

Jonah: Providence and the Pouting Prophet

Patience (God's Patience With Jonah) Jonah 1:1-17

1. Jonah's Ministry (Jonah 1:1; 2 Kings 14:25)
2. Jonah's Mission (Jonah 1:2)
3. Jonah's Disobedience (Jonah 1:3)
4. Jonah's Indifference (Jonah 1:4-10)
5. Jonah's Stubbornness (Jonah 1:11-17)

Pardon (God's Mercy Toward Jonah) Jonah 2:1-10

1. God Hears (Jonah 2:1-2)
2. God Disciplines (Jonah 2:3)
3. God Honors Faith (Jonah 2:4-7)
4. God Accepts Confession (Jonah 2:8-9)
5. God Restores (Jonah 2:10)

Preaching (God's Power Through Jonah) Jonah 3:1-10

1. God Gives 2nd Tries (Jonah 3:1-2)
2. God Gives Warnings (Jonah 3:3-4)
3. God Desires Obedience (Jonah 3:5-9)
4. God Relents (Jonah 3:10)

Pouting (God's Ministry To Jonah) Jonah 4:1-11

1. God Listens To Complaints (Jonah 4:1-4)
2. God Gives Comfort (Jonah 4:5-6)
3. God Takes Away (Jonah 4:7-8)
4. God Teaches Mercy (Jonah 4:9-11)
5. Jesus Teaches Us About Jonah (Matthew 12:38-41)

Storyline Overview

The Adventure Club takes a trip to the Living Museum. At the museum they run into the Museum Inventor who informs them of his desire to create an area of the museum dedicated to the Bible. He is excited to introduce the Adventure Club to his latest invention (that he built in his free time): a life-like robotic Jonah. The robot is programmed to interact with museum guests as the real Jonah, answering all their questions and explaining the life of Jonah. The Adventure Club get to put the new robot through its first trial run. Not only does the Adventure Club get to help the Inventor work out the bugs, but they learn all about Jonah and the God that worked in and through him.

Cast

Jonah (JONAH)

Museum Inventor (MI)

Group Member 1 (GM 1)

Group Member 2 (GM 2)

Group Member 3 (GM 3)

Jonah and the Museum Inventor should be played by the same person every week. GM 1,2,3 can be played by different people.

Scenery

The main set is the Museum Inventor's work area in the museum's storage room. The background could include old museum displays, signs and various other museum items (think old, dusty, but interesting clutter). The Inventor should have a work table with various tools and gadgets on it and some sort of display case/charging station for Jonah to be in. There also should be something high enough that could be used for puppets.

Scripture

All of the Scripture is taken from the English Standard Version. In the skits, the dialogue might have the kids repeat the verse one time. However, if the recitation is weak or there are certain words that they are missing, repeat the verses as many times as needed until the kids feel comfortable with it.

Video

The video runs at the end of every night and introduces the scripture for the following week. The main character is PC, a computer program that lives in Computerland. When he enters the verses into his laptop they are uploaded to Jonah. As the story unfolds, PC and his friends fight against the Evil Dr. Virus and his minions. Will PC win?

Week 1

September 21, 2011

Section 1: Patience (God's Patience With Jonah) Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah's Ministry (Jonah 1:1; 2 Kings 14:25)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI, GM 1, GM 2, GM 3 enter from side door; Jonah is in the charger/display in a "turned off" position.)

MI: Come on guys. This way. Watch your step.

(GM 1, GM 2, GM 3 excitedly look around at all of the stuff.)

MI: Welcome to my workshop.

GM 1: Isn't this the museum store room?

MI: Why yes...yes it is. But it is also where I am working on a new exhibit. You see I always wanted to add a Bible section to the museum but I needed something that would wow the Board of Directors. So I came up with this

(MI shows everyone Jonah.)

GM 2: I'm sorry to tell you this, but wax figures have been done before. Though this one looks good.

MI: This isn't just a wax figure...this is Jonah!

(MI turns Jonah on. Jonah begins to move around in a jerky way. MI makes a few adjustments. Jonah begins to walk around normally.)

GM 1: Who's Jonah?

(Everyone looks at GM 1)

GM 3: You know, Jonah, from the Bible. The guy gets thrown overboard and swallowed by a giant fish. Ring a bell?

(GM 1 shrugs shoulders)

MI: Jonah was a man of God who lived in Gath Hopher, a town in northern Israel. He lived during the reign of Jeroboam II, almost 800 years before the birth of Jesus.

GM 2: And wasn't he a prophet?

GM 1: Profit? Isn't that when you sell something and make money?

MI: No. That's profit. He was a prophet.

(GM 1: Looks confused)

GM 1: Huh?

MI: Trust me. It's spelled differently.

JONAH: A prophet is an authorized spokesperson for God with a message that originated with God and was communicated through a number of means. When God spoke to these spokespersons, they had no choice but to deliver that word to those to whom God directed it.

(GM 1, GM 2, GM 3 all startle in amazement at Jonah speaking)

GM 3: It speaks!

JONAH: That's "he" speaks. And of course I do. I'm Jonah.

(MI searches for museum brochure on his work table)

MI: Let me see... Here. Read the museum's slogan.

(MI hands brochure to GM 2)

GM 2: The Living Museum: Where History Comes to Life.

MI: Exactly. I'm in the process of programming old Jonah here with everything he would need to know how to answer the guests questions, just like the real Jonah would. I was hoping the Adventure Club would help me work the bugs out. He has a few glitches and I wasn't so sure about his personality.

GM 3: *(turns to kids in audience)* What do you say kids? Should we help him?

JONAH: Hey! Who you calling old? And what is with all this programmed stuff?

GM 1: Where do we start?

MI: Ask him anything you want.

GM 1: Well. What was it like being a prophet?

JONAH: Ah...being a prophet. One day I was walking along, minding my own business, trying to serve God according to his laws, of course, and BAM! God speaks to me.

GM 2, GM 3: Wow!

GM 3: What did he say?

JONAH: He gave me some great news. My nation, the beloved Israel, would expand it's borders to what they once were. You can imagine how pleased the king and all the people were to hear that message.

GM 2, GM 3: Wow!

GM 1: Alright, alright. But what if you got the message wrong. Like if you said tomorrow it would rain and then it didn't?

(JONAH makes the slashing sign across his neck)

GM 1: Ouch.

MI: That's right. God's law said that a false prophet was to be put to death because he would be leading the people to rebel against God. Since, God loves his people so much he did not want anyone to lead them the wrong way. The sending of real prophets showed how patient God was with his people. Even though they kept doing bad things God kept working with them, and prophets are one way that God did that.

GM 2: So God's prophets with their messages, like Jonah, show us God's love and

patience...

GM 3: ...because instead of just punishing people for the bad things they do he is patient and works with his people.

MI: Exactly.

JONAH: And it helps when the man that God chooses for a prophet is so awesome.

(Everyone shakes their heads at JONAH)

MI: As I said, I've got some more work to do on him. But don't you guys have some other things to do tonight? Let's pray together before you go and have some fun and meet me back here before you leave tonight.

Prayer

Adventure Club
Discussion questions for leaders
Week 1

1. *Who can tell me the name of the robot invented by the museum inventor?*
 - a) Jonah
2. *Where did Jonah live?*
 - a) Gath Hopher a town in northern Israel
3. *How long before Christ was born did Jonah live?*
 - a) about 800 years
4. *Jonah had a special job what was it?*
 - a) He was a prophet of God
5. *What does being a prophet mean?*
 - a) A prophet is a man who is given a special message from God to deliver to other people.
6. *Could prophets make up the messages they delivered themselves?*
 - a) NO!
7. *What would happen to men that were found to be false prophets?*
 - a) They were killed.
8. *Why would they be killed?*
 - a) Because God did not want his people to be led in the wrong direction. False prophets would teach people things that were not true and God said this must not happen.
9. *Tonight we learned something special about God's character, what was it?*
 - a) He is patient with his people.

Allow time for students to share what they learned tonight.

Spend time reviewing this week's memory verse, the children will recite it together during the closing time. *This week's verse is rather lengthy and you may need to explain the meaning of some of the words so that the children understand it.

Advocate: a helper, someone who gives support

Righteous: free from guilt or sin

Propitiation: the sacrifice, Christ became the sacrifice for us to satisfy the wrath of God

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Closing

MI: Welcome back. Did you have fun? Did you learn anything? I know that part of being in Adventure Club is that you memorize Bible verses, which is an excellent thing to do, if I don't say so myself. So what verse did you work on tonight?

