

Lesson 146: Jonah Learns a Lesson
Jonah 1–3

Youtube Link for Teachers: <https://youtu.be/ToPxsKhAC8o>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/tnPeNozuA-c>

Worship Theme: God's ways are best.

Memory Verse: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
(Micah 6:8)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. Jesus Christ Is the Lord of All <https://youtu.be/l-PzUIJ0MVo>
2. I Cannot Run Away from the Lord <https://youtu.be/e3O9GqwVGCK>
3. One Two I Will Follow Jesus <https://youtu.be/32BRXvDba4w>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Left and Right"

1. Have the children hold hands and stand in a big circle. The children have to follow the teacher's commands.
2. The teacher will say "Jump one step to the right" "Jump one step to the left" "Jump one step to the front" or "Jump one step to the back."



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3. After playing this for a while, the children will now have to do the opposite of what the teacher commands. For example, if the teacher says, "Jump one step to the right," the children have to jump one step to the left. Whoever is not able to follow the command needs to be out of the game.

4. After the game, explain to the children that even when we are confused about what to do, God knows everything about us and will always help us.

Introduction:

If you ever get lost, who would you ask for directions? Would you ask a little baby? How about a little child? Wouldn't you ask an adult who knows the direction? But who do you think knows the best direction for us? God knows what is best for us, and he always wants to guide us! Today, let's learn about a man who did not listen to God's direction and got swallowed up by a big fish!

Bible Story:

Today's Bible story is about a man named Jonah. He was a prophet which means he is someone who tells people what God says. One day, God told him to go to a city named Nineveh to tell them about what God says. God wanted Jonah to tell them that if they don't stop their sinful ways, then God will punish them.

But Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh and tell them about God. This is because Nineveh was the enemy of the Israelites. The people of Nineveh were not Jews, and they hurt many Israel people. He did not want to save the enemies of Israel!

So, he decided to run away from God. He got on a boat to go to the opposite of the direction of Nineveh and tried to go far away of Nineveh. But there was a big storm and the sailors didn't know what to do. Everyone was going to die. Then, Jonah told the sailors that he had disobeyed God which was causing the storm. Jonah told them to throw him into the sea so the storm would stop. When the sailors threw him into the

water, the storm stopped.

God did not mean for Jonah to die in the sea, so he prepared a big fish to swallow him and keep him safe until he was ready to obey God because God's ways are the best. After three days, Jonah prayed and told God that he will go to Nineveh and tell them about God.

Then God had the fish take him to Nineveh and spit him out there, and when Jonah told the people of Nineveh to stop sinning, they believed in God and chose to do good! God saved the city of Nineveh through Jonah even when they were enemies of Israel!

God loves all people! God wants us to love all people, too! God wants us to act justly which means to be right and fair in our actions. God wants us to love mercy. That means he wants us to care for others, to have compassion, and to be forgiving to others even when they don't deserve it. And God wants us to walk humbly with him. That means God wants us to trust him and remember that his ways are best. God deserves these actions from us because God's ways are always the best!

Questions to discuss:

1. What is the name of the prophet in today's Bible story? (Jonah)
2. What did God ask him to do? (go to Nineveh and save them from sinning)
3. Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh? (because the people of Nineveh hurt Israel people; they were the enemies of Israel)
4. Why did God want to save Nineveh, the enemies of Israel? (Because God loves everyone!)
5. What would you do when God asks you to do something you don't like to do? (Let the children answer)

Game: "Listen to the One Behind You"

Materials Needed: Khroma, bowl, ping pong balls

1. Divide the children into 2-3 groups and have them stand in line.
2. Blindfold everyone using the khroma except the last person in the line.
3. The teacher will place ping pong balls all around the classroom.
4. Have each group place their hands on the shoulders of the person in the front. They must stick together throughout the game. The last person will tap the shoulders of the person in the front to tell them to move to the left or the right. Or tap both shoulders to stop and pick up the ball. They have to follow the tapping of the last person to move together as a group. The group with the most balls will win the game.
5. After the game, explain to the children that just as we had to listen to the person behind to find the balls, we need to always listen to God because God knows best.



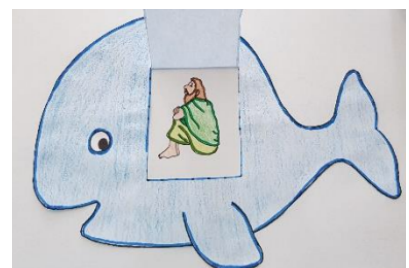
Memory Verse:

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Craft: "Jonah Learns a Lesson"

Materials Needed: color glue and scissor

1. Color the whale and cut it out.
2. Cut out the dotted lines on the whale (do not cut the top)
3. Cut out the rectangle shape of Jonah.
4. Glue Jonah behind the opening flap on a whale so that when you open the flap, you can see Jonah behind it.



