

DL AT HOME

Our world today struggles to accept the very idea of authority, but for those of us who have trusted in Christ and adhere to a Biblical worldview, it's very clear. God tells us over and over in His Word that obedience to Him is one important way we show our love for Him, and it will lead to God's best for our lives. This week we will look at a man who struggled mightily to do what God asked of him.

WEEK OF JUNE 21, 2020

Jonah 1 – 3

Know Right:	Jonah makes choices about obedience.
Think Right:	"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word." Psalm 119:9
Do Right:	I will obey God.
Feel Right:	I can feel strong when I obey God.

Parent Preparation

- Pray:** Ask God to reveal His truth to your child(ren). Pray that they will desire to live a life that is honoring to God no matter the cost. Also pray specifically for your child(ren) if they have never made a decision to trust Christ as their Savior. Pray this will be the week they make that decision!
- Read the Lesson Summary: Jonah makes choices about obedience**
Because of God's grace and mercy, He sent His prophet Jonah to warn the Assyrians, one of Israel's enemies. When the resentful Jonah disobeyed, God taught Jonah a lesson through His power over the sea and its creatures. Jonah finally obeyed, the Assyrians repented, and they were spared from destruction. From Jonah's disobedience, we can be convicted to always obey God.
- Prepare for the Discover Time Hands-On Activity:** To follow along with the video, prepare for the first option. If teaching the lesson yourself, choose the activity that best fits your family.
- Creative Ideas:**
 - Start the lesson inside a large "fish" and discuss how and why Jonah was stuck there. A tent works great.
 - Show a satellite view of Nineveh using Google maps.



Discover Time Hands-on Activities

Option 1 (featured on the video): PB&J Sandwich

1. You will need: supplies to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or another easy sandwich/snack of your choice.
2. One family member should be the “expert chef”, who will teach the others how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The others are the listeners, who must “listen to and obey” the instructor.
3. The instructor must not touch any of the materials. He/she can only give instructions verbally. The listener must obey the instructor for each step, following the directions carefully as they are given.
4. After they have successfully made a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, cut it in half and share it.

Option 2: Change Jar

1. You will need: a flat surface (sidewalk, driveway, tarp) with a defined border (use tape or rope to outline a large square) and a jar of change (have variety of pennies and silver coins). *(If you don't have spare change, use LEGO bricks, blocks, or colored rocks in a variety of colors.)*
2. Dump out your change jar - spread the coins everywhere.
3. Your kids need to race to pick up all of the pennies as fast as possible. HOWEVER, there's a catch: they cannot touch any of the silver coins (even with their feet!)
4. Will your kids be able to **obey** and only touch the pennies? Emphasize this idea of “obeying” as they race to pick up the pennies.

Option 3: Preschool-friendly: Boat ride!

1. You will need: a “boat” (use a rubber raft or a large cardboard box), a large “fish” (use a children’s play tunnel or a sheet over a small table) and a water gun or spray bottle with water.
2. Say: Let’s pretend we are Jonah! Do you remember what Jonah did when God told him to go to Nineveh? He disobeyed and went the opposite way! He bought a ticket on a boat going to Tarshish!
3. Have them get in the boat and gently sway back and forth as if they are sailing.
4. Say: What happened while they were on their way to Tarshish? (God sent a storm!)
5. Have children rock back and forth. Squirt water into the air.
6. Say: The storm got worse and worse! The sailors finally threw Jonah into the sea.
7. Have the children jump out of the boat and get inside the fish.
8. Say: What happened when Jonah was thrown into the sea? (He got swallowed by a big fish!) He was inside the big fish three days! Jonah finally obeyed God and went to Nineveh. Jonah could have saved himself a lot of trouble if he would have just obeyed God right away. When should we obey God? (Right away)

Bible Lesson

This lesson will be taught on the video. The basic lesson plan is included below if you'd like to review it with your child or want to teach it yourself.