GM 2: 1 John 2:1-2

GM 3: Let's all say it together. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

MI: I hope you enjoyed my Jonah creation. Did you learn anything about him from the little time we had with him today?

(Get responses from the kids)

MI: I hope all of you can come back next week. There is a lot more work to do and I need your help.

GM 1: I might be able to squeeze it into my schedule.

GM 2: (turns to children in audience) What do you say? Can we come back next week?

MI: Well, I hope you do. Say goodbye Jonah.

JONAH: Goodbye.

(Jonah goes back into his case)

MI: Now it's time to upload the next part of Jonah's story into his memory. Here we go!

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 2

September 28, 2011

Section 1: Patience (God's Patience With Jonah) Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah's Mission (Jonah 1:2)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI is at his work table working. GM 1, GM 2, and GM 3 enter from side door)

MI: Hey everyone, come on in. I'm glad you could make it back this week. My Jonah project can use all the help it can get.

GM 2: Well, Club, before we get started let's review our Bible verse from last week. 1 John 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GM 3: Good job everyone. Now let's turn on Jonah and see what we learn today.

(MI switches Jonah on)

JONAH: Shalom. How are you on this fine evening?

MI: Just fine Jonah. Last week we talked about how Jonah was a prophet: a man called by God to tell others God's message.

JONAH: That's right. And I gave a good message and it came true.

MI: But tonight I'd like us to talk about another mission that God gave to you.

GM 1: God gave you a mission? Cool! Were you like a secret agent? Did you go behind enemy lines? Spying? Maybe a little sabotage?

JONAH: Uhh...no. Do we have to talk about this. Bad memories...

GM 2: O come on Jonah. Pleeeeeeeeeaaaaasssssseeeee!

(GM 2 and GM 3 encourage kids to say please)

JONAH: Well, if I must, then I must. There I was minding my own business and then BAM! God spoke to me again. God said, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me."

GM 1: That's your mission? Big deal.

JONAH: Big deal? Do you have any idea what going to Nineveh meant?

GM 1: Apparently I don't.

MI: Well, Nineveh was indeed a great city in the heart of the Assyrian country.

GM 2: Wasn't Assyria where Iraq is today?

GM 3: Yeah. And wasn't Nineveh where the city Mosul is today? I remember hearing about how our American soldiers were there.

MI: That's the place. Back in Jonah's day the Assyrians were the enemies of his people the Israelites.

JONAH: Grrrrr...those Assyrians. They always gave us trouble. They attacked us but what's worse is that they were enemies of God.

GM 1: So in a way, he was going behind enemy lines.

MI: Yes. I guess you're right.

JONAH: But that's only half of it. Not only was I to go to that evil city of Nineveh, home of our enemies, but the city was between 500 to 600 miles away.

MI: If he were traveling on a donkey or camel he would be moving at 3 miles per hour. Which means, on average, he would travel about 30 miles a day. At that rate...

GM 2: It would take him almost three weeks to get there.

GM 3: Ouch!

JONAH: But wait, it gets worse. The length of travel isn't the worse part. There are many dangers as well. There's rivers to cross, rockslides, cliffs, wild animals, robbers, not to mention the Assyrians themselves.

GM 1: So let me get this straight: You were to travel for almost three weeks into the heart of the enemy land, braving things like robbers and wild animals, to do what?

JONAH: ...Preach...

GM 1: Preach!?! I hope you gave them a feel-good message. You know, like "God loves you", "Eat, drink and be merry", "God helps those that help themselves." You know..get the crowd excited and on your side.

(Everyone shakes their heads at GM 1)

MI: Remember God told him to "call out against" Nineveh.

GM 1: And that means...?

JONAH: I was to preach against their sins. I was to point out the evil things that they were doing and to tell them that it was wrong. I was to tell them that the bad things that they had done made God angry. So you see, my mission was anything but simple.

MI: Remember last week? I mentioned how great God's patience is. We saw God's patience demonstrated through the sending of men called prophets. But I think we can see God's patience demonstrated again in the fact that he would send Jonah, from so far away, to help a people that had nothing to do with God. Did God have to send Jonah? Did he have to wait for Jonah to prepare for his journey and then travel all that distance? Did God have to send his message to them even though the people hated Him? (*Wait for responses to these questions*).

GM 2: God really is patient with people, isn't he?

GM 3: Yes he sure is.

MI: We will talk a little more before you leave tonight. But I think now is good time for us to take a break with Jonah. Let's pray before you go on to your activities for tonight.

Prayer

Adventure Club
Discussion Questions
Week 2

1. *Who can tell me where God told Jonah to go?*
a) Nineveh
2. *What country was Nineveh in?*
a) Assyria
3. *What do we call Assyria today?*
a) Iraq
4. *If you wanted to visit Nineveh today, what city would you have to go to?*
a) Mosul
5. *Were the people living in Assyria friends of the Israelites or enemies?*
a) enemies!
6. *Was Nineveh close to Jonah or far away?*
a) far away (between 500-600 miles!)
7. *How long would it have taken Jonah to get there?*
a) about 3 weeks
8. *Was it a safe trip?*
a) No!
9. *Why was it dangerous?*
a) various answers may include: robbers, crossing rivers, wild animals, and the Assyrians themselves
10. *What was Jonah supposed to do once he got to Nineveh?*
a) Preach
11. *What was Jonah supposed to tell the Ninevites?*
a) various answers – but generally that they were in sin and God was not happy with them, that they needed to repent etc.
12. *What special characteristic of God is shown to us by sending Jonah to these sinful people?*
a) That God is patient.

Spend time discussing this week's lesson with the children, what did they learn? Students may know someone serving in Iraq – make this connection for them. For older students: Were they surprised to learn that this story takes place in Iraq? What do they know about modern day Iraq? What religion is widely practiced in Iraq today (Islam)? Etc.

Review the words from our Bible verse from last week:

Who can tell me what _____ means?

Advocate: a helper, someone who gives support

Righteous: free from guilt or sin

Propitiation: the sacrifice, Christ became the sacrifice for us to satisfy the wrath of God

Spend time working on Bible verse:

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Closing

MI: Well, I was about to say goodnight to Jonah, but before we do: What did you think of Jonah's mission? Do you think it was easy or hard? Would you have wanted to go on his mission? (*Wait for responses*).

GM 1: I think I would pass on that mission.

GM 2: Sometimes God sends us on missions that we don't want to go on, but yet, we still need to go.

GM 3: You mean like when the Bible tells us to tell others about Jesus?

MI: Yep. Come to think of it, Jesus went on a mission that wasn't pleasant either. Jesus, the Son of God, came down from perfect heaven to live as a human on earth like you and me. Not only that, he also lived a perfect life and then gave his life over to evil men that killed him. And he did all that to save his children from their sin. That was a hard mission. In fact, it was an impossible mission for everyone, except him.

GM 1: Wow...the impossible mission.

MI: Well before you go let's hear your Bible verse for this week. 1 John 2:1-2, I believe it was. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Time to go Jonah.

(Jonah goes back into his case)

Let the upload begin...

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 3

October 5, 2011

Section 1: Patience (God's Patience With Jonah) Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah's Disobedience (Jonah 1:3)

Welcome/Announcements

(Everyone walks in from side door; Jonah is in his charger)

MI: Come on in everyone. We've got a lot of work to do tonight.

GM 2: First let's take a look at our Bible verse for this week. It is 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

GM 3: Let's say it again!

MI: Very good everyone. That is a great promise of God. When we do wrong and admit it to God he will always forgive.

GM 1: I guess that is a good verse, but I want to talk to Jonah some more.

(GM 1 walks over to Jonah)

MI: No! Wait! Don't flip the switch.

(JONAH wakes up and immediately runs down the aisle out the back door. MI runs after him. After a little they both walk back in).

GM 1: Oops.

GM 2: What just happened?

MI: Do you remember the verse I downloaded last week?

GM 3: I think it started, "But Jonah rose to flee."

JONAH: And here I go...

(Jonah turns to run again but MI grabs him before he can get away)

MI: Hold on there Jonah. Let's stop and talk this out. There is no need to run.

JONAH: Do you remember last week? Didn't we talk about the extremely hard mission God gave me? Well, I'm resigning. I don't want to go to Nineveh. I don't want to be a prophet anymore.

GM 2: Where would you go? It's not like you can run from God, he's everywhere.

JONAH: Tarshish sounded like a good place. Surely, if I went there God would leave me alone.

