praying as we discern  
the lessons for next year!

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Jonah

A long time ago, there lived a man named Jonah. He loved God very much. He was also a messenger who told people messages from God.

One day, God told Jonah to go far away to the town of Nineveh and tell the people a message that they would be destroyed. Jonah did not like the people, so he decided to go the opposite direction. (Show what it means to go the opposite way)

Jonah got on a ship and tried to sail far away. He was so tired that he fell asleep on the boat.

God knew where Jonah was. God made a huge storm come. It made the little boat toss to and fro. Everyone was very nervous and scared. They woke Jonah up.

Jonah told them that it was his fault that the storm was happening. He told the people that he had disobeyed God and God was the one who made the sea. He told them the only way to stop the storm was to throw him over into the water.

The people gasped. They knew that Jonah would be drowned in the water if they threw him overboard. However, the storm continued to get worse, so they threw him over into the water.

Suddenly, the water was calm. There was no more storm. The people knew for sure that God really was the only true God. They worshipped God and told Him that they were sorry for throwing Jonah into the water.

Believe it or not, Jonah was swallowed by a gigantic fish! (Can you imagine what it must have smelled like in the stinky fish!!)

While he was in the fish, he had a lot of time to think about what he had done. He told God that he was sorry for not obeying His instructions.

After 3 days, the fish spit Jonah out onto land. He was very close to the town of Nineveh, where God wanted him to go.

He told the people God's message. The people were sad for how they had disobeyed God. They told God that they were very sorry for how they had acted. They asked God to forgive them.

Do you know what God did? He forgave them. Instead of punishing them, God forgave the people and He told them how much He loved them.

God loves us too. He wants us to obey Him and follow Him.

Try singing the little song on the last page.

Pray and ask God to help us obey Him and do things for Him.

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Hands-On Activities  
For  
Jonah

Make whale sandwiches with tuna. Cut into whale shapes and eat!

Make a cupcake whale. Ice a cupcake and attach a triangle tail to resemble a whale. The tail can be made from wafer type cookies.

Make a snack boat. Bring graham crackers, apples and cheese (or cantaloupe), toothpicks and frosting. Cut the apples into wedges. Stick to the cracker using frosting. Add a toothpick and cheese (or cantaloupe) for the sail. Jonah's boat is ready to be eaten.

Make little whales using single sections from an egg carton.

Watch the Veggie tale video about Jonah and the Big Fish.

For a great effect, have open cans of tuna fish or sardines to help the kids experience what it must have been like in the fish. For a "reality" effect, bring boiled spaghetti that the kids can step into. It will feel like the belly of the fish!!

Play "Hide and Seek" with smaller kids. Share how Jonah tried to hide from God but God knew exactly where he was.

Make blue Jell-o to represent the sea. Now add a gummy fish. Enjoy!

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Here is a cute little song for Preschoolers:

Sung to the tune of "where is thumb kin" or "Are you sleeping"  
Where is Jonah, where is Jonah? in a boat, in a boat.  
What is Jonah doing? What is Jonah doing?  
Running from God, running from God.

Where is Jonah, where is Jonah?  
In a fish, In a fish.  
What is Jonah doing, what is Jonah doing  
Praying to God, praying to God.

Where is Jonah, where is Jonah?  
On a hill, on a hill  
What is Jonah doing, what is Jonah doing?  
Learning to love, learning to love.

Where is Jonah, Where is Jonah?  
Nineveh, Nineveh.  
What is Jonah doing, what is Jonah doing  
sharing God's love, sharing God's love.

(courtesy of perpetual preschooler web site)

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