Pray: Ask your children if they remember how King Hezekiah prayed. *(Confidently) Have one of your children boldly stand and open in prayer, asking God to teach each person something new today.*

Find It: Is Jonah in the New Testament or Old Testament? (OT) *Have a race to verbally recite the books of the OT up to the book of Jonah. Have children open their Bibles. Take time to teach that the reference is the verse's "address" in the Bible. The big number is the chapter and the little number is the verse.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

So far this quarter, we've learned about how God healed Naaman's leprosy and how God answered Hezekiah's prayer. Today, we'll learn about how God worked through a man named Jonah. Jonah was one of God's prophets in Israel during the time of the kings. Do you remember what a prophet is? (A prophet is someone who gives people God's message about what will happen in the future) Jonah was a prophet, but Jonah was not like any of the prophets we've learned about. We're going to find out why!

Open the Bible

God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh

Read Jonah 1:1-2

Recap: Nineveh was the capital of Assyria (*for older children: modern day Mosul, Iraq*). The people of Nineveh were Israel's enemies, and they did very cruel and evil things. God wanted Jonah to go and tell the people of Nineveh about the one true God and to warn them that, if they didn't repent, God would destroy them. If you were Jonah, what would you do? What did Jonah do?

Jonah disobeys God and runs away

Read Jonah 1:3

Recap: What was Jonah thinking? Did he really think he could run away from God? Can anyone actually run away from obeying God? (No) Why? (Because God is everywhere!)

Jonah sinned and disobeyed God. Can you think of a time when you've disobeyed God? Maybe you told a lie, bullied a kid at school, watched something bad on your computer or phone, didn't obey your parents, or even cheated during our Discover Time today. What do you think happened when Jonah tried to run away from God?

God sends a storm

Read Jonah 1:4-5b

Recap: Because Jonah disobeyed God, God sent a terrible storm! The sailors on the ship were afraid, and they called out to their make-believe gods who couldn't help them.

Gospel

Sin always has consequences. In Romans 6:23, we learn that the consequence of our sin is being separated from God forever. But because of God's great love, He has given us the gift of Jesus, so our sin can be forgiven.

God sent the dangerous storm because of Jonah's disobedience. While the sailors were crying out to their false gods and throwing the ship's cargo overboard, what was Jonah doing? Let's keep reading to find out.

Jonah is sleeping

Read Jonah 1:5c-6

Recap: The captain couldn't believe that Jonah was sleeping! The captain didn't know Jonah's God was the one true God, but he ordered Jonah to pray so maybe they wouldn't all die.

The sailors find out it is all Jonah's fault

Read Jonah 1:7-9

Recap: Now the sailors knew that this terrible storm was all Jonah's fault. He had deliberately disobeyed God. They also learned that Jonah's God, the one true God, had made the sea and the land. How did this make the sailors feel? (They were afraid!)

Older children: Do you truly understand how powerful God is? He controls the sea, the sky, and the wind. God decides what is right and good, and He will do whatever is best for us. And even in times of consequence for our sin, He still loves us.

Jonah has to go

Paraphrase of Jonah 1:10-16:

The sailors knew they were in serious danger, and they were terrified. They couldn't believe Jonah had tried to run away from the one true God. They finally realized that to stop the storm, they would need to throw Jonah overboard, even though they knew it would probably kill him.

After Jonah was thrown overboard, God stopped the storm and the sailors believed in God and worshiped Him. God is so powerful that even when we disobey Him, He can turn it into something good. How did God turn Jonah's disobedience into good? (The sailors now believed in God!) But what happened to Jonah?

Older children: Notice how God turned something "bad" from man's perspective into something "good."
Challenge your children to see life through a God-sized, big-picture lens.

A great fish swallows Jonah

Read Jonah 1:17

Recap: What swallowed Jonah? (A great fish) How many days and nights did Jonah spend in the fish's belly? (Three) What do you think it was like in the fish's belly? Wet? Dark? Stinky? Uncomfortable? I bet it was awful! What do you think Jonah did while he was inside the great fish?

Jonah prays

Older children: *have a dramatic reader read Jonah's prayer*

Read Jonah 2:1-9

Younger children:

Paraphrase of Jonah 2:1-9:

While Jonah was in the great fish, he prayed to God. He told God that he knew God would save him. Even though Jonah had been very disobedient, he still trusted God. And then what happened?

God commands the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land

Read Jonah 2:10

Recap: God is so powerful that if He tells a fish to vomit, it does! He showed great mercy to Jonah by giving him another chance. Do you think Jonah will obey God?