GM 1: Where's Tarshish?

MI: No one today really knows. Some people think it might be in Spain or somewhere else in the western Mediterranean.

JONAH: Does it matter where it is? It's not Israel where God talked to me and that's all that matters. So, I made my way to the coast to the port town of Joppa.

GM 2: Wasn't that the exact opposite direction of where God told you to go?

JONAH: Yeah, so?

GM 2: But what about those people in Nineveh that needed to hear God's message? Didn't you care about them?

JONAH: Ah...God could just send someone else. Or maybe he could tell them in dreams like he did with Joseph. I know, a burning bush like with Moses. God has his ways, he certainly didn't need me.

GM 3: But Jonah, God gave you his Word. That is not something to take lightly. Doesn't the Bible say, "Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens." (Psalm 119:89)?

GM 1: Yeah. That doesn't sound like you could just take or leave it.

JONAH: God's word is important. But, as I said, God could just tell someone else. It's not like God didn't have other prophets.

GM 3: But wasn't being a prophet a great privilege? I mean, God didn't speak to everyone. He chose only specific people throughout all of history to talk to. Why would you want to resign that?

JONAH: You all make good points. But you had to be there. If you were there you would have done the same thing.

MI: There are many men in the Bible that did not feel that they would be able to fulfill the mission that God gave them, just like our friend here. God told them to do things that seemed impossible and some asked not to do it.

JONAH: See, what I did wasn't *that* bad.

MI: That wasn't exactly my point. What do you think kids? Is it wrong when God tells you to do something and you don't do it? What if God tells you to do something really hard? What if God tells you to do something that you think is impossible, is it okay not to obey then?

GM 1: Even I know that anytime you don't do what God tells you, that's wrong.

MI: Jonah got himself in trouble because his attitude toward the will of God was wrong. Often times, when we talk about obeying the will of God we think, "Oh. That sounds boring," or, "Obeying God's will means I can't have any fun," or, "Obeying God's will is only for the super churchy people. I'm not like that." But that is not true at all.

GM 2: I'm sure all of us have thought that at one time or another.

MI: Sure. But then we need to come back to the truth. Obeying what God says and doing what he wants is what we need as God's children. The Bible tells us that doing what God says is like food to us (John 4:34).

GM 1: Mmmmm...food.

MI: That's right. That's how we should feel about following what God says.

Have you ever tried to walk through a room in the dark? (*Turn out the lights for a few seconds. Jonah lies down on the floor sleeping.*) Well, obeying God's will is like turning on the light: you can see things for what they are. (*Turn lights on. Jonah wakes up startled.*)

Not only that but God gives us everything that we need to obey his will. He doesn't ask us to obey him and then let us try to do it on our own. No, he gives us all the help we need.

GM 2: That sounds amazing. Why wouldn't I want to obey God?

MI: That's the question isn't it? Unfortunately, we are often like Jonah, we run from what we should do.

JONAH: Thanks, everyone should be so lucky to be like...hey...wait a minute!

GM 3: But if you think about it: traveling to a foreign land, overcoming all kinds of dangers, carrying with you God's important message to a people that are in trouble, being used by God to bring his salvation to people that really need it, doesn't sound boring at all. It sounds like a great adventure.

MI: And that is the way we ought to think about obeying God. It is a great adventure. You never know where God will take you or what he will do with you. It's the greatest adventure.

Talking about all this makes me want to sing. What do you say: should we sing some songs?

Music

Prayer

Week 3
Discussion Questions

1. *What did Jonah do when God told him to go to Nineveh?*
a) Ran away
2. *Where did he want to go?*
a) Tarshish
3. *Where was Tarshish?*
a) varied - although no one is certain, many scholars believe it could be as far as Spain, but likely to be somewhere near the Mediterranean Sea
4. *What was the name of the place Jonah went to first?*
a) Joppa
5. *What was wrong with going to Joppa?*
a) It was in the OPPOSITE direction of Nineveh!
6. *Jonah was given a message from God to share with the Ninevites, did he want to do it?*
a) NO!
7. *What excuses did Jonah give for not delivering God's message?*
a) various but may include – God could send someone else, God didn't need him etc.
8. *Did God speak to everyone the way He spoke to Jonah?*
a) No
9. *What was different about Jonah than everyone else?*
a) Jonah was chosen by God as a prophet
10. *Is it ever ok to not do what God asks us or tells us to do?*
a) No!
11. *According to the Bible it says that doing what God wants us to do is like what?*
a) Food for us. (kids may also answer turning on the light)
12. *Will God ever ask us to do something hard and then leave us alone?*
a) No! God always provides the help we need so that we can obey Him.
13. *What should Jonah do?*
a) varied answers but should reflect that Jonah needs to obey God.

This week's words to review:

Confess – To tell your sin to God (and parents, etc.)

Faithful – completely trustworthy, guaranteed to keep promises

Just – will always do what is good and correct

Unrighteousness – sinfulness/wickedness

Practice this week's Bible verse several times:

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Explain this verse to the children with reference to the defined words above. Kids should be able to explain the verse in their own words if they understand it.

Teachers – if time allows review previous verse and/or previous discussion questions. Later this year during game show night the questions will be pulled from those the kids studied during the course of the year and from the Bible verses they've learned.

Closing

MI: Welcome back everyone. I hope you had a good time tonight. Let's review that Bible verse we started off the night with. 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

GM 2: So that means if we talk to God when we do something bad, or disobey him like we talked about tonight, he will always forgive us and make us as if we had never done the bad things.

MI: That's right. That is God's promise.

What Jonah did was bad but not so bad that God would not forgive him.

GM 1: And all you have to do is ask him to forgive?

MI: That's it. It doesn't cost you a thing. But remember last week, how we talked about Jesus and him coming to earth and dying to take away sin? Forgiveness doesn't cost us anything because it cost Jesus everything. He died so that we might be forgiven.

So Jonah, are you ready to say goodnight to kids?

JONAH: Goodnight kids.

(Jonah goes back into the display case)

MI: So what do you guys think of our computer program friend PC? Well, let's see what he is uploading today.

(Turn on upload video)

Prayer

Week 4

October 12, 2011

Section 1: Patience (God's Patience With Jonah) Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah's Indifference (Jonah 1:4-10)

Welcome/Announcements

(MI is behind scenery. GM 1 walks in from side door. In this week's skit cast members GM2 and GM3 will voice the puppets)

GM 1: Hi everyone. How are you guys doing? Hmmmm, we're here but where is the inventor? What time is it? Well, we are on time. And we are supposed to be *here*.

(MI walks out from behind scenery)

MI: Oh, hey. I thought I heard someone come in. Is it Adventure Club time already? Well, come on in. I was just putting the finishing touches on some little robots that Jonah could interact with. That way they could act out a scene for the museum guests. I think it will add a whole other dimension to the exhibit. But before we try it out, we had better review your Bible verse for this week. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

GM 1: I already know that verse. But, it's a good one.

MI: It certainly is. Let's say it one more time together. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Very good everyone.

GM 1: Alright! Let's flip the switch and see what Jonah will do today.

JONAH: Hello everybody!

MI: Hi Jonah. How are you feeling tonight?

JONAH: I feel a little sleepy. I think I might just lie down here and take a nap.

(JONAH lies down near where the puppets are)

GM 1: Well, that was uneventful.

MI: Actually, that is part of the story. If you remember, last week, Jonah bought a ride on a ship headed for Tarshish. What he did next was to go below deck and sleep. Now, let's turn those other little robots on and see what happens.

(MI flips a switch near the puppet area)

GM 1: Who are those guys?

MI: Those are the pagan sailors: the captain and his crewman.

GM 1: What's pagan mean? Is that a type of ship?

MI: No. To put it simply, a pagan is a person that worships false gods. Back in those days, people worshiped all kinds of different gods. Actually, that is the same as today, but that is beside the point. Jonah was a Jew, and many of them worshiped the one true God alone.

GM 2: Looks like that storm is coming in fast.

GM 3: Yes captain. And it looks like a bad one.

(The storm comes in. Use whatever means available to create storm)

GM 2: This looks bad. I'm not sure if we are going to make it out of this one, old friend.

GM 3: Let's pray to the gods for help.

GM 2: It's not working! We need to lighten the load. Throw the cargo overboard!

(Start throwing little cardboard boxes over the side)

GM 3: Hey! Look! It's that guy we picked up at Joppa. Is he seriously sleeping through this storm?

