



Lesson  
**26**

1st-4th

# JONAH & THE BIG FISH

February 21 & 22

## GOD FORGIVES



### LESSON GOAL:

**Background:** Jonah was a prophet who God told to go to Nineveh and tell the people He was going to destroy them if they didn't stop doing wrong things. Jonah hated the Ninevites and didn't want to go so he kept running away on a ship. Eventually, God caused a storm and Jonah had to be thrown overboard to save the other people. A big fish swallowed Jonah and he prayed to God while inside. After three days, the fish spit him out and Jonah went to Nineveh. The people listened to Jonah, turned from their sin and God forgave them.

**Lesson Goal:** For kids to understand that God forgave Jonah even when he ran away and used Jonah as part of his plan to forgive the Ninevites. God forgives us, too, and wants us to seek Him even when we make mistakes.

**Jonah 1-3**



### KEY VERSE:

The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth."

**Proverbs 2:6, NIRV**

### MISSION FOCUS:

#### SALT

This month's missions focus is SALT – Serving And Loving Teachers. Teachers pour so much into their students, and we want to encourage them just like God encourages us.

As part of our partnership with ACTS, we will create cookie, muffin, and donut cutouts for their March Teacher Conference. Kids will write encouraging words on the cutouts and help string them into garlands to decorate teachers' spaces for the conference. These small acts of kindness will help remind teachers they are seen, valued, and appreciated.



**THEME FOR THIS SERIES:**  
The Arrogant King

5:45-6:10pm  
8:45-9:10am  
10:45-11:10am

## CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.

### **SAY:**

I'm so glad to see you today, *(insert child/parent name)*!

Grab today's **Lesson Card**. Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and leave your card there as a bookmark. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm  
9:10-9:25am  
11:10-11:25am

## EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



### **DISCUSS: God forgives**

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.

### **SAY:**

Let's take turns sharing three words about our week. I'll go first!  
*Share your three words then invite the next child to share.*

### **SAY:**

Today, we are learning about how **God forgives**. This story comes from the Bible in **Jonah 1:1-3 & 2:2**. Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?

### **DO:**

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



## CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



### SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

**1. Who was our story about today?**

God, Jonah, & the Ninevites

**2. What was the problem?**

God told Jonah, the prophet, to go to Nineveh to tell them God's plan for them, but Jonah didn't listen to God and went his own way because Jonah hated the Ninevites.

**3. What did God do?**

When Jonah went the wrong way, God used a storm to send a big fish to swallow Jonah up for three days. Jonah prayed to God for help, and God forgave Jonah for going his own way. Jonah eventually went to the Ninevites, they listened to God's plan and God forgave them too.



## MAKE: Jonah Fish

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

**Supplies:** Fish/whale cut out, mini Jonah cutout, clothespin, google eye, glue, scissors



### DO:

Pass out one Jonah and fish per child. Have them glue the eye on the fish. (pre cut fish/whales in half). Have kids glue the top half of the whale to the top side of the clip and then the bottom half to the bottom side of the clip. *\*see example\** Then glue the Jonah on the back. Add the God statement sticker to the craft.



### SAY:

God forgives! Even when we make mistakes, God forgives. We get to learn about Jonah and how he made some mistakes too. We get to make a fun fish craft to remind us of our lesson today.

