

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Jonah's Call and Flight

Last week we learned that Obadiah, God's prophet, was giving Edom bad news. The people of Edom were proud. Edom did harmful things to the Israelites. God punished the people of Edom.

Jonah 1-2

Read the Bible

READ: Jonah 1:1-17 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse

We know that we have
come to know God
if we obey his commands.
(1 John 2:3 NVI)

Begin With Prayer

Jonah was a man who was a messenger for God. God spoke to Jonah and he would tell the people what God said. One day, God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to an evil city called Nineveh. God wanted Jonah to tell the people that God was not happy with them. (Jonah 1:1-2)

Jonah heard what God said, but he didn't want to give Nineveh the message. Have you ever disobeyed your parents? Have you ever disobeyed God?

Goals

1. Understand that Jonah was God's messenger.
2. Recognize that God wanted Jonah to tell Nineveh to repent.
3. Learn that Jonah disobeyed God.
4. Understand that God sent a storm.

The Ninevites were the enemies of Israel. Nineveh was in Assyria. (Genesis 10:8-11) Jonah did not want to preach to them. Jonah found a ship in Joppa. He jumped on the ship. The ship was going the opposite way, so, Jonah tried to run away from God. (Jonah 1:3)

Is there any place we can hide from God? (Psalm 139:1-12) No. God knew exactly where Jonah was. He knew all the time. God created a big storm that made the sea very choppy and rough. The men in the boat were terrified! Do you know where Jonah was? He was asleep! How could he sleep at a time like this?! (Jonah 1:4-6)

The men found Jonah and asked him to pray to God because they were praying, too. The men asked Jonah what he had done that caused God to be so mad. (Jonah 1:7-8)

Jonah explained that His God was the only true God and He was the maker of the sea. The men were frightened. They asked Jonah what to

Jonah's Call and Flight — Bible Facts

1. Jonah was God's prophet.
2. The people of Nineveh were enemies of Israel.
3. God was not happy with the people of Nineveh.
4. Jonah went to Tarshish.

do to make the storm stop. Jonah told them to throw him off the ship into the water. (Jonah 1:9-12) Sometimes we think sin does not hurt anyone but us. We can see in the story of Jonah that his disobedience affected all the men who were on the boat with him.

The men tried to row back to shore and throw over heavy boxes. Still, the storm continued. (Jonah 1:13) Finally, the men threw Jonah off the ship. Guess what? All of a sudden the storm stopped. It was completely clear and calm! The men all thanked God and made promises to Him. (Jonah 1:14-16)

Where was Jonah? God made a big fish swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the big fish for three days and nights. (Jonah 1:17)

While he was in the belly of the fish, Jonah told God that he was sorry for running away. He thanked God for saving his life. (Jonah 2)

Review

1. **Who was Jonah?** (Jonah was God's prophet.)
2. **Who were the people of Nineveh?** (The people of Nineveh were enemies of Israel.)
3. **What did God tell Jonah to tell the people?** (God was not happy with the people of Nineveh.)
4. **What did Jonah do?** (Jonah went to Tarshish.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God sent Jesus because He loves us. (John 3:16) He wants us to be with Him forever in heaven. If we invite Jesus to be a part of our lives He will come. (Romans 10:9-10) If you would like to know more about inviting Jesus into your heart, talk to your teacher.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to show us He loves us.
3. Ask God to help you obey Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to obey God.

Application

Jonah was God's messenger. God wanted Jonah to tell Nineveh to repent. The Ninevites were the enemies of Israel. Jonah did not want to preach to them, so Jonah disobeyed God. He got on a ship going in the opposite direction. God sent a storm to get Jonah's attention.

Planning for Next Week

Jonah Obeys — Jonah 3

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Jonah 1:1-17 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Bring an empty box and let the kids pretend it is a boat.

Jonah was a man who was a messenger for God. God wanted Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh that God was not happy with them. (Jonah 1:1-2) Jonah heard what God said but he didn't want to give Nineveh the message. Have you ever disobeyed your parents? Have you ever disobeyed God?

The Ninevites were the enemies of Israel. Jonah did not want to preach to them. Jonah found a ship in Joppa. He jumped on the ship. The ship was going the opposite way. So, Jonah tried to run away from God. (Jonah 1:3)

Is there any place we can hide from God? (Psalm 139:1-12) No. God knew exactly where Jonah was. He knew all the time. God created a big storm that made the sea very choppy and rough. The men in the boat were terrified! Do you know where Jonah was? He was asleep! How could he sleep at a time like this?! (Jonah 1:4-6)

The men woke Jonah up. Then, Jonah explained to the men on the ship that His God was the only true God and He was the maker of the sea. The men were frightened. They asked Jonah what to do to make the storm stop. Jonah told them to throw him off the ship into the water. They didn't want to, but they did. As soon as they did the storm stopped.

