

Lesson 147: Jonah Complains About God's Compassion
Jonah 3:10–4:11

Youtube Link for Teachers: <https://youtu.be/ePh2drJsW1w>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/pH5e7dDUdPw>

Worship Theme: God loves people who don't know him.

Memory Verse: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. Who Is My Master? <https://youtu.be/e4gCJBfWNTs>
2. Mercy Is Falling https://youtu.be/3Dvd4xrD_TI
3. God Never Fails Us <https://youtu.be/uVqBqBENPi4>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Eat the Baby Radish"

Materials Needed: Baby radish, strings

1. Divide the children into 2 groups and have them select a representative.
2. The two representatives will come forward and try to eat the baby radish that is hanging on a string.
3. The teacher will give them 2 minutes and the child who eats more wins the game.
4. After the game, explain to the children that although it was hard to eat the radish hanging on a string, they were still able to do it. In the same way, we may think that it is hard to love people who do not love God, but God loves everyone, even the ones who don't know him.



Introduction:

What do you think is most precious to God? People are precious to God - all people, whether or not they know him or love him. Babies, grandparents, and people from all nations are all loved by our great and mighty God. But Jonah the prophet was not able to love all people. Today, let's learn about how Jonah reacted when God saved his enemies.

Bible Story:

From the last story, we learned about how Jonah disobeyed God and tried to run away so that he did not have to go and share the good news about God to the people in Nineveh because they were enemies of Israel. But God used a big fish who swallowed Jonah to help Jonah change his mind and obey God.

When Jonah obeyed God and told the people that in 40 days God would destroy their great city because of their wickedness, they all repented and trusted God to save them! The Bible says there were more than 120,000 people in Nineveh. God was happy they repented because God loved the people in Nineveh even when they didn't know God. God loves all people and wants to save all people.

But Jonah was not happy. Jonah wanted to see God punish Nineveh. He decided to go to a place where he could see the city and see if God would destroy the city. It was hot in the desert, so God sent a vine to grow over Jonah and spare him from the hot desert sun. The shade and the breeze felt so good that Jonah fell asleep. In the early morning, God provided a worm to chew the vine and it died. When Jonah awoke, the sun was very hot and there was no vine to cool him! Jonah was even angrier than before!

God said to Jonah, "You care so much about that little vine that sprang up and withered all in one day. But you don't care at all about the whole city of people who need to know

about me! Whether you understand or not, Jonah, I love those people. I care about the great city of Nineveh.”

Have you ever wanted someone to be punished for their bad choices? Have you ever gotten mad because they were not punished but forgiven? That’s exactly how Jonah felt. But God cared far more for the people of Nineveh than Jonah could ever understand.

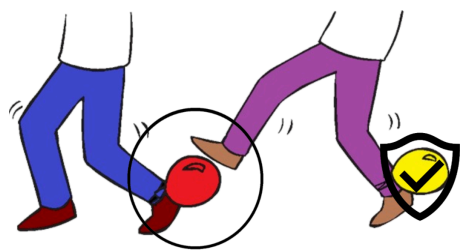
God loves us even when we don’t make right choices. God loves people who have said no to a relationship with him. God loves people who have never heard of his plans. God loves criminals and church people. And God wants to fill us with his love so that it spills out from us to everyone around us. Let’s love people who don’t know God because God loves them too!

Questions to discuss:

1. What made Jonah angry? (God forgave and saved Nineveh instead of punishing them)
2. What did God provide for Jonah when he was sitting under that hot sun to see if God would punish Nineveh? (a vine to give him shade from the sun)
3. How did Jonah react when the plant died overnight? (he was angry)
4. How did God use this to explain his love for the people of Nineveh? (if Jonah cared so much about the plant that sprouted and died overnight, how much would God care of the people of Nineveh)

Game: Pop the Balloon

Materials needed: Balloon, strings (to tie the children’s ankles)



1. Teacher will give a balloon to all the children. They will blow up the balloon and tie it around their ankle using a string given by the teacher.
2. The children use their feet to pop the balloon of other children, but they also need to protect their own balloon from the other children.
3. After the game, explain to the children that people

want to see their enemies fail and be destroyed. But God never wants to see people fail or be destroyed. Instead, God loves them and saves them, just like he saved the people of Nineveh.

