



Dear Teacher,

This week we look at the second of three parts to the story of Jonah. A great story of God's mercy towards the wicked, disobedience by God's servant, and repentance. This week we look at the second chapter of Jonah; his response to being swallowed by a giant fish. The hope is not to dwell on the fish, but to have children understand Jonah's disobedience and God's incredible mercy towards the wicked Ninevehites. As the story unfolds both Jonah's disobedience and God's mercy become more apparent. In this week's lesson we see Jonah's contrition because of his situation, and we are left to wonder if the contrition is genuine or not. As you prepare to teach the lesson, an encouragement is to keep this month's memory verse, Jonah 4:2b, in the forefront, "I know that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Split:* Jonah, Part 2

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

**Scripture:** Jonah 2:1-3:5

**Story:** Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 91 (Pages 209-210); The Beginner's Bible, Pages 260-264;  
The Gospel Story Book, Pages 138-139.

### Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- The city of Nineveh is a great, but wicked city. It serves as the capital city for the great Assyrian empire.
- The Assyrians were enemies to God's people, the Israelites. The Israelites hated the Assyrians for their cruelty towards them.
- God appointed Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against it. Jonah instead fled in the opposite direction of Nineveh. Jonah attempted an escape by sea. God sent a great storm to toss the ship.
- Jonah confessed his disobedience as the reason for the storm, and told the sailors to throw him overboard to quiet the mighty storm. The sailors threw Jonah overboard, and the storm ceased.
- A giant fish swallowed Jonah whole. Jonah stayed in the fish's belly for 3 days and 3 nights.
- Jonah prayed that God would deliver him from, what Jonah described, his death. God caused the giant fish to spit up Jonah after the third day.
- Jonah, upon hearing God's command again, was obedient and went to Nineveh. He preached against it just as he was told to do.
- Nineveh repented of their wickedness against the Lord. They fasted and wore sackcloth to show their contrition.

## 9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

### Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

*Craft:* Giant Fish Swallows Jonah

*Supplies:* Clothespin, cardstock fish (top/bottom), Jonah, glue stick, crayons/markers

*Instructions:*

1. Color Jonah and the fish
2. Glue Jonah to inside mouth end of bottom half of fish
3. Glue fish tails to clothespin (place glue on cardstock) so fish mouth opens when clothespin is pinched and Jonah can be seen.



### Snack

## 11am Sunday Schedule

*Craft:* Praying Jonah in the Giant Fish

*Supplies:* 2 paper plates (1 with cutout), cellophane, whale tail, praying Jonah, crayons/markers, tape, stapler

*Instructions:*

1. Color Jonah and tape to top side of solid plate
2. Draw face on and color bottom of cutout plate
3. Cover cutout with cellophane using tape
4. Add tail when stapling plates together.



**Story:** *Split:* Jonah, Part 2

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, last week we learned about Jonah. Jonah was swallowed by a giant fish! What do you think it would be like to stay in a giant fish belly? [Allow time for responses] Today, we are going to see what it was like for Jonah to live in giant fish's belly...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

### Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (Jonah 4:2b)

Catechism Questions (1-14)

Hymn of the Month: O Worship the King (Trinity Hymnal, Page 2)

Free Play

## Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What is the name of the wicked city in our story?
- Who did God want to go to Nineveh?
- What did God want Jonah to do in Nineveh?
- What did Jonah do?
- What came and swallowed Jonah?
- How long was Jonah in the giant fish?
- What did the giant fish do on the third day with Jonah?
- What does Jonah tell the people of Nineveh?
- What do the people of Nineveh do once they hear Jonah's message?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about Jonah?

## Scripture Memory for February:

"...I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love..."  
Jonah 4:2b

## Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- Question 13 – Can God do all things? *Yes. God can do all His holy will.*
- Question 14 – Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*

## Story

### **Transition**

Boys and girls, last week we learned about Jonah. Jonah was swallowed by a giant fish! What do you think it would be like to stay in a giant fish belly? [Allow time for responses] Today, we are going to see what it was like for Jonah to live in a giant fish's belly...

### **Sinking to The Bottom**

"Splash!" Jonah went into the dark blue sea. As soon as he disappeared underwater, the sea became calm, the wind died down, and the storm clouds disappeared. The Bible says that once the sailors saw all of this happen, they feared the Lord very much. The sailors offered a sacrifice and made promises to the Lord too.

As Jonah fell deeper, and deeper, and deeper into the water, it became darker, and darker, and darker. Jonah could not see anything, and he could not swim. It seemed like all was lost. But then Jonah felt a sudden rush and pull into the dark sea. He was sucked into a dark, stinky but sort of dry cavern. It was completely dark, but Jonah could breathe a little. The cavern smelled of rotten fish, and Jonah was tangled in seaweed and fish bones. The cavern hummed and vibrated at times. Jonah did not know where he was. Jonah was alone, confused and afraid.