God made a big fish swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the big fish for three days and nights.

God sent Jesus to show us how much He really loves us. God wants us to obey Him. The Bible says, "We know that we have come to know God if we obey his commands. (1 John 2:3 NIV)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to show us He loves us.
3. Ask God to help you obey Him.

Memory verse for younger children

We know that we have come to know God if we obey his commands. 1 John 2:3

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Use construction paper to cut out fish shapes. Write one word of the verse on each fish. Ask the children to put the verse in order. Make a set for each child and some for those who are absent.

•**Test your memory** — Use construction paper and cut out a man, clouds, lightning, a boat, and a fish. Use a poster board and color the water blue. Use tape and add the boat. Then attach the man to the boat. Next attach clouds and lightning. Draw the man in water. Attach the fish.

•**Taste activity** — Bring blue Jell-O for a snack.

Bring cheese crackers in the shape of fish.

Bring a drink that is blue in color.

•**Think about it** — Jonah did not want to preach to the Ninevites because they were his enemies. Talk about how we must tell everyone about God's love.

God knew where Jonah was at all times. He sent a storm to get Jonah's attention. Talk about how God knows where we are at all times.

God sent the storm to get Jonah's attention. Talk about how God is the Creator and how the wind and the water obey Him.

•**Touch activity** — If you have drums make sounds like storms. You can tap with your fingers and also rub the drums to make sounds like storms.

Make rain sticks. You can put foil in a tube and add beans, rice, lentils, dried peas, or uncooked popcorn to make the rain stick. See the internet for ideas.

Watch "Jonah, A Veggie Tales Movie."

•**Run and play** — Bring an empty box and let the kids pretend it is a boat.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to obey.

•**Sing** — Sing, "Obedience," "Trust and Obey," or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the fish with the verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

We know that
we have
come to know
God
if we obey His
commands.
1 John 2:3

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

sent a

storm

Word Search

R W E R H T C D E J P N D Y D
F J O N A H F R H S I F P E F
N S S P A H F E S R E R Y O B
L E S W A E N G P P T O R B G
M I L U E V T N A S I G D S N
N M K O C E T E E T S R E E D
D E E S T N D S S V O T P I E
S N S M N I H S P G P F P M Y
N E O T O N D E B E P D O E A
E M R O T S O M M T O I T N R
E I E D G P F P I H S A S E P
S T A D H E D P E H S T C D K
H B N K H S I H S R A T R O T
O G T F J R O T S E R F U B B

JONAH

NINEVEH

MESSENGER

ENEMIES

OPPOSITE

TARSHISH

SHIP

STORM

PRAYED

THREW

STOPPED

FISH

Word Search

R W E R H T C D E J P N D Y D
 F J O N A H F R H S I F P E F
 N S S P A H F E S R E R Y O B
 L E S W A E N G P P T O R B G
 M I L U E V T N A S I G D S N
 N M K O C E T E E T S R E E D
 D E E S T N D S S V O T P I E
 S N S M N I H S P G P F P M Y
 N E O T O N D E B E P D O E A
 E M R O T S O M M T O I T N R
 E I E D G P F P I H S A S E P
 S T A D H E D P E H S T C D K
 H B N K H S I H S R A T R O T
 O G T F J R O T S E R F U B B

JONAH

NINEVEH

MESSENGER

ENEMIES

OPPOSITE

TARSHISH

SHIP

STORM

PRAYED

THREW

STOPPED

FISH

Word Search

F N B T E L L R G B T F R
C M P K D L B S F G C R C
C S K S R M F M P S K F B
F L S T O R M K B C N M G
B R M G T D F S H I P B D
G S F C S N H C F M S D H
P E N E M I E S F M D S N
B F S J B D G J O N A H G
D P G H F P K B T D F S R
S R K C D T M G F I S H D
D N I N E V E H F T M F S
C M P R B M D K C H N M S

JONAH

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FISH

Word Search

F N B T E L L R G B T F R
C M P K D L B S F G C R C
C S K S R M F M P S K F B
F L **S T O R M** K B C N M G
B R M G T D F **S H I P** B D
G S F C S N H C F M S D H
P **E N E M I E S** F M D S N
B F S J B D G **J O N A H** G
D P G H F P K B T D F S R
S R K C D T M G **F I S H** D
D **N I N E V E H** F T M F S
C M P R B M D K C H N M S

JONAH

NINEVEH

ENEMIES

SHIP

STORM

FISH

Anagram

NWOK

ECMO

OGD

EBYO

SIH

SOAMMCND

OHJN

HAONJ

YSOEIDB

Anagram

KNOW

COME

GOD

OBEY

HIS

COMMANDS

JOHN

JONAH

DISOBEY