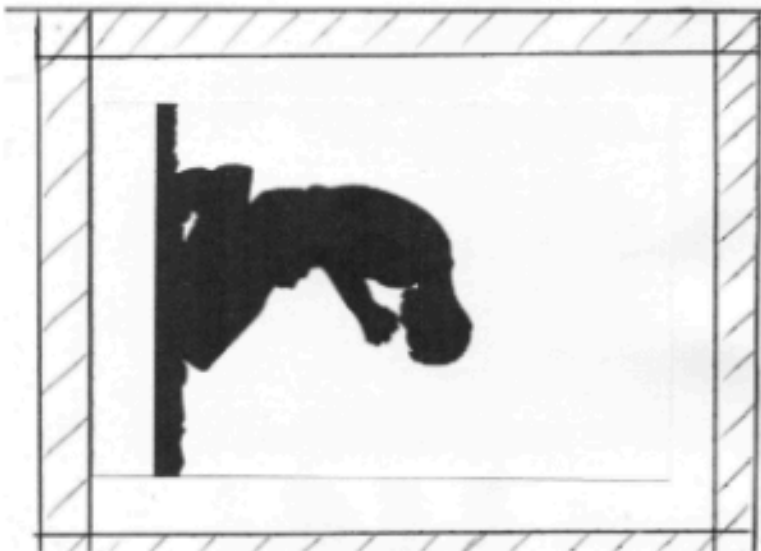
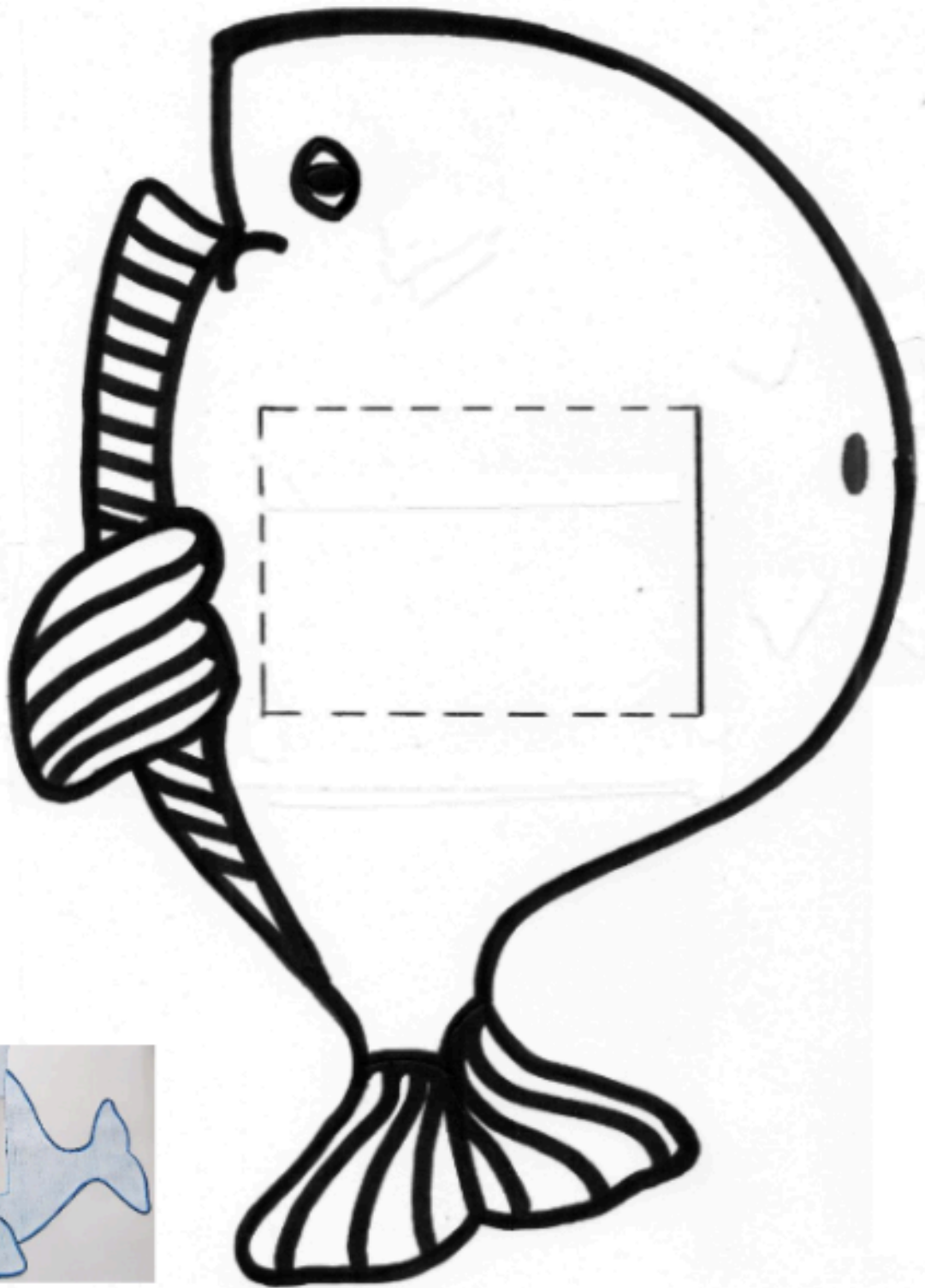
Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

Where do you turn when you need guidance? Among the many different things to which people look, only God will guide us in the best direction. If we ever have doubts about which direction to take in our lives, we can always look to Jesus for help. Thank God for his faithful direction in your life. Ask him to help you listen and be ready to act when he speaks. Great things can happen when we're open to God's direction.

Jonah Learns a Lesson



Direction:

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