Memory Verse:

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17)

Craft: “Jonah and the Vine” - Coloring Page

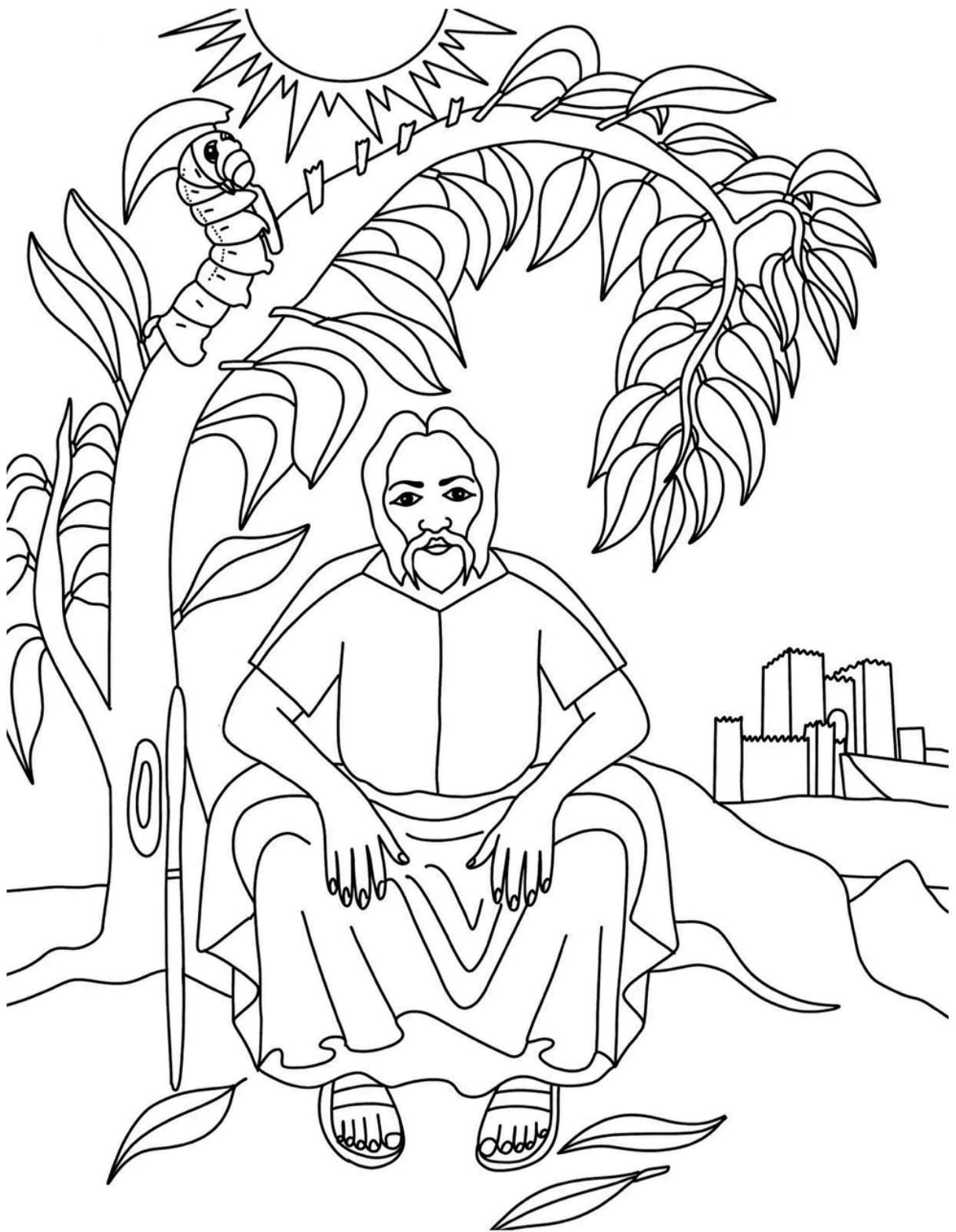
Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

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

When we show compassion for other people, we share the love that Jesus shows us. What does compassion look like to you? Maybe it means forgiving an enemy or giving to the needy. Compassion comes in many forms. And it’s a great way to spread Jesus’ love to others. What can you do to share his love through compassion? Ask God to help you see how you can be compassionate. He’ll be sure to show you.

Jonah and the Vine



Memory Verse: _____
