



## April 17-18, 2021 Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh

Bible Passage: Jonah 1–4

Main Point: God showed mercy to the Ninevites.

Bible Verse: Return to the LORD your God. He is gracious. He is tender and kind.

He is slow to get angry. He is full of love. Joel 2:13

**PRESCHOOL  
LARGE GROUP**

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 **PLAY** Opening Video & Countdown

 **PLAY** Worship Songs

Worship leaders sing two songs with the children and collect the offering.

 **SAY LEADER** Script: Opening

Last week we looked at the life of the prophet Hosea to learn that God loves people when they do not deserve it. God goes after sinners, just like Hosea went after his wife. This week we are going to learn about another prophet named Jonah!

Maybe you have heard this story before, but do you know how it fits into the big story of the Bible—the story of God’s plan to rescue people from sin through His Son, Jesus? If you don’t know, that’s OK because we are going to find out!

 **PLAY** Big Idea Video

 **SAY LEADER** Script: Recap *Big Idea*

### **Preschool Recap:**

God showed that He loved the Ninevites even though they did bad things. The people of Nineveh did not deserve God’s love, but God created the Ninevites, and He cared about them. God decided not to destroy them when they showed they were sorry for the bad things they did.

Let’s see if you were paying attention to the story... answer these questions with a thumbs up or a thumbs down!

1. When God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, did he obey right away? Yes or No? (*No, he ran the other way*)
2. When Jonah was on the boat, was the weather good (thumbs up) or bad (thumbs down)? (*It was really bad- there was a terrible storm!*)
3. When the sailors threw Jonah off the boat, did he drown in the water? Yes or No? (*No! Instead he got swallowed by a big fish!*)
4. Did God destroy Nineveh? Yes or No? (*No! He forgave them!*)
5. How did Jonah feel about God deciding not to destroy Nineveh? Happy (thumbs up) or mad (thumbs down)?

*Jonah was so mad that God did not destroy Nineveh! He wanted the people to be punished for the bad things they did! But God showed MERCY. That means he did not punish them, even though they did such bad things. When we do bad things- God still loves us too! He forgives us when we trust in Jesus. We can forgive our friends when they hurt us too.*

Now we are going to say our memory verse with Chipper.

 **PLAY** Bible Verse Video

Bible Verse: ...He is slow to get angry. He is full of love. Joel 2:13

 **SAY LEADER** Script: Prayer and dismiss to small group

[Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.]

Let’s take some time to thank God for His mercy and ask Him to help us show mercy to our friends too.

God, thank you for being a good God. We need You more than we can know. Thank You for sending Jesus as the ultimate show of Your love and mercy. Help us trust in Him and live for You. Amen.



**PRESCHOOL  
SMALL GROUP**

## **April 17-18, 2021 Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh**

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**Welcome:** Welcome children and set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

### **Activity: Play out riding in a boat**

**Materials Needed: None**

Set up a “boat” by arranging chairs, one for each child, in short rows. Invite the children to sit in the chairs and play out what it would be like to be in a boat during the following conditions:

- peaceful waters (sit still)
- rough seas (flail limbs about)
- choppy waves (sit up tall and slump down repeatedly)
- pouring rains (cover heads, hide under chairs)
- thunder and lightning (cover ears)
- chilly winds (shiver, teeth chatter, rub arms)

SAY • Have you ever been in a boat? What was the weather like? In today’s Bible story, God sent a storm while His prophet Jonah was in a boat. God wanted to get Jonah’s attention, and He did.

### **Transition to Large Group / Transition back to Small Group**

### **Activity: Make a Paper Plate Fish**

**Materials:** “Jonah” printable (1 per child), brass fasteners (1 per child), hole punch, paper plates (2 per child), blunt-tipped scissors, tape, glue, markers

Provide two paper plates and a Jonah cutout for each child. Make a paper plate fish according to the following instructions.

1. Cut a wedge out of each paper plate, approximately one fourth of the plate, to create a fish mouth.
2. On the first plate, cut out an oval-shaped hole beside the fish mouth
3. Tape or glue one wedge to the edge of the plate near the oval-shaped hole to make the fish’s tail.
4. On the second plate, glue the Jonah cutout opposite the fish mouth.
5. Place the paper plate with the tail on top of the paper plate with Jonah and secure the plates together with a brass fastener. Demonstrate how to spin the bottom paper plate to make the fish swallow Jonah and then spit him out.
6. Invite preschoolers to decorate their fish.

SAY • God told Jonah to go to his enemies and tell them to stop sinning. Jonah did not want to go. When he finally obeyed God, the Ninevites stopped doing bad things. God showed mercy to the Ninevites. Later, God sent His own Son, Jesus, to tell His enemies to stop sinning. Unlike Jonah, Jesus wanted to obey God. He died on the cross and came back to life to save us from sin.

### **Coloring Page & Pray**

**Materials Needed: Coloring Page, Crayons**

Give the children time to work on the weekly coloring page.

SAY • God, You are merciful and loving. You are quick to forgive people when they turn from their sin and follow Jesus. Help us to love all people and tell them the good news about Jesus. Amen.