GM 2: He must be a heavy sleeper.

(Whisper) Hey...Mr. Sleepyhead. Time to wake up.

(Jonah rolls over)

Hey! What do you think you're doing? We're going down!

(GM 3 start throwing boxes at JONAH)

Get up and pray to your God. We tried all the ones we could think of but, obviously, none of them are listening. Perhaps your God will think of us and not let our ship fall apart.

(JONAH picks up a magazine and starts reading it)

GM 3: I know what we need to do. Let's cast lots to see whose fault it is that this storm is about to destroy us. I just happen to have a die in my pocket. Captain you will be 1 and 2, I'll take 3 and 4 and you, lazy guy, you get 5 and 6. And the winner is...

(GM 3 rolls the die)

6. Who didn't see that one coming?

JONAH: How about the best 2 out of 3?

GM 2: Why has this happened to us?

GM 3: What do you do for a living?

GM 2: Where do you come from?

GM 3: Yeah, what country are you from?

GM 2: And of what people are you?

JONAH: I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.

GM 3: Oh man. Oh no. We're dead.

JONAH: God commanded me to go to Nineveh to preach to them and instead I ran from his presence.

GM 2: What is this you have done?

GM 3: Oh no. Oh no no no no. This is bad. Bad, I tell you! What do we do captain? What do we do?

(The puppets freeze)

GM 1: Hey, what happened?

MI: You'll have to wait until next week to find out because that is all of the story we uploaded last week.

(MI flips switch by puppets and they disappear behind scenery)

I have a question for you kids: What do you think of Jonah's actions on board the ship?

(Wait for responses)

GM 1: I think that he just didn't care about anyone.

MI: That is what we call indifference. You just don't care. And you're right. He could have spared the sailors a lot of trouble by doing what God said in the first place.

Jonah was indifferent, but do you know who is never indifferent?

(Wait for responses)

GM 1: It's God.

MI: That's right. The Bible says that God loved us even while we were his enemies. And Jesus said that he would never leave us nor forsake us.

GM 1: So even when I don't care about what I do or where I'm going or who I might hurt, God cares.

MI: God always cares. I think it is time to sing some songs.

Music

Prayer

Week 4
Discussion Questions

1. *This week we learned that Jonah left Joppa and was heading to Tarshish. How was Jonah traveling to Tarshish?*
 - a) By boat
2. *What kind of men were on the boat with Jonah?*
 - a) Pagans
3. *What does pagan mean?*
 - a) varied answers but mainly – people who worship false gods or don't worship the true God
4. *Are there still pagan people today?*
 - a) Yes – anyone who does not worship the one true God is pagan
5. *What religion was Jonah?*
 - a) He was Jewish
6. *Did Jonah worship the one true God?*
 - a) Yes! (and so do we!)
7. *What was happening while Jonah was on the boat?*
 - a) There was a bad storm!
8. *What did the pagan men do to try and stop the storm?*
 - a) varied – prayed to their false gods, threw items overboard
9. *Were the false gods of the pagans able to stop the storm?*
 - a) NO!
10. *When the pagan men woke up Jonah what did they tell him to do to make the storm stop?*
 - a) Pray to his God
11. *Did Jonah do that?*
 - a) No
12. *What did they do next?*
 - a) Cast lots – kids may say something about throwing dice etc
13. *What did the lot show?*
 - a) That Jonah was the reason for the storm (because he wasn't obeying God).
14. *Did Jonah seem to care about how his disobedience was hurting the other men on the ship?*
 - a) No
15. *That's right, we call that being INDIFFERENT. Is God ever indifferent towards us?*
 - a) No! God always cares about us.

Words to learn:

Perish – to die

Eternal – lasting forever

Practice this week's Bible verse:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Take time to further discuss this week's lesson, review previous material or other activity as time permits. Students may need to use this time to review previous Bible verses.

Closing

GM 2: Okay, everyone. You all did a great job tonight. Let's take a look at our Bible verse for tonight. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

GM 3: Let's say it again!

MI: So Jonah, did you learn anything this week?

JONAH: I learned not to take a nap during a storm.

MI: Okay. Anything else?

JONAH: When you don't care God still cares?

GM 1: That's kind of like what our Bible verse says, too. Doesn't it?

GM 2: You know, I think you're right. God loved the world even though the world didn't care about him and he sent his Son to those that didn't care.

JONAH: Hey, no one cared about my nap on the ship.

MI: Oh Jonah. What it takes to get through to you is close to amazing.

JONAH: Thanks. Uh...huh?

MI: Everyone say goodnight to Jonah.

(Jonah goes back into case. MI starts the upload "video")

Prayer

Week 5

October 19, 2011

Section 1: Patience (God's Patience With Jonah) Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah's Stubbornness (Jonah 1:11-17)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI and GM 1 walk in together)

MI: I hope everyone is ready for another great evening.

GM 1: I'm ready.

MI: Before we start our work on Jonah, let's all recite our verse from last week, John 3:16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

GM 1: One more time! (repeat verse)

MI: Very good everyone. Keep working on those verses. So, did you enjoy last week?

GM 1: I did. Do we get to see those funny little robots this week?

MI: We sure do. Let's get Jonah and our little friends going and see what happens. If you remember last week, we left off in the middle of the storm and the captain was trying to figure out what to do. They cast lots to see who was to blame for the storm and the lot fell to Jonah.

(MI flips the switches. Jonah walks over to puppet area. The storm starts up. Captain and crewman puppets pop up.)

GM 2: So, Jonah is your name, eh?

JONAH: Yes, it is.

GM 2: Well, Jonah, since it is your God that has caused this storm to come against us, and it is you that he is disciplining...what do we do to you to get this storm to stop?

GM 3: And make it quick! Our ship won't take much more of this.

JONAH: I guess there is only one thing left to do. Pick me up and hurl me into the sea. Then the storm will quiet down because I know it's my fault that the storm has come.

GM 3: Is this guy crazy?

GM 2: Apparently. If God is upset because you ran away why would it be okay for us to throw you overboard? And if you are His prophet as you say you are, then...Crewman!

GM 3: Right here Captain!

GM 2: Go below and tell the men to row harder. We have to get back to land!

GM 3: Aye, aye Captain.

(Crewman goes below)

Row faster! Come on, put your backs into it! We can make it! Go, go, go!

(Captain yells below)

GM 2: We're not moving and the storm is getting worse!

(GM 3 comes back up)

GM 3: They are trying their hardest, sir. Oh, what do we do now? All is lost.

GM 2: If it is Jonah's God causing this storm then I guess we have one choice. We have to do what the crazy guy said.

(GM 3 Looks to the sky)

GM 3: O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life.

GM 2: And lay not on us innocent blood, for you O LORD, have done as it pleased you.

Now we must do what we must do.

(The puppets try to throw him overboard but are too small)

GM 2: Hey you, tall guy. Can you give us a hand here?

(MI walks over to help)

GM 3: Throw him overboard!

(MI throws Jonah "overboard" down the steps. Jonah tries to swim on the ground. The storm goes silent)

GM 2: *Gasp. It worked. The storm is gone. You know what that means.

GM 3: Jonah's God is real!

GM 2: Exactly. We need to make some vows to the LORD so that what happened to Jonah doesn't happen to us.

GM 3: Lord, I vow to always eat all my vegetables at dinner.

GM 2: And I vow always to cover my mouth when I cough.

GM 3: We should make a sacrifice too. That will make Jonah's God really happy.

GM 2: How about your stash of imported chocolates you have hidden under your bunk.

GM 3: What!?! No, way. That's mine. How about we sacrifice that steak we have in the ice chest.

GM 2: I guess that will do. Crewman...get out the grill and fire up the charcoal.

(The puppets go below. Jonah is left "treading water")

JONAH: God, please, help me!

(Spotlight on Jonah. Jonah goes down under water)

MI: Hey. Jonah, it's okay.

JONAH: Are you a great fish?

MI: What? Uh...no. What are you talking about?

JONAH: Isn't this when God appoints a giant fish to come swallow me up and save me from drowning?

MI: Oh, yeah. I guess you're right. I haven't had the time to build one yet.

JONAH: Well, this is kind of lame. How are we supposed to finish this part of the story?

(GM 1 walks over to the work bench and draws a fish on a big piece of paper)

MI: I guess you'll have to use your imagination.

(GM 1 runs over to Jonah with the fish and pretends to eat him)

JONAH: That was a nice try.

GM 1: I think it looks very life-like.

