

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

Nineveh Restored

Last week we learned that Jonah was inside a fish for three days and nights. Jonah prayed. God made the fish spit Jonah onto dry land. Jonah was near Nineveh. God told him to preach to the people of Nineveh. Jonah obeyed God. When the people of Nineveh heard Jonah preach they stopped doing wrong.

Jonah 4

Read the Bible

READ: Jonah 4:1-11 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse

While we were still sinners
Christ died for us.
(Romans 5:8 NIV)

Begin With Prayer

You may remember that when the people of Nineveh heard Jonah preach they put on rough clothes and did not even eat food for several days. They proclaimed a citywide fast (did not eat) and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did this, even the king. (Jonah 3:4-5)

The king also told the people to stop doing wrong and maybe God would have mercy on them. (Jonah 3:6-9)

“God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He did change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn't do.” (Jonah 3:10 NIV)

Goals

1. Understand that the people of Nineveh stopped doing wrong.
2. Recognize that Jonah was angry that God forgave the people of Nineveh.
3. Learn that God is gracious, tender, kind, and full of love.
4. Understand that God cared about the people of Nineveh.

Great mercy and grace had been demonstrated by God for the people of Nineveh. God forgave the people of Nineveh when they repented (stopped doing wrong), confessed their sins (told God what they did wrong), and asked Him for forgiveness (told God they were sorry). God will forgive our sins if we do the same. (1 John 1:9)

Jonah had been successful in his preaching. The people heard and changed because they heard his message. Do you think that Jonah was excited? No, he wasn't.

Remember the people of Nineveh were the enemies of Israel. Jonah had been successful and now his enemies were not going to be destroyed. Jonah was so angry that he wanted to die. He told God that was the reason he had run away to Tarshish. Jonah said, “I knew that you are gracious. You are tender and kind. You are slow to get angry. You are full of love. (Jonah 4:1-3 NIV)

Nineveh Restored — Bible Facts

1. The people of Nineveh changed.
2. Jonah got angry and went outside the city to see what would happen.
3. God told Jonah he was wrong to be angry.
4. God told Jonah that there were 120, 000 people in Nineveh who did not know right from wrong.

God told Jonah that he was wrong to feel the way he did. Jonah left and sat down east of the city and waited to see what would happen to the city. He used branches for shade and waited. God made a vine grow up over Jonah and gave him more shade. Jonah was very happy with the vine. (Jonah 4:4-6)

The next day God sent a worm to chew up the vine so that it would dry up. When the sun came up it was hot. It made Jonah weak. Jonah was angry that the vine died and he wanted to die. (Jonah 4:7-8)

But God asked Jonah, "Do you have any right to be angry about what happened to the vine?" (Jonah 4:9 NIV)

Jonah answered that he was right to be angry that the vine died. God told Jonah he did not take care of it. Jonah had not done anything to make the vine grow and he was angry that it died.

Then God told Jonah that Nineveh had more than 120,000 people. They were God's creation. God said, "They can't tell right from wrong." Then God asked Jonah, "Shouldn't I show concern for that great city?" (Jonah 4:10-11 NIV) God was gracious and merciful to Nineveh. He has shown us His grace and mercy by sending Jesus. The Bible says that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8)

Review

1. What did the people of Nineveh do when they heard Jonah preach? (The people of Nineveh changed.)
2. What did Jonah do after his success? (Jonah got angry and went outside the city to see what would happen.)
3. What did God do? (God told Jonah he was wrong to be angry.)
4. Then, what did God do? (God told Jonah that there were 120, 000 people in Nineveh who did not know right from wrong.)

Do You Know Jesus?

When we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8) God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us. (John 3:16) If we believe with our hearts and confess with our mouth we can be saved. (Romans 10:9-10) If you would like to know more about being saved (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 die for us while we were still sinners.
3. Ask God to help you stop sinning and do what is right.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to stop sinning and do what is right.

