

# JONAH AND NINEVEH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JONAH



## The STORY

Read "Running Away from God" and "Storm at Sea" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories pages 266-268.

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What happened in the story? (God asked Jonah to bring a message to the people of Nineveh but Jonah didn't want to and tried to run away from God. God brought a large storm upon him at sea. When the sailors threw Jonah overboard a large fish swallowed him and eventually brought him to safety. Jonah learned his lesson and obeyed God.)
- Why didn't Jonah want to tell Nineveh God's message? (Jonah didn't like Nineveh and he knew that if they listened and were sorry God would forgive them and Jonah did not want them to be forgiven.)
- What happened to the storm after the sailors threw Jonah overboard? (The wind died down and the storm subsided.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

Read "The Lesson of the Big Fish" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories page 268-269. Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jonah in the belly of a large fish. Engage the children by asking:

- What lessons did Jonah learn while he was in the belly of the fish? (He learned that God is all-powerful; God controls the sea. God is all-knowing; God knew where Jonah was. God is merciful and loving; Jonah did not drown but was rescued by the fish. Jonah also learned you can't run away from God.)
- What would you do if you were caught in the belly of a fish? (Elicit that one should pray.)
- How are we like Jonah? (We are sinners in need of a Savior. We depend on God to help us. We need to obey God.)

## JONAH AND NINEVEH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JONAH

### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack engage the children by asking:**

- Why can't we run away from God? (God is all-powerful – He can use anything to stop us. He used the sea and a great fish to stop Jonah. God is all-knowing. He always knows where we are so we cannot hide, He knew exactly where Jonah was.)
- How can we be tempted to hide from God? (When we hide things from our parents it is like hiding them from God. If you do something wrong and you hide it from your parents it is like trying to hide it from God.)
- What is your favorite part of this story? Why? (Accept any answer.)



## JONAH AND NINEVEH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JONAH

### Where Is Jesus?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Jonah preaching to Nineveh to repent is directly compared to Jesus preaching repentance.

The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. (Luke 11:32)

In addition, Jesus tells us that the three days Jonah spent in the belly of a fish was a picture foretelling the time Jesus' crucified body was in the grave before the resurrection.

He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:39-40)

God had a plan to rescue Jonah from his sin of disobedience. God's plan for Jonah involved three days swallowed up in a fish. Jonah found his salvation in God. In the end Jonah was released and went on to preach repentance to Nineveh.

God has a plan to rescue us from our sin through Jesus. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and spent three days in the grave swallowed up by death. But death could not hold Him and on the third day He rose again. Now the message of repentance and faith in Christ is proclaimed all over the world. The question for us is, will we trust in Him?

## SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*



# JONAH AND NINEVEH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JONAH