God repeats His command to Jonah

Read Jonah 3:1-3

Recap: Did Jonah obey God this time? (Yes)

The Ninevites believe and repent

Paraphrase of Jonah 3:4-9:

Jonah told the Ninevites that God would destroy them in forty days. What do you think the Ninevites did? (They believed God, and they repented of their sin) What does “repent” mean? It means the Ninevites stopped doing things their own evil way, believed in God, and started doing things God’s way. Do you think God gave the Ninevites another chance, too?

God does not destroy the Ninevites

Read Jonah 3:10

Recap: God did not destroy the Ninevites because they believed God, repented of their evil ways, and started to obey Him.

Conclusion:

The Bible tells us that we have all disobeyed God. The punishment for sin is being separated from an incredible relationship with God, both now and for eternity. But God is loving, and He does not want anyone to experience the punishment for sin. This is why He sent His one and only perfect Son to take the punishment for our sin, to give us the opportunity to be with Him forever. Why was this necessary; why can’t there be sin in heaven?

There is no sin in heaven. That is because God hates sin, even though He loves those who sin. That is why He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. How can Jesus save us from our sin? First, we need to admit that we have sinned. Then we need to believe in Jesus as the one true Savior of our sin. Once we do that, we need to make a personal choice to trust and believe in Him to save us from the punishment of our sin (Acts 16:31). This is a personal choice only you can make. *Allow time for more discussion.*

If we already believe in Jesus as our Savior, we need to continue to obey Him. Not because we have to, but because we want to. How do we know what to obey? We need to read and study our Bible, and then do what it says.

Do Right and Feel Right:

What are you going to do with this lesson this week? How can you choose to obey God, even though it may look difficult? It could be just obeying and respecting your parents like God wants you to. Or, it could be admitting you are watching something bad on the internet and asking God and your parents to help you do the right thing. Or it could be loving a friend that is hard to love. Let’s take a few minutes to think about how you will apply this lesson to your life this week. This lesson isn’t just about Jonah, it’s about you. How are you going to be obedient this week? *Allow children some quiet time to think about how they can apply the lesson.*

Elementary Review Questions

1. What did God command Jonah to do? (Go to Nineveh, and warn the Ninevites that God would destroy them in forty days because of their evil, wicked ways)
2. What happened when Jonah disobeyed God? (God sent a terrible storm, the sailors had to throw Jonah overboard, and a great fish swallowed Jonah)
3. What happened to the storm when the sailors threw Jonah overboard? (God made the sea calm)
4. What did the sailors do as soon as the sea became calm? (They feared God and worshiped Him)
5. What did Jonah do when he was inside the fish? (He prayed to God)
6. What happened when Jonah obeyed God and told the Ninevites that God was going to destroy them? (The Ninevites believed God and repented)
7. Did God destroy the Ninevites? (No) Why not? (Because they believed Him and repented)
8. Have you believed in Jesus to save you from your sin?

Preschool Review Questions

1. Did God tell Jonah to go to the evil city of Nineveh? (Yes)
2. What was he supposed to do there? (Tell them about God)
3. Did Jonah obey or disobey God? (He disobeyed)
4. What happened on the boat after Jonah disobeyed God? (God sent a terrible storm)
5. What swallowed Jonah after the sailors threw him out of the boat? (A great fish)
6. What happened to the storm after the sailors threw Jonah overboard? (God stopped it, and the sea became calm)
7. When the sea became calm, did the sailors believe in God? (Yes, and they worshiped Him)
8. What did Jonah do when he was inside the fish? (He prayed to God)
9. When you pray, does God hear you? (Yes)

Songs Used in Today's Video

“God is Alive” by Fee, *Hope Rising*

“I Believe in Jesus” by Hillsong Kids, *Super Strong God*

“Romans 16:19” by Crazy Praise, *Crazy Praise Vol. 2*

Preschool Songs

“King of the Jungle” by Troy and Genie Nilsson. *Christmas Animals Super CD*

“B-I-B-L-E Bible” by Singin’ Praise Tots, *Reach Up High*

Parents – we strongly encourage you to support these artists by purchasing their music and videos, so they can continue producing outstanding music that leads kids in praise and worship! You can find most songs on iTunes, on the artist's website, and many lyric videos can be found on worshiphousekids.com