MI: So, Jonah what did you learn today?

JONAH: I can't tread water forever.

MI: Well, yes, that's true.

GM 1: I learned that Jonah was stubborn. All he had to do was confess that what he had done was wrong. He couldn't run from God. He should have just done what God had said.

MI: That's right. Jonah's stubbornness caused the sailors all kinds of grief. Did you learn anything about God from this part of the story?

(Get responses from kids)

There are three main things I can think of. First, God is patient. He didn't have to put up with Jonah's stubbornness. Second, God is sovereign, which means God is in control of everything. Just like he was in control of the storm. And third, God is Providential, which is a big word that means God has a plan and he works everything out according to that plan.

GM 1: Just like how God had the big fish at the right place and right time to save Jonah.

JONAH: Providence. I like that word.

MI: It is a good word and we should thank God for his providence. It is what brought all of us here together.

I think you kids need to move on to the rest of your night, but before you go, let's pray.

Prayer

Week 5
Discussion Questions

1. *What did Jonah tell the men on the ship to do so that the storm would stop?*
a) Throw him overboard
2. *Did the storm stop when Jonah went into the water?*
a) Yes
3. *What did that teach the men on the ship?*
a) That Jonah's God is real!
4. *What did the men on the ship do next?*
a) Made vows and offered sacrifices to Jonah's God?
5. *What happened to Jonah after he was thrown into the water?*
a) He was swallowed by a big fish
6. *Who made the fish swallow Jonah?*
a) God
7. *What special word did you learn tonight that means God has a plan for everything?*
a) Providence
8. *Can anything happen to us that isn't a part of God's plan?*
a) NO! - that's right, God always knows what is going to happen and He always takes care of His people.
9. *You learned another word tonight that means God is always in control, who knows that word?*
a) Sovereign – God is Sovereign so He is ALWAYS in control
10. *Is the most important part of Jonah's story that he got swallowed up by a big fish?*
a) No! - Right! Although this is definitely an *interesting* part of the story it is not the most important.
11. *What are the most important parts of the story?*
a) varied – but point out to the kids these 3: that God is patient, God is Sovereign and God is Providential

Bible Verse:

John 3:16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Bible verse review time and review of previous material. Teachers may use this time for additional activities as well.

Closing

JONAH: Hey kids. Welcome back. I just wanted to apologize for how lame the fish was. If I were in charge of this show...

MI: Oh, Jonah. The fish is not that important. In fact, the fish is not the main point of your story. God saving you is the main point. The fish is just how he did it.

GM 2: That's what this week's Bible verse is about. Should we say it together? John 3:16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

GM 3: God saved his people from their wickedness by his Son. That's the main point isn't it?

MI: Yes, it is. Actually, that is the main point of the whole Bible. After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, the rest of the Bible is either looking forward to Jesus coming or it talks about what he has done.

GM 1: So Jonah's story isn't just about a man being swallowed by a big fish?

MI: Nope. And as we continue in the story we will see that more and more.

I guess it's time to say goodnight to Jonah. Say goodnight kids.

JONAH: Goodnight. See you next week!

(JONAH goes in charger)

MI: Let's see what PC is up to tonight.

(Run video)

MI: Next week is a special night. So, remember to invite your parents and other family members to come with you. I'm sure Jonah would love to meet them. I know I do. Goodbye!

Prayer

Week 6

October 26, 2011

Section 1: Patience (God's Patience With Jonah) Jonah 1:1-17

Family Night: Crafts

Slideshow Of Kids From Previous Weeks

Welcome/Announcements

MI: Hi everyone. For those of you new here, I'm the Museum Inventor. I work here at the Living Museum. My job is to come up with the latest and greatest museum exhibits. This is my latest invention, Jonah. He is a robot that has been programmed to interact with the guests and to answer their questions just like the real Jonah. The Adventure Club has been helping me get him ready. He has to impress the Museum Board of Directors if I ever want to see my dream of a Bible-themed exhibit.

So, should we fire the old Robo-Jonah up and talk with him?

(MI switches Jonah on)

JONAH: Shalom everyone. I see you brought some guests. I'm pleased to make your acquaintance.

MI: So far we have covered the first chapter of the book of Jonah, which is all about God's patience with Jonah.

GM 1: The first thing we learned about was Jonah's ministry. God had called Jonah to be a prophet, which is a special messenger.

GM 2: We also learned about the special mission God gave to Jonah. He was to go to Nineveh and preach to the people.

GM 3: Then we learned about how Jonah disobeyed God and tried to run to Tarshish.

JONAH: But I hear Tarshish is so nice during that time of year.

GM 1: Then we learned about Jonah's indifference. He didn't care that God's message wasn't given and the sailors on the ship he was sailing with were in trouble.

GM 2: Finally, we learned about Jonah's stubbornness. Even when he was confronted with the wrong he did, he wouldn't repent.

JONAH: Big deal. You got the first part of the story right. But there is a lot more to come.

MI: That's right Jonah. We will cover more in the coming weeks. But besides talking to Jonah, the kids have been learning Bible verses. Let's show the adults what you know.

GM 1: Fifth and sixth grade, you're with me. Let's say 1 John 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GM 2: I'll lead the third and fourth graders. Let's say 1 John 1:9 together. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

GM 3: That leaves the K through second graders. We have the popular John 3:16. For God

so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

MI: Very good everyone. We've been working with Jonah every week, so I thought we would take the night off.

JONAH: Good. You guys have been working me to death. Can't a guy get a break?

MI: Tonight is a special night, so I thought we could work on another part of my exhibit. I wanted to have an area where kids could make something to take home with them. That way visitors to the Jonah exhibit will not forget this important story. Would you like to help me? Good. All of you will get to try it out. I hope it will be fun.

GM 2: Now it's time for some music!

Music

Prayer

Closing

MI: So was the craft successful? Hold them up so I can see them. They look good to me. We'll have to add it to the exhibit.

JONAH: They remind me of painful memories.

MI: Hopefully, every time the kids see it they'll remember God's long patience. He put up with you, Jonah, and all your trouble and he'll do the same for us.

JONAH: That's right...hey, wait a minute.

MI: I wonder if we could say our verses again, all together. Let's say them extra loud!

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 3:16.For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Great job everyone. It looks like time to say goodnight to Jonah. Say goodnight Jonah.

JONAH: Goodnight, Jonah.

(JONAH goes back into charger)

MI: We have one thing left to do. We need to upload the next verse into Jonah's memory. Are you ready to see our little friend PC? Here we go...

(Play video)

Prayer

Week 7

November 2, 2011

Section 2: Pardon (God's Mercy Toward Jonah) Jonah 2:1-10

God Hears (Jonah 2:1-2)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI is working on Jonah's charger. GM 1, GM2, GM 3 walk in)

MI: Hello Adventure Club. It's good to see you again. I hope all of you are ready for tonight because we are moving on to level 2 of Jonah's programming. But before we get to that...you have a new Bible verse to memorize this week, don't you?

GM 2: Yes we do. It's John 17:3.

GM 3: Let's say it together. "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

GM 1: What was that? I didn't quite get it.

(Repeat John 17:3)

MI: Great job everyone. What a great truth. We will definitely talk about the meaning of the verse later with Jonah. Speaking of Jonah...

(Flips switch on Jonah. JONAH comes to life.)

JONAH: Hey, it's the Adventure Club again. Do you guys come here every week?

GM 1: Just about.

JONAH: Wow. So what's going on?

MI: Well, last time PC uploaded the beginning of chapter two of the book of Jonah. Jonah, you are in the belly of the fish.

(Lights dim except on Jonah. Jonah sits on the ground, pulls his knees up to his chest.)

GM 1: Uh...what's he doing now?

GM 2: I think he is remembering what it was like to be in the fish.

(GM 2 and GM 3 sit on both sides of Jonah trying to comfort him)

GM 3: Oh, Jonah, what did you do?

JONAH: The only thing I could do: pray.

GM 1: What did you say?

JONAH: I said, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice."

GM 2: That's amazing.

GM 1: You called out to Him under the water?

JONAH: Yes, yes I did.

(In a grandiose voice)

"I called out to the LORD, out of my distress."

GM 1: You guys have tried yelling under water before, haven't you? All you hear is wah wah wah wah wah. And on the surface all you hear is...bloop...

MI: That's true, but thankfully God doesn't need to hear our prayers out loud.

GM 3: You mean, you can pray just thinking not saying.

