

Jonah

A Study in Obedience and Attitude

Lesson 6



Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum - Summer 2008

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

Lesson 6

Jonah's Anger

Scripture References

Jonah 4:1-5

Lesson Goals

Understand that God loves us.

Understand that God wants us to love others.

Memory Verse

Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we must love each other.

1 John 4:11 (CEV)

“God saw what they did. They stopped doing what was evil. So he took pity on them. He didn't destroy them as he had said he would.” (Jonah 3:10 NIRV)

Who are those verses talking about? Nineveh! What do you remember from the last lesson? What did Nineveh do? When Jonah finally obeyed God and went to Nineveh, he told them that God was going to destroy their city. The people of Nineveh believed that God would do what He said He would do and they stopped doing the evil things they had been doing. Because they stopped doing bad things, God didn't destroy them. So that's exactly what God did! God, the one true God, the Creator of the Universe saw what Nineveh did. He saw that they stopped doing the evil things they had been doing. And God took pity on Nineveh. Nineveh, the city that should have been destroyed because of its great sin, was spared.

Jonah had deserved death, too, in the belly of a big fish. But He cried out to God and God took pity on him, as well. Jonah wasn't the only one to receive a second chance from God!

So, everything ended well? This **should** be the happy ending to the story of Jonah, God's prophet, but the story doesn't end here. After Jonah and Nineveh both received second chances from God, Jonah became very upset and angry!

Angry? Why in the world would Jonah be angry? Do you remember that Jonah never really wanted to go to Nineveh in the first place. In fact, he didn't go until God got his attention in the belly of a big fish! And even now, Jonah's attitude stunk! Jonah was angry. He didn't like those Ninevites! He didn't want them to have a second chance. Jonah prayed, “Lord, isn't this exactly what I thought would happen when I was still at home? That's why I was so quick to run away to Tarshish.” (Jonah 4:2a NIRV)

Jonah continued praying, “I knew that you are gracious. You are tender and kind. You are slow to get angry. You are full of love. You are a God who takes pity on people. You don't want to destroy them.” (Jonah 4:2b NIRV) Jonah knew and understood what God is

Application

“Once we were God's enemies. But we have been brought back to him because his Son has died for us.” (Romans 5:10 NIRV)

We don't deserve a second chance. We deserve death because of our sin. But God offers us a second chance at life. He offers it to all of us.

“God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. **Anyone** who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIRV)

Isn't that wonderful news? God offers all of us a second chance. Will you accept it today?

If you have accepted Him and been born again, you are enjoying that second chance. What will you do with it? Will you be selfish and have a bad attitude like Jonah, or will you share God's kindness with others? He wants you to go and tell. And He wants you to tell everyone, even your enemies!



like. He was willing to experience God's kindness and love for himself, but he wasn't willing for it to be offered to his enemies the Ninevites. Jonah pouted, telling God that he would rather die than see God give his enemies a second chance! How selfish!

God spoke to Jonah, “Do you have any right to be angry?” (Jonah 4:4 NIRV) Jonah had no reason to pout. He had no reason to be mean. He had no reason to be angry. But instead of asking for God's forgiveness, instead of caring about his enemies the way God did, Jonah left the city. He went out towards the east of the city and he sat down. He found some branches and put them over his head and there he sat, in the shade. He waited to see if God would destroy Nineveh.

Review Questions:

- What did God do when the Ninevites stopped doing bad things? (He took pity on them and gave them a second chance.)
- Is that the end of the story? (No!)
- What happened next? (Jonah became angry.)
- What did Jonah do? (Jonah talked to God and then left Nineveh.)
- Where did Jonah go? (Outside of the city, to the east)
- What did Jonah do there? (He sat in the shade waiting to see what God would do to Nineveh.)