Application

When the people of Nineveh heard Jonah preach, they stopped doing wrong. God saw that the people had repented and forgave them. Jonah was angry that God forgave the people of Nineveh. Jonah knew that God is gracious, tender, kind, and full of love but he did not want his enemies to be forgiven. God told Jonah he was wrong to feel the way he did. God cared about the people of Nineveh. He cares for us, too. The Bible says, that "while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NIV)

Planning for Next Week

The People Turn to God — Micah 6-7

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Jonah 4:1-11 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

•**Teachers:** Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh. Bring items that show the different ways we can tell others about Jesus. (Phone, computer, printed materials, etc.)

When the people of Nineveh heard Jonah preach, they stopped doing wrong. God saw that the people had repented and forgave them.

Great mercy and grace had been demonstrated by God for the people of Nineveh. God forgave the people of Nineveh when they repented (stopped doing wrong), confessed their sins (told God what they did wrong), and asked Him for forgiveness (told God they were sorry). God will forgive our sins if we do the same. (1 John 1:9)

Jonah had been successful in his preaching. The people heard and changed because they heard his message. Do you think that Jonah was excited? No, he wasn't.

Remember the people of Nineveh were the enemies of Israel. Jonah had been successful and now his enemies were not going to be destroyed. Jonah was so angry that he wanted to die.

Jonah went outside the city to see what would happen. God sent a vine to give Jonah shade. But then God sent a worm to cause it to die. Jonah was angry the vine died. God told Jonah that he had not cared for the vine nor done anything to make it grow. God told Jonah that Nineveh had more than 120,000 people that did not know right from wrong.

God was gracious and merciful to Nineveh. He has shown us His grace and mercy by sending Jesus.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinner.
3. Ask God to help you stop sinning (do what is right).

Memory verse for younger children

While we were still sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Make a vine with construction paper. Make a stem and leaves. Glue the vine onto another piece of construction paper. Write the memory verse at the bottom.

•**Test your memory** — Create a the trunk of a vine on a piece of poster board. Cut out leaves ahead of time. Write key phrases related to the story on the leaves. As you tell the story add the leaves to the vine. Allow the children to retell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Bring cupcakes. Use sprinkles in the shape of leaves to decorate.

•**Think about it** — Jonah preached and Nineveh repented. Talk about the reason Nineveh repented.

Is there someone you can tell about God’s mercy and grace. Talk about the importance of sharing your faith.

The people of Nineveh changed. God saw the change. God forgave them. Talk about God’s mercy and grace.

•**Touch activity** — Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh. Bring items that show the different ways we can tell others about Jesus. (Phone, computer, printed materials, etc.)

Decorate balloons to look like gourds.

•**Watch** “Jonah, A Veggie Tales Movie.”

•**Run and play** — Jonah told the people of Nineveh that in 40 days God would destroy them. Divide the children in pairs. Have the children race to do 40 frog leaps.

Divide the children into small groups of four. One child will be Jonah. The other three will pretend to be the vine that provides the shade by standing together and stretching their arms over “Jonah.” Then combine the small groups to make four groups. The four groups form a square. Each team must form one side of the square. Have someone call out “change.” Each team must have one member walk to an opposite corner and move over one space so that they are in the corner. After members have changed several times, have the person calling out say, “shade.” The small groups must form into a vine that provides shade with one child sitting down to represent Jonah. Start over again and move faster.

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

•**Sing** — Sing, “Change My Heart, O God,” “I Am Resolved,” 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 vine handout 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

While we were
still sinners
Christ died
for us.

Romans 5:8

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Jonah

preached.

Nineveh

repented.

Word Search

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

JONAH

REPENTED

ANGRY

SHADE

PREACHED

SUCCESSFUL

DIE

WORM

NINEVEH

CHANGED

VINE

CONCERN

Word Search

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

JONAH

PREACHED

NINEVEH

REPENTED

SUCCESSFUL

CHANGED

ANGRY

DIE

VINE

SHADE

WORM

CONCERN

Word Search

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

JONAH

PREACH

NINEVEH

CHANGED

VINE

WORM

Word Search

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

JONAH

PREACH

NINEVEH

CHANGED

VINE

WORM

Anagram

HILWE

TILLS

RIESSNN

THIRSC

EDDI

FRO SU

SONARM

HOANJ

VHIEENN

Anagram

WHILE

STILL

SINNERS

CHRIST

DIED

FOR US

ROMANS

JONAH

NINEVEH