MI: Yep, because God hears our thoughts. So we might have heard from Jonah "...bloop..." but God heard Jonah calling out to him.

JONAH: And boy, did I need him to hear me!

GM 1: That makes sense. But how did you know the name of the fish?

JONAH: I did?

GM 1: Sure. You said it in your prayer.

GM 3: Huh? Let me see that.

(GM 3 grabs the Bible off of the work table, reads the passage and starts to laugh. GM 2 runs over to see what is so funny, reads the Bible and starts laughing to.)

MI: What? I don't get it?

GM 2: "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried."

MI: (Chuckles) Oh, I see. Sheol is not the name of the fish.

GM 1: It's not?

JONAH: Sheol is the Hebrew word for the place of the dead, sometimes translated into your English language as "the grave".

MI: The Hebrew word describes the place that all people go to after they die, whether paradise or punishment.

GM 1: So Jonah was saying that he was as good as dead when he cried out to God?

MI: Yep. And even in that terrible state God heard his voice and answered him. God always hears the prayers of his children.

GM 1: He does?

JONAH: Of course he does! As I was sinking down under the waves, I remembered the prayers of King David. He prayed, "O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. (Psalm 30:2-3)

GM 2: It is good to remember to pray when you are in trouble. Can you think of some other times when we should pray?

(Get responses)

GM 3: Isn't our memory verse for this week part of a prayer?

MI: Yes, John 17:3 is part of a prayer. A prayer of Jesus to be exact.

GM 1: I guess if anybody's prayer would be heard, it's Jesus'.

MI: Jesus prayed that we would have eternal life and that life was found in knowing God the

Father and knowing God through Jesus. And his prayer came true, because, here we are. All of us that know Jesus as our Savior and know God through Jesus are an answer to his prayer.

GM 2: Wow! I think it's cool to be an answer to prayer, especially a prayer of Jesus.

MI: It is cool and a great honor that God has given to us. So, before you move on to the rest of your night, we should use the great privilege that God gave us to pray. For those of us who know Jesus we should ask that he would help us to get to know him better. And we need to pray for those that don't know Jesus yet, that he would make himself known to them.

Prayer

Week 7
Discussion Questions

1. *Where was Jonah at the beginning of tonight's lesson?*
 - a) In the belly of the fish
2. *Do you think he was afraid while he was in the fish's belly?*
 - a) Yes!
3. *What did he do while he was in there?*
 - a) He prayed to God
4. *Did God hear his prayer?*
 - a) Yes
5. *Can God always hear our prayers?*
 - a) Yes (**Teachers reinforce the idea that God can understand our prayers whether we say them out loud or just think them in our heads**)
6. *Tonight, you learned another new word – Sheol. What does Sheol mean?*
 - a) The place of the dead
7. *What language is Sheol?*
 - a) Hebrew

New Bible verse:

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Spend time reviewing previous material and verses – also may use time to complete additional activities as directed by the teacher.

Closing

MI: Welcome back. Tonight we learned about God hearing our prayers. But if you think about Jonah's prayer, what do you think he could have done differently?

JONAH: Prayed for a stronger ship?

GM 1: He could have prayed for a big bird to swoop down and pick him and carry him to a nice pile of soft leaves. That whole fish belly thing sounds gross.

MI: That wasn't exactly what I was looking for. As I said before, prayer when you are in trouble is good. But could Jonah have prayed before he got in trouble? What do you think?

(Get responses)

Yes, he could have prayed for the willingness to do what God told him to do or the courage to overcome his fears or for the love to love his enemies.

GM 2: So, we should pray all the time in every situation not just when we are in trouble.

GM 3: And prayer at anytime is good because God always hears.

MI: That's right. Just like that prayer of Jesus we talked about earlier. What was that again? John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

JONAH: Well, I guess I should be going. Goodbye Adventure Club.

(Everyone says goodbye. Jonah turns off).

MI: Now it's time to upload the next part of the verse. I wonder what PC is up to tonight.

(Start video)

Prayer

Week 8

November 9, 2011

Section 2: Pardon (God's Mercy Toward Jonah) Jonah 2:1-10

God Disciplines (Jonah 2:3)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI is working near the puppet area. GM 1, GM 2, GM 3 walk in)

MI: Hey, Adventure Club. Right on time as usual. I hope you are ready to get to work tonight.

(Walk over to Jonah and flips switch)

Hello Jonah.

JONAH: You again? You don't give up do you?

GM 2: We like your story Jonah.

GM 3: And we like you too.

JONAH: Okay, okay. What should we talk about this time?

MI: Last week, we started talking about the prayer you prayed after being thrown overboard and the great fish...

(Lights go dark except on JONAH. JONAH sits down. GM 2 and GM 3 sit down on either side. JONAH speaks in a grandiose voice.)

JONAH: There I was in the belly of that great fish. And I called out to my God, my LORD, "For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me."

GM 1: That was a little dramatic. I think you got the story wrong, though. God didn't throw you overboard. Those crazy little sailors did. Remember?

JONAH: No, you are wrong. It was God.

GM 1: No, it was the sailors.

JONAH: I'm pretty sure it was God.

GM 2: Aren't they both right?

MI: In a way, they are both right.

JONAH: See, I told you.

(GM 1 looks puzzled, then shrugs shoulders)

GM 3: How did that work?

MI: Well, let's think about what happened to Jonah. How did Jonah end up in the water?

GM 1: The sailors threw him in.

MI: Yes. That is correct.

GM 1: Yes!

(GM 1 sticks tongue out at Jonah)

MI: But why?

GM 2: Jonah told them to.

MI: And why did Jonah tell them to throw him into the sea?

(Get responses)

They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah proving that God sent the storm that was tearing the boat apart because of Jonah's disobedience. The Bible says in the book of Proverbs, "The lost is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."

JONAH: So, it was God that threw me into the sea.

MI: Ultimately, yes. God set the whole thing into motion. Jonah disobeyed and God disciplined him. Have any of you been disciplined by your parents when you've done something wrong?

(Get responses. GM 2 and GM 3 can give experiences they've had)

Do you think discipline is a good or bad thing?

GM 1: It's bad, especially when you get grounded for a week. Ugh...that drives me crazy. There was this one time...

MI: Actually, discipline is a good thing. It teaches you what is wrong and helps to keep you from doing it again.

GM 2: Isn't there something in the Bible about that, that discipline is a sign of love?

MI: Absolutely. In the book of Hebrews it says that the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son.

GM 1: What does that mean exactly?

MI: Just like our parents disciplined us, our heavenly Father disciplines us. Can you imagine if your parents never disciplined you? Your life would be a mess. But your parents discipline you because they care about you.

GM 3: So God had Jonah thrown overboard because he loved him?

MI: It might sound weird, but that's exactly right. If God didn't care about Jonah he wouldn't have disciplined him. Or if Jonah wasn't a child of God then he wouldn't have been disciplined either.

JONAH: But why did his discipline have to involve a stinky fish stomach?

MI: God talks about that too. Well, not about stinky fish stomach but he does say that all discipline seems unpleasant at first, but later on, if you learn your lesson, you'll be more like how God wants you to be.

GM 2: That does sound good after all.

GM 3: While we are on the subject of God's love, we should say our memory verse for this week. 1 John 4:7-8, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

GM 1: And one way he shows his love is through discipline. But I have one more question before we go.

JONAH: What's that?

GM1: What's a sea pillow. You said the sea pillows passed over you. That doesn't sound so bad. What do sea pillows look like?

GM 2: That is billows not pillows.

GM 1: What's a sea billow then, smartypants?

JONAH: Billow-a large undulating mass of something, typically cloud, smoke, or steam. In archaic usage: a large sea wave.

GM 1: So God's waves and big waves passed over you?

JONAH: I like billows better. It sounds fancier.

MI: Thanks, for that stimulating conversation, but I think it is time for the rest of the night to begin. Let's pray before you go.

Prayer

Week 8
Discussion Questions

1. *Who was responsible for throwing Jonah overboard?*
a) Both the men on the ship and God
2. *How do we know that God was responsible too?*
a) Because when they cast lots, the lot fell on Jonah
3. *They mentioned a Bible verse tonight that said “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from _____”*
a) The Lord
4. *Last week we learned that God is sovereign, which means that He is always in control. How does the lot falling on Jonah show God's sovereignty?*
a) **(Teachers you will need to explain this to young students)** Varied, but the kids should be able to see that when Jonah tried to escape God he couldn't. God is in control, and His plans will be completed. He was in charge even of the ROLL of the dice. He is always in control.
5. *Is discipline a good thing or a bad thing?*
a) A good thing
6. *Why is discipline a good thing?*
a) Because it helps us learn right from wrong and then we become more like Jesus.
7. *So, is it a good or a bad thing when your parents discipline you?*
a) Good thing
8. *Is discipline a good thing even if it's unpleasant for us?*
a) Yes (the Bible even says so!)