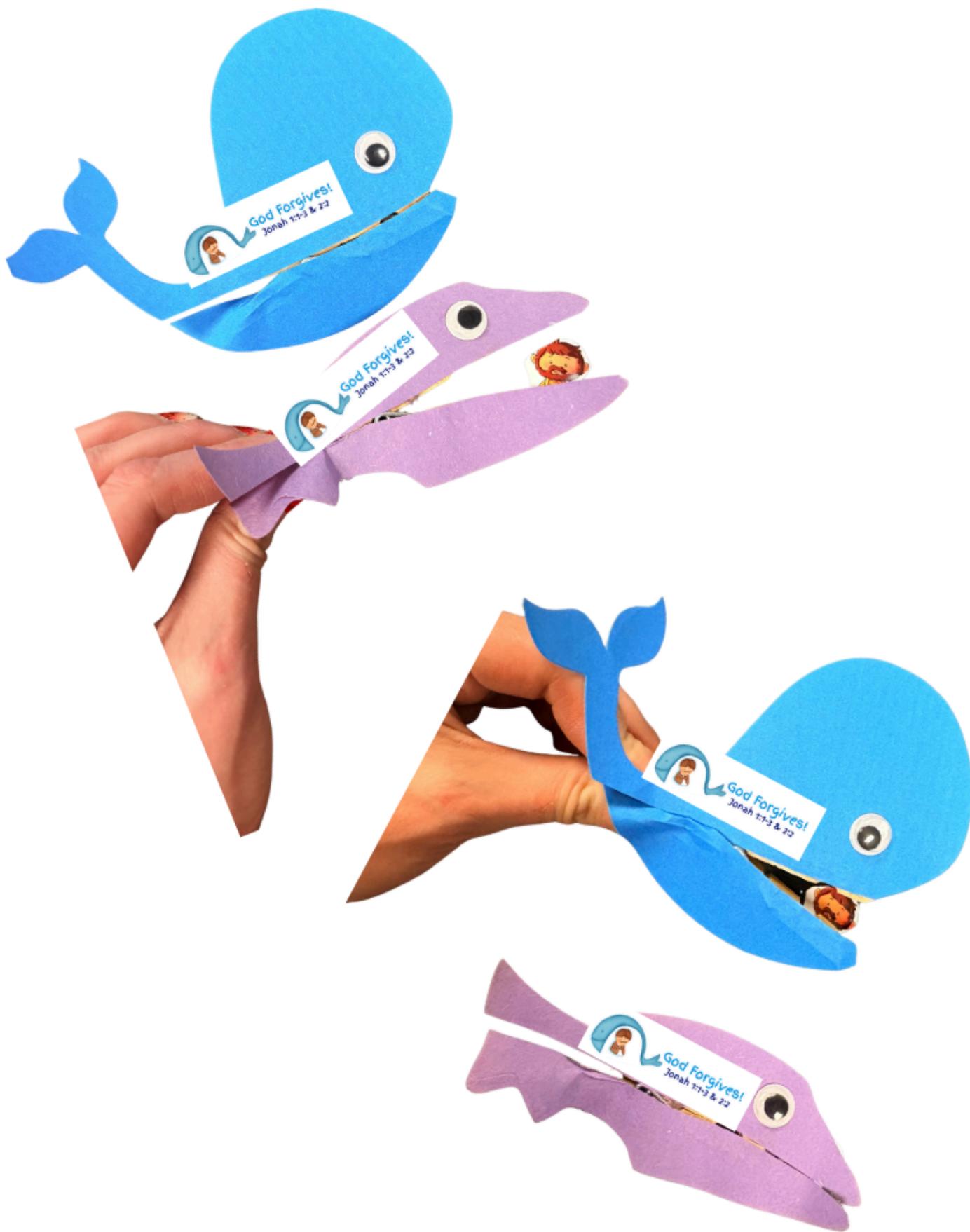


## CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



# Craft Example



6:25-6:50pm  
9:25-9:50am  
11:25-11:50am

# LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



## EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



## HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



### SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

### MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

### KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

### PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



## WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

**SONG 1:** Yes He Can

**SONG 2:** Help Me Live in Step



## LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



## WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



## BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

*May you believe in the God who forgives. May you run to Him in good or bad because He loves you so much!*



## TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

# WORSHIP RESPONSE



## REFLECT: God Forgives

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

### Worship Response Station

**Supplies:** cards, writing utensils



#### SAY:

When Jonah went the wrong way, God used a storm to send a big fish to swallow Jonah up for three days. Jonah prayed to God for help, and God forgave Jonah for going his own way. When Jonah eventually went to the Ninevites, they listened to God's plan and God forgave them too. Just like Jonah, we can make choices that go against God. But God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. When we go to God, He will forgive us!



#### DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
  - **God forgives us! Sometimes we make bad choices called sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God.**
  - **But, the good news is God loves us so much that He made a way to fix our broken relationship with Him... Who did God send to save us?** Let kids respond.
    - **Jesus! God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise from the dead to conquer death and sin once and for all! By doing this, Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God because He loves us!**
  - **Let's take some time to reflect on our own hearts lately.** Pass out a paper and writing utensil to each kid.
    - **On your card, write/draw something you need to ask God's forgiveness for. Then, when you're ready, lay it at the foot of the cross to remind yourself that God forgives you because of what Jesus did on the cross.**
  - **God loves you and forgives you! All you have to do is run to Him and ask for forgiveness.**
  - Close the time by praying over the kids.



## BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



#### SAY:

*May you believe in the God who forgives. May you run to Him in good or bad because He loves you so much!*

6:50-7:10pm  
9:50-10:10am  
11:50am-12:10pm

# RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



## APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



**SAY:**

**Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!**

**1. Who was our story about today?**

God, Jonah, & the Ninevites

**2. What was the problem?**

God told Jonah, the prophet, to go to Nineveh to tell them God's plan for them, but Jonah didn't listen to God and went his own way because Jonah hated the Ninevites.

**3. What did God do?**

When Jonah went the wrong way, God used a storm to send a big fish to swallow Jonah up for three days. Jonah prayed to God for help, and God forgave Jonah for going his own way. Jonah eventually went to the Ninevites, they listened to God's plan and God forgave them too.

**4. Why does this matter to me?**

Just like Jonah, we can make choices that go against God, but because God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins, when we go to God, He will forgive us!

**5. How can I apply this to my own life?**

Example: I can listen to God's directions to share His love with others; I can ask God for forgiveness when I make bad choices.



## PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



**SAY:**

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



**DO:**

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents  
arrive after  
service

# CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



**DO:**

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing them the announcement card and ensuring they take their weekly **Lesson Card**.