

*When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.*

Program B-1

## Jonah Preaches and Pouts

Jonah 2:10-4:11

Jonah Series: Lesson #2

Bible

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Be happy when God shows mercy to others. Do not delight in their punishment.

Prop ideas: Jonah puppet/ Bible storybook/ Sun umbrella & fan  
Use a microphone and pretend to be a TV or radio announcer

### SAMPLE STORY

Last week we ended our story with our hero, Jonah, stuck in the belly of a great fish for three days and nights. He had tried to run away from God and not go to Nineveh to preach as God had told him. He was thrown overboard during a violent storm and then swallowed by this fish. Sad and scared, Jonah cried out to God and prayed. He repented for being disobedient and promised to go preach in Nineveh. Let's return to our story and see what happens next...

God caused the fish to spit Jonah out onto the shore. He was now safe on the dry land. Jonah could have drowned and died in the sea, but God used a great fish or whale to safely bring him to shore. Jonah made good on his promise and went to Nineveh to preach God's word.

Nineveh was full of very evil and wicked people. These people were the enemies of the Israelites, God's chosen people. It was a very large and important city. It would take three days to see the entire city. On the first day Jonah began preaching right away. "In forty days the **LORD** God will destroy Nineveh," he proclaimed. Everyone listened to Jonah. They stopped doing everything and began to fast (stop eating) and pray. When word got to the king that Jonah was preaching and the people were fasting, he too, began to fast. As was the custom in that day, he took off his royal robes and put on sackcloth. He told everyone in the city "Do not eat or drink. Everyone should call on the

**LORD** God. Everyone should stop doing evil. Maybe the **LORD** God will have compassion on us.”

God saw that the people of Nineveh had repented, or turned from their sins. He had compassion on them and did not destroy the city and all the people in it. The bible tells us that, “The **LORD** is slow to anger and rich in love.” Psalm 145:8 Jonah, however, did not have compassion. He was angry. He wanted all the evil people to get punished. Have you ever seen someone do something wrong and couldn’t wait to see them get in trouble? Maybe a brother or sister. You even told on them to your parents. Or maybe someone in school was doing something wrong and you couldn’t wait for the teacher to find out. You wanted to see them get the worst punishment ever. That’s how Jonah felt. He wanted to see Nineveh get punished.

Jonah set up a little shelter east of the city so that he could watch what would happen. It was very hot. The sun was beating down and the wind was scorching hot. God made a vine grow quickly over Jonah so that in one day it was tall enough to provide shade and protect him from the heat. Jonah was very happy about the vine. But early the next day God sent a worm to chew the vine so that it withered away and died. When the sun came up, and the scorching winds blew Jonah grew very faint and weak. He was so miserable he wanted to die.

God asked Jonah, “Why are you angry about the vine? You are concerned about it even though you did not plant it, or make it grow. It sprang up overnight on its own. Now you are angry because it is gone. What about all the innocent children and animals in Nineveh? Shouldn’t I have compassion and care about them?” Jonah was mad about a silly vine when he should have been happy about God’s compassion on the people of Nineveh. We should always be happy about God’s love for others and not take delight in their punishment.

FYI

Second Session Classes will be:

- Coloring Jonah And Fish Page
- Making Thanksgiving Hands
- Building Block Relay

## PUDDING & GUMMI WORM SNACKS

- Materials: 2 Boxes of Chocolate Pudding Mix  
4 C. Milk(1 Qt.) (1<sup>st</sup> floor kitchen)  
Bowl  
Spoon  
Gummi Worms  
Plastic Spoons  
Plastic cups (In room)
- Do: Be certain everyone washes their hands before helping. Let children help make the pudding according to the package. Serve in plastic cups. Give each child a few gummi worms to top their pudding.
- Talk About: God made a vine grow to help shade Jonah from the hot sun. Then He sent a worm to eat the vine so that it withered away. Now you can pretend to eat the worm that ate the vine!

## JONAH AND THE BIG FISH BOOKLET

- Materials: Jonah and the Big Fish story sheets  
Scissors (In room)  
Stapler (In room)  
Crayons/markers (In room)
- Do: Give each child one set of story sheets. He can color before or after cutting apart. After cutting apart, assemble in order. (All pages but the title page have a number). Staple together.
- Talk About: This is the same booklet used last week: **BUT**, with the story ending added. Read the booklet or tell in your own words; or, read the story from the Bible. Ask the children to retell the story in their own words as they follow the pictures.

## JONAH IS ANGRY COLORING PAGE

- Materials: Coloring Sheets  
Crayons/markers (In room)
- Do: Give each child a coloring page.

Spread the crayons/markers out for everyone to use.

Talk About: Jonah was mad that God showed mercy to the people of Nineveh. He built a little shelter east of the city where he could watch and see what would happen. God made a vine grow to help shade Jonah. The next day a God sent a worm to eat the vine. Do you see this in the picture?

## MAKING A SHELTER

Materials: Large Sheet  
Books (In room)  
Blue Tape (In room)

Do: Use the sheet to make a tent/shelter. Tape to cabinets (or shut inside a cabinet) and drape over chairs or table. Or you can drape over a table and chairs. Place books in the shelter to set up a little reading center. You can sit next to the shelter to read to the children.

Talk About: Jonah made a shelter to get out of the hot sun. He sat there and waited angrily to see what would happen to the city of Nineveh. He wanted God to destroy the people because they had been so wicked. He did not want God to forgive them after they repented.