Teachers – you may want to allow time for students to share times in their own lives when they were disciplined and what they learned from it. *For older students – ask if they have had times in their lives where they could see God was in control of what was happening.

Word to learn for this week:

Beloved: dearly or greatly loved

Spend time learning this week's Bible verse:

1 John 4:7-8

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

Use any remaining time tonight to review previous material and verses or another activity you select.

*Remember that later this year the students will compete in a game show night using questions and verses from all the weeks' material.

Closing

GM 2: Welcome back. How did it go tonight? I'd really like to hear that memory verse again. Let's say it together. 1 John 4:7-8, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

MI: Good job. Tonight we talked a lot about discipline. Remember discipline may not always seem good, but it is.

JONAH: Because it means you're a child of God.

MI: Exactly. But when discipline comes we need to respond to it rightly.

GM 3: That means we shouldn't get angry when we are disciplined.

MI: Yep.

GM 2: And we shouldn't complain.

MI: Right again.

GM 1: I need to learn my lesson and be thankful?

MI: That is precisely what you ought to do.

JONAH: Even for stinky fish stomachs?

MI: Especially for stinky fish stomachs. Imagine how much God must love you if he went to all the trouble of preparing a fish big enough to swallow you.

JONAH: Hey, are you making fun of my size. I do like snack time but...

MI: No, no. I'm just saying that you should have been grateful for the fish God sent to discipline and to save you.

JONAH: Oh.

MI: And you were thankful. That is why you prayed. But we will see in the rest of your story if you learned your lesson or not.

JONAH: Oh...well... it looks like time is up. I should be going. Goodbye kids.

(JONAH goes back into charger)

GM2: Time to upload next week's verse.

MI: Hello PC!

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 9

November 16, 2011

Section 2: Pardon (God's Mercy Toward Jonah) Jonah 2:1-10

God Honors Faith (Jonah 2:4-7)

Welcome/Announcements

(JONAH is sitting with light on him, GM 1, GM 2 walk in. GM 3 will operate the puppet.)

GM 1: Hey, Jonah, what's going on?

JONAH: I'm not sure. That museum guy said he had a few last minute things he needed to get done. He'll be here shortly.

GM 2: While we are waiting let's recite our Bible verse. 1 John 4:7-8, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

(MI walks in)

MI: Hi kids. Welcome back. I heard you saying your verse, great job.

JONAH: Where were you? We were about to start without you.

MI: I was just finishing up on something that will help with our story tonight.

GM 2: So where were we in the story?

(JONAH speaks in his grandiose voice and big hand gestures)

JONAH: There I was in the belly of the great fish and, "Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.' The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple."

GM 1: This sounds familiar. Didn't we talk about this already? You were drowning and sea weed was on your head and you were sinking down, down, down. Been there, done that.

GM 2: Well, I think its fascinating.

MI: This part of the prayer is different from what we already talked about. There is one word that stands out that I would like us to talk to Jonah about. Can anyone guess what "T" word from his prayer I'm thinking about?

(Get responses)

GM 1: "The"?

JONAH: I know. Its "To".

GM 2: The answer is "temple". You want to talk about the temple.

MI: That's right. Jonah mentions it twice in his prayer.

JONAH: I knew that.

GM 1: So did I. I was just testing the rest of you.

MI: First of all, what was the temple?

(Get responses)

JONAH: The temple: AKA the House of God. The temple was the center of Jewish worship. The temple housed several important religious artifacts including the Ark of the Covenant. The temple is where God met with His people.

MI: That's right. The temple was very important to the Jewish people, like Jonah.

(GM 1 starts humming the theme to Indian Jones).

GM 2: What are you doing?

GM 1: Oh, uh...I was just thinking about the Ark of the Covenant. So...the temple. Who did you say built that thing again?

MI: King Solomon.

(Little King Solomon puppet pops up)

GM 3: You rang?

MI: Everyone say hello to Little King Solomon. Way back when Solomon built the temple he prayed a prayer and asked God to do something for the people in connection with the temple. May we hear a part of the prayer you said, Little King Solomon?

GM 3: Yes you may humble peasant. "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart...whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind), that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers. (1 Kings 8:23; 38-40)

MI: Thank you Little King Solomon. And do you know how God responded? "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house that you have built, by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time." (1 Kings 9:3). God promised to do what Solomon asked and Jonah knew that.

JONAH: I sure did. Ever since I was a little boy I learned about the promises of God, just like you are learning in your memory verses.

MI: God promised that whenever a person stretched out his hands toward the temple and prayed God would listen, forgive, act, and give to the person according to what was in their heart.

JONAH: Yes. And because God is a covenant, or promise, keeping God and his love never fails, I know I could call on him and he would hear me.

GM 2: God has made a lot of promises, hasn't he?

MI: Yes and not one of them has failed. Have you ever promised to do something and not done it?

(Get responses)

God has never broken any of his promises and he never will.

GM 1: I understand that we can trust that God will never fail in his promises but what has to be in our hearts? I've got blood in mine. What else do I need?

GM 3: You commoners are so humorous. The word heart is used in many different ways. You are referring to the heart, as in the big muscle in your chest, I referred to the heart as...

JONAH: Definition of heart..."The seat of the affections and passions, as of love, joy, grief, enmity, courage, pleasure, etc."

MI: Have you said or heard someone say, "I love you with all my heart"?

GM 1: Yes, I heard people say that before.

MI: Well that's the idea. Solomon asked God to search the people's heart to see if their faith was really in God or if it was in something else. If their heart was for God then he would answer their prayer.

GM 2: That must mean that though Jonah disobeyed God by running away from Him, he still had faith in God.

MI: That's right. His heart was for God but he still sinned. Jonah was just like us. We might love God and want to follow him with all our hearts, but yet we do bad things sometimes. Unfortunately, that's what people do.

GM 1: So what happens with Solomon? Did God honor his faith like Jonah?

MI: I think I will answer that question when we come back. For now, let's sing some songs and pray before you move one to the rest of your night.

MUSIC

PRAYER

Week 9
Discussion Questions

1. *In Jonah's prayer he mentions God's temple. What does temple mean?*
a) House of God
2. *Why did Jews go to the temple?*
a) To worship God
3. *Jonah mentioned an important item that was kept in the temple, can you remember what it was?*
a) The Ark of the Covenant
4. *Jonah mentioned one more important thing about the temple – probably the most important thing. What was it?*
a) That God met His people there
5. *Who built the temple?*
a) King Solomon
6. *What did King Solomon ask God to do in his prayer?*
a) varied: to hear the prayers of his children, to forgive his children etc.
7. *Did God hear King Solomon's prayer?*
a) Yes and he promised to do what Solomon asked
8. *Did Jonah know about God's promise to King Solomon?*
a) Yes
9. *Did Jonah know that if he prayed to God that God would hear him and take care of him?*
a) Yes
10. *How many promises has God made to his children?*
a) MANY!
11. *Has God ever broken a promise he has made?*
a) No!
12. *Will God hear your prayers if you trust in Him just like Jonah did?*
a) Yes
13. *What does it mean for God to search the hearts of his children?*
a) To see if they really believe in God and trust him, or if they were trusting in something else

Spend time practicing this week's Bible verse:

1 John 4:7-8

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

Any additional time may be spent reviewing previous material and verses or another activity of your choice.

Closing

GM 1: Soooo...what happened to Solomon?

JONAH: Well, he started out good and built the temple of God.

MI: But as he got older he got into trouble. The Bible says that his heart wandered from God.

GM 2: What caused his heart to stray from God? I mean, he must have had great faith to build the temple. What happened?

GM 3: Women!

GM 1: What's that Little King Solomon?

GM 3: I said, it was women.

MI: Actually, Little King Solomon is right. Solomon disobeyed God and married 700 women and those women did not love God but worshiped false gods.

GM 2: How sad.

JONAH: Yes, what an embarrassment for the people of Israel. It was a sad, sad day.

GM 3: And having one of our prophets swallowed by a fish is better?