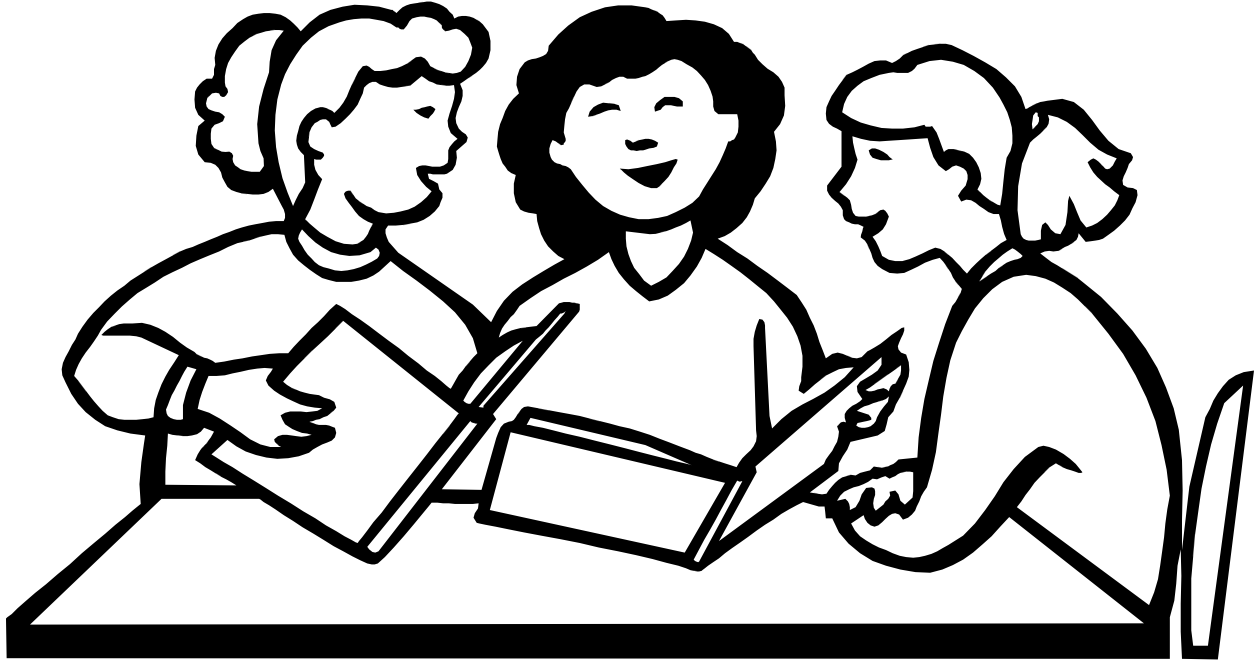
Preparing for Lesson 7

A Vine Versus the People
Jonah 4:6-11

Learning Activities

- Share object lesson about hate, attitudes, forgiveness, etc.
- Make “Compassion Bookmarks” or door hangers. Read through Jonah 4:1-5. Illustrate the bookmark with “God is” and fill in with God’s characteristics and explained by Jonah.
- Make cardboard sandals or decorate plain flip flops. On each sandal, write “I will follow God.” Talk about all the places Jonah walked. Take this as another opportunity to review the story with your students.
- Make paper bag puppets of Jonah. Encourage your students to use their puppets to retell the story.
- Make branches. Cover a cardboard lean-to and use it to re-tell the lesson. Be sure to save it for next week!
- Don’t forget to prepare for your open house in a few weeks. Schedule extra play practice if necessary.
- **A Deeper Look** - Read 1 John 4:7-21. Review the memory verse from Lesson 2, John 14:15. Talk about how love is expressed. Is it simply a feeling? Is it hand holding or kissing? Talk about what love really is.

Memory Verse



Dear friends,
since God loved us this much,
we must love each other.

1 John 4:11 (CEV)

Word Fun

Draw a line from "God" to all the words Jonah used to describe Him.

angry

gracious

kind

selfish

GOD

full of love

tender

mean

take pity

slow to anger

destroys

hateful

Jonah's Anger

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

full of love

God

kind

slow to anger

Jonah

gracious

tender

take pity

prayer

Jonah's Anger

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

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