

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

Program B-2

## Jonah Runs Away

Jonah 1:1-2:9

Jonah Series: Lesson#1

Bible Verse: Obey the LORD God. Deuteronomy 27:10

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Obey God immediately.

Prop ideas: Puppets and/or boat

### SAMPLE STORY

Jonah was a prophet of God. He would preach to people proclaiming God's message. God had a special mission for Jonah. He wanted Jonah to go and preach in the very wicked city of Nineveh. The people there were so bad and wicked that Jonah did not want to go there. So Jonah got on a ship that was headed far away in the opposite direction. Jonah was disobeying and trying to run away from God. Do you ever do that? Do you try to run away and hide from your parents?

Just like your parents always find you, God knew exactly where Jonah was. He sent a terrible storm that rocked the ship. As Jonah was sleeping down below in the ship, all the crewmembers were frantically throwing the cargo overboard. They were trying to make the ship lighter so that it would not sink in the storm. They woke Jonah and told him to start praying to his God so that maybe they would be saved.

Jonah knew that his disobedience had caused the storm. He knew that the only way for everyone to be saved was for him to be thrown overboard. At first the men did not want to do it. They tried to row the ship to land, but the storm only grew worse. So they did just as Jonah said and threw him into the sea. The storm stopped. The sailors were so amazed at God's powers. They offered a sacrifice to Him and took vows to follow the **LORD** from now on.

Jonah was now swimming around in the water, far away from the safety of land. But, God had prepared a great fish, maybe a whale, to swallow Jonah. Can you believe that God used a whale to save Jonah

from the sea? Jonah was in the belly of this fish for three days and three nights!

Jonah was afraid and very sad. He prayed and confessed his sin to God. Jonah knew that God had saved him. He knew that God is the only one who can save us. Jonah then promised to be obedient and preach God's message to the people of Nineveh. Next week we will see if Jonah gets out of the belly of the great fish and if he keeps his promise.

FYI

The first session classes will be:

- Snacking on Goldfish
- Playing in Boats
- Coloring Jonah Story Booklet
- Fishing

## JONAH IN THE WHALE GAME

Materials: Whale/Jonah Pages  
Clothespins  
Yarn  
Plastic Cups (In room)  
Glue (In room)  
Crayons (In room)  
Scissors (In room)  
Hole-punch (In room)

Do: Have children color a whale and a Jonah.  
Glue/tape whale to the side of a cup.  
Punch a hole near the top of the cup.  
Tie yarn through the hole.  
Tie other end of yarn around clothespin.  
Glue Jonah to a clothespin.  
Show how to play the game by swinging the clothespin and catching it in the cup.

Talk About: Try to make your fish swallow Jonah just like the real fish did in our Bible Story.

## COLORING PAGE

- Materials:** Jonah in the Whale Coloring Page  
Crayons/markers (In room)
- Do:** Let everyone color a page as he/she wishes. Help write names on pages.
- Talk About:** How would you feel if a whale or big fish swallowed you? Would you be scared? What would you do? (Pray, just like Jonah).

## SINK or FLOAT & BOATS

- Materials:** Toy Boats  
Towel  
Objects from around room (water-proof)  
Plastic Tub (In room)
- Do:** Fill tub partially with water. Place towel near or under tub to catch spills.  
Let children take turns floating the boats.  
Play sink or float with various objects around room. Ask if they think it will sink or float before placing in water. Use towel to dry items.

Although water games are a popular activity, limit the number of children around the water tub. Use a timer if necessary. Tell them you will call them over when it is their turn.

- Talk About:** The storm was so bad, that Jonah's boat was going to sink. They started throwing things overboard to keep the boat afloat. Do you think everything sank?