The Bible tells us that the Lord caused a very big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights. He would often think of the Lord's words to him, "Get up, go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it. I see the evil things they do." Jonah disobeyed the Lord, and now he was in the belly of a fish. "If only I had obeyed God, what would have happened?" Jonah thought.

### **The Belly of the Fish**

Jonah sat there in the belly of the fish. The smell was unbearable. Rotten fish, seaweed and other things. Jonah could barely breathe, but he was alive.

Jonah had nowhere to go. He had gotten himself into this mess. Alone and still, Jonah had time to think and pray. "I was in danger, so I called out to You, and you answered me," Jonah thought. "I was about to die. So, I cried to you, and you heard my voice." Jonah continued to think about all that had happened. The call of the Lord to Nineveh, his fleeing and getting on a ship. The storm, the waves and then being thrown overboard. And then sinking deep down into the cold sea. "I went down, down into the deep sea." Jonah remembered the darkness, all the water, and how he felt. Jonah remembered, "The water was all around me. Your powerful waves flowed over me." And then Jonah said aloud to himself and to God, "I was driven out of your presence. But I hope to see Your Holy Temple again." Jonah wished one day to return to Israel. He did not want to be in the dark cavern with this horrible smell. Jonah only wished to be out and alive in his home. He wanted to go and worship God once more in Israel. But the daydream of Jonah seeing God's Holy Temple became dim as he recalled sinking deep into the sea.

"The waters of the sea closed over me. I was about to die. The deep sea was all around me. Seaweed wrapped around my head. I went down to where the mountains of the sea start to rise." So much water Jonah remembered. It was very cold to be that far underwater. Jonah remembered seeing the mountains and cliffs underwater. Jonah thought he would not escape his watery fate. "I thought I was locked in this prison forever. But you saved me from death, Lord my God." Jonah prayed. "When my life had almost gone," Jonah thought, "I remembered the Lord." Jonah recalled his prayer to the Lord at that moment of drowning, "Lord, I prayed to you. And you heard my prayers in your Holy Temple." Jonah thought, "People who worship useless idols give up their loyalty to you. Lord, I will praise and thank you while I give sacrifices to you. I will make promises to you. And I will do what I promise. Salvation comes from the Lord!" Jonah wanted to be on land again. Jonah wanted to live freely again. He would do whatever the Lord wanted him to do as long as he did not have to be in this dark cavern. Jonah promised that if the Lord would deliver him, he would be completely obedient to God's commands. For three days and three nights Jonah thought and prayed to the Lord. Jonah called out to be rescued by God.

After the third day, Jonah felt a rumbling below. Then the whole dark cavern began to shake. At that time Jonah did not know he was in a fish's belly. Suddenly a violent rush of liquid came towards him, swept him up and pushed him out towards a bright light. Jonah found himself in mid-air! He screamed as he made his descent and with a huge "thud" he hit dry land. "Dry land!" Jonah thought. "Dry land!" Jonah screamed. Jonah turned around to see the giant fish slowly fade back into the sea. Jonah was so exhausted he buried his face into the sand and cried. The Lord had delivered Jonah onto dry land.

### **God Calls and Jonah Obeys**

Jonah was face down on the beach covered in seaweed and all sorts of icky stuff from the fish's belly. He was also covered head-to-toe in sand. Then the Lord spoke to Jonah again. The Lord said, "Get up. Go to the great city Nineveh. Preach against it what I tell you." Jonah had heard these words before. The first time he heard them he ran

away. But Jonah made a promise to do what the Lord wanted. Jonah slowly got up; he picked off the seaweed and other icky things. He went over to the sea and scooped water into his hands to wash his face. He patted his arms, legs and his whole body trying to get all the sand off. Obeying the Lord, Jonah began his walk toward Nineveh.

Nineveh was a very large city. It was so large it took a person three days to walk across it! Jonah continued to travel across the land toward Nineveh in obedience to what the Lord wanted him to do. Then one day Jonah saw the large city from afar; he knew he would be at Nineveh soon. As the moments passed and Jonah got closer, Nineveh became larger and larger. Finally, he arrived at Nineveh's city gates. Jonah had promised to be obedient to the Lord even though the Ninevehites were Jonah's enemies. And not just Jonah's but all of Israel.

Jonah went into the city. He had God's Word to tell, but "Where to tell it?" Jonah wondered. Jonah's message wasn't very long or great. Jonah decided he would just start telling God's Word to as many people as possible. Jonah shouted to people as they passed by, "After 40 days, Nineveh will be destroyed!" That was it! That was Jonah's message to the Ninevehites. The Bible tells us that the people of Nineveh believed God after hearing Jonah's message. The message traveled through the whole city! The people of Nineveh decided they would stop eating for a while. They did this to show how sorry they were to God. Then the people of Nineveh put on rough, itchy clothing. The Bible tells us that the most important people to the least important people in Nineveh did this. The people of Nineveh wanted to show God they were sorry for their wickedness.

Jonah did what God had commanded. And the message caused the people of Nineveh, Jonah's enemy, to turn and worship God. Next week we'll see what the King of Nineveh does when he hears Jonah's message...