

God corrects Jonah

Theme: God Loves Obedient Children

Jonah 4:1-11 (NRSV)



Jonah's Anger

4 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Jonah Is Reproved

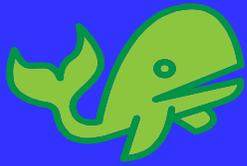
⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

AIM



God is compassionate and kind. You can run from God just like Jonah, but you can not hide from God.

To help the child to listen to God and also to obey His instructions.



Teacher's Preparation

1. The teacher should prepare a poster of a raging sea as well as a cut-out of an open-mouthed whale and of Jonah. After attaching the whale to the poster, have each child try to place the Jonah cut-out in the mouth of the whale while blindfolded (Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Donkey style). Reward the student who best places Jonah in the mouth of the whale.
2. The teacher should make face patterns representing the three emotions of anger, happiness, and sadness. These will be given to the students to use during the narration of the lesson. As the lesson is narrated, the teacher will ask the students hold up the face pattern that represents the emotions that are conveyed in the story.
3. To introduce the lesson, the teacher can also relate the story of Jonah to the game "Hide and Seek." Also, the teacher can say that when we play Hide and Seek with our friends that our friends do not know exactly where we are hiding. But in Jonah's case, God knew exactly where he was. The teacher should bring attention to the fact the Jonah hid from God because he did not obey Him which caused Jonah to go through several different emotions/feelings.

Main Ideas



1. Jonah the Runaway & Disobedient Prophet

Jonah was an Israelite prophet (a person God uses to speak for Him to others) from the village of Gath Hepher, which was located about three miles north of Nazareth in lower Galilee. He was the son of Amittai. One day God told Jonah that He had a special job for him to do. God told Jonah that He wanted him to go to the city of Nineveh and warn the people there that He would destroy them and their city if they didn't stop being bad. Jonah freaked out and tried to run away not only from this responsibility but also from God Himself.

2. God of Second Chances

Through Jonah's story we know that our God is a God of second chances. From the ship full of sailors, to the sinful Assyrians (people of Nineveh), to his own prophet Jonah, God proves that He does not want anyone to miss out on experiencing his great love and mercy. God also gives us second chances too,

3. Jonah's Anger and God's Love

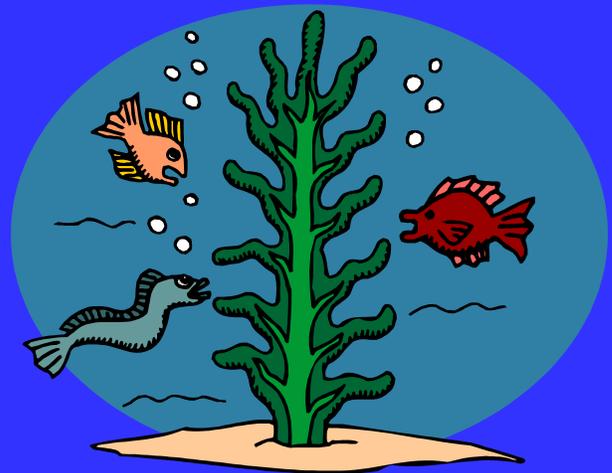
Jonah was displeased and angry with God because God destroyed the plant that was giving him shade. But God tells him that He is more worried about the people of Nineveh which has a population of more than 120,000 people and many cattle. So, this shows God's great love and mercy even for sinful people.

Activities

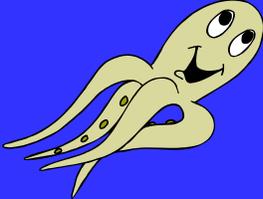
The teacher and students can sing together the famous song "Who Did..." with actions. Please refer to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) for appropriate music/videos. The lyrics are as follows:

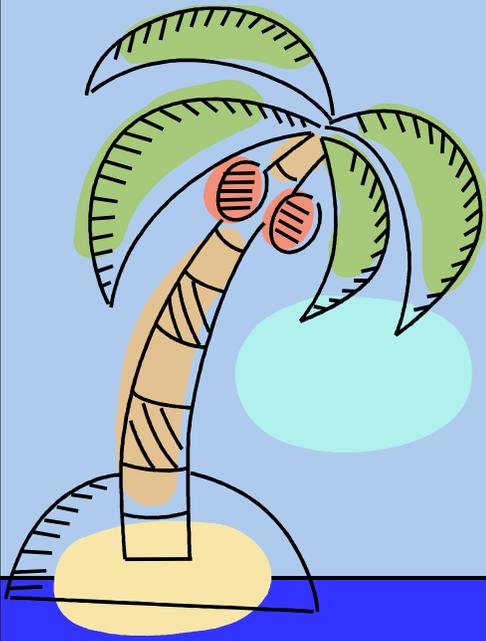
Who did, who did,
Who did, who did
Who did swallow
Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo
Who did, who did,
Who did, who did
Who did swallow
Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo
Who did, who did,
Who did, who did
Who did swallow
Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo
Who did swallow Jonah,
Who did swallow Jonah
Who did swallow Jonah down?

Whale did, whale did,
Whale did, whale did
Whale did swallow
Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo
Whale did, whale did,
Whale did, whale did
Whale did swallow
Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo
Whale did, whale did,
Whale did, whale did
Whale did swallow
Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo
Whale did swallow Jonah,
Whale did swallow Jonah
Whale did swallow Jonah down!



There is also a coloring sheet that can be used for this lesson.





Review Time

1. What did God want Jonah to do?
2. What did Jonah do?
3. Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?
4. How many days was Jonah inside the fish?
5. What did Jonah do after the fish spit him out?

Values for Life

We may think that we can run or hide from God, but we are only fooling ourselves.

We must obey God even when it's hard.

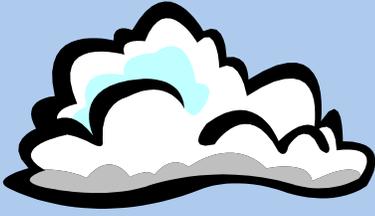
God is in control of all things, but we are not.

God likes it when we follow his instructions.

My Decision

1. Give an example of how we are like Jonah sometimes?
2. Give an example of how someone might try to hide from God today?
3. What does God want us to do when we do something wrong?
4. What does God do when we are sorry and ask for forgiveness?

My decision is to obey God at all times, in all places, and in all situations.



Memory Verse

Psalm 145:8

New Revised Standard Version

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

An Activity to help the children to learn and memorize this verse is included below:

Fill in the Memory Verse with the Missing Vowels:

Th_ L_ rd is gr_ cio_ s_ _nd m_ rc_ ful, sl_ w to ang_ r_ _nd
abo_ nd_ ng in st_ adf_ st l_ ve. (Psalm 145:8)



Closing Prayer

Father,

We thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to die for our sins so that when we do something wrong we can come to you, confess our sins, and be forgiven. We thank you because we don't ever have to hide from you and be alone and lost in our sins. Help us to obey you always and be good children. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.