MI: Alright you two. If we learn anything here tonight, it is that God is a God of promises. He makes covenants and keeps them. We also should have learned that God will honor our faith. If our hearts are for God and God alone, he will honor our faith. But if our hearts turn aside to something or someone else...

GM 1: Or 700 someone elses...

MI: ...then God will do what we talked about last week which was?

(Get responses)

Right, God will discipline us. Solomon was disciplined just like Jonah and we will be also.

So let's turn our hearts to God and trust in him for everything we need.

JONAH: Is it time for me to go?

MI: Yep. Goodnight Jonah.

(JONAH goes back in charger)

GM 1: It's time to upload next week's verse!

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 10

November 30, 2011

Section 2: Pardon (God's Mercy Toward Jonah) Jonah 2:1-10

God Accepts Confession (Jonah 2:8-9)

Welcome/Announcements

(JONAH is in the charger. GM 1 is messing with the charger. MI, GM 2 and GM 3 walk in. GM 1 sneaks out the other way.)

MI: Come on in Adventure Club. Let's see. Time to turn on Jonah.

(MI flips the switch on Jonah's charger, nothing happens).

That's odd.

GM 2: What's wrong?

MI: I'm not sure. Something is wrong with Jonah. He was just working this morning and now, nothing.

GM 3: Here, let us help.

(GM 2 and GM 3 work on the charger too. GM 1 sneaks in and stands off to the side, pretending everything is okay.)

MI: Wait a minute. Here we go.

(Flips the switch again. JONAH turns on).

JONAH: Good evening, everyone. Why is everyone standing around me? What's going on?

MI: We just had a little problem getting you started. I don't understand what happened.

GM 2: Hey, when did you get here?

GM 1: Oh, a little while ago.

GM 3: Do you know anything about this?

(GM 1 shrugs shoulders)

GM 2: Well?

GM 1: Alright, alright. I got here early and was messing around. I was the one that messed things up. I'm sorry.

GM 3: What's wrong with you? How could you do that?

MI: Hey, hey. It's okay. No harm done. I'm just glad that you told us the truth. To confess when you've done something wrong is the right thing to do.

GM 1: Well, I'm glad I did something right.

MI: Actually, confession is what I was hoping we would talk about tonight. You see, that is the next part of Jonah's prayer.

JONAH: There I was, still in the belly of the great fish, and I finished my prayer to God saying, "Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs

to the LORD!"

GM 2: That's a great way to end a prayer.

MI: Jonah was remembering the Psalms again when he prayed his prayer. Psalm 66:13-14 says, "I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you, that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble."

JONAH: But it was not easy to pray that prayer. I knew I had to confess that I had been regarding vain idols in my heart.

GM 1: What do you mean?

JONAH: Well, as you probably guessed, when I tried to run away from God my heart wasn't fully trusting in God. I allowed my care for my country and what other people would think of me change the way I think rather than just listening to God. I needed to confess that I was wrong.

GM 1: Just like I just did when I told you what I had done.

JONAH: Yes. And I confessed to God that I would do what I vowed to God I would do.

GM 2: And what promises to did you make to God?

MI: Well, the Bible doesn't tell us the exact vows that Jonah made, but I bet you can guess what one of them was.

(Get responses)

Yes, he probably vowed to God that he would go to Nineveh and tell the people God's message if only God would spare his life.

JONAH: And I made one more confession too.

GM 3: You confessed that salvation belongs to the LORD.

JONAH: Yes, that's right.

MI: Jonah quoted from the Psalms again here. See if Psalm 3:8 or 37:39 sound familiar? "Salvation is from the Lord, Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble."

JONAH: Yeah, I tried to save myself. Actually, I tried to do everything by myself. I tried to run. I bought a trip on a boat. I took my chances when the sailors cast lots, and I tried to swim, but nothing worked.

GM 1: God had to save you because you couldn't do it yourself.

MI: Exactly. We will talk a little more about Jonah's last confession before we go home tonight. But we need to remember confessing to God is a really good thing.

GM 2: So is our memory verse for this week. It's 1 Cor. 13:4-5. Let's say it together, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;"

MI: And that's the love that God showed Jonah.

JONAH: You can say that again.

GM 1: And that's the love that God showed Jonah.

GM 3: On that note; let's sing some songs.

Music
Prayer

Week 10
Discussion Questions

1. *What does confession mean?*
a) To tell your sin to God
2. *What did Jonah have to confess to God?*
a) varied – that he was wrong, he wasn't trusting in God, he cared more about other people's opinions of him and his love for his country than he did about what God wanted him to do
3. *What is a vow?*
a) a promise
4. *Although the Bible doesn't tell us EXACTLY what vows Jonah made, can you guess what one of them probably was?*
a) That he would go to Nineveh like God told him to.
5. *Confession usually means to tell your sin to God, BUT it can also mean to declare something that is true. What other confession did Jonah make in his prayer?*
a) That salvation belongs to the LORD!
6. *Who knows what salvation means?*
a) it means to be delivered from the power and the effects of sin. This means that when we receive salvation from God we will no longer be guilty for the sins we commit, it also means that we will now have the ability - by the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us – to choose NOT to sin. We can make the right choices that God wants us to make!
7. *Could Jonah save himself?*
a) No, he needed God to save him.
8. *Can we save ourselves?*
a) No – just like Jonah, we need God to save us too!
9. *How did Jonah receive salvation from God?*
a) He prayed (or he cried out to God)
10. *How can we receive salvation from God?*
a) We need to pray too!
11. *Did God hear Jonah's prayer and save him?*
a) Yes!
12. *Will God hear our prayers if we ask Him to save us?*
a) Yes! - Yes, He will. The Bible says that, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 Hey, that's one of your memory verses too! It's wonderful to know that God will hear and answer our prayers if we trust Him!

Words to learn this week (be sure to emphasize what love IS and what it is NOT):

Patient: handling hard times without complaining

Envy: wanting something someone else has, being jealous

Boast: bragging

Arrogant: thinking of yourself or acting like you are better than other people

Rude: being mean, not polite

Irritable: easily angered

Resentful: unforgiving

Bible Verse for this week: 1 Cor. 13:4-5

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; (the rest of the verse is learned later)

Closing

MI: Welcome back everyone. Let's talk about that perfect love of God again. "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

You see guys, I think the best line in the whole prayer of Jonah is the last. "Salvation belongs to the LORD."

JONAH: How did God save me?

(Get responses)

Yep. God sent the fish. But he had to care for the fish when it was little. He cared for its fishy parents, and their fishy parents and so on way back to the beginning when God created the earth.

GM 2: Wow, that's quite a plan.

MI: Indeed it is. Salvation belongs to the Lord because it was planned and worked out before we were even born. Jesus promised to save us too if we would confess the bad things we have done and believe salvation comes from Him.

GM 1: And you're not just talking about salvation from drowning right?

MI: Nope. We're talking about being saved to eternal life, where there is no drowning, or pain, or dying at all; just perfect life.

Do you believe salvation belongs to the Lord?

GM 3: Salvation belongs to the Lord.

GM 2: Salvation belongs to the Lord.

JONAH: *(Yells)* Salvation belongs to the Lord!

MI: Yes, it does. Well, Jonah, it's time to go. Goodbye.

(JONAH goes back in charger)

GM 1: Can I start the upload tonight? I promise I won't mess it up.

MI: Sure, go right ahead.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 13

January 4, 2012

Section 2: Pardon (God's Mercy Toward Jonah) Jonah 2:1-10

God Restores (Jonah 2:10)

Welcome/Announcements

(MI is working on something at his work bench with a mask on. GM1, GM 2, and GM 3 walk in)

GM 2: Hi.

MI: Oh, hello. You're right on time.

GM 1: What's up with the mask?

MI: I suggest that you wear one too.

GM 2: Why?

MI: Well, there seems to be an interesting side effect from the verse we uploaded last time.

GM 3: What do you mean?

MI: You might want to put on one of these.

(MI passes out masks)

They help a little. You'll see. Let me turn on Jonah and you will see what I mean.

(MI flips switch)

GM 2: Ugh. What is that awful stench?

GM 1: It smells like week old gym socks.

GM 3: No. It smells like rotten Brussels sprouts.

GM 2: I think it smells like a combination of zoo and garbage dump.

GM 1: Whatever it is, it is burning my nose hairs.

JONAH: Shalom and good evening. Umm...what's with all the masks?

GM 2: Can't you smell that?

MI: I haven't invented smell sensors yet.

GM 3: I think the smell is coming from...

GM 1, GM 2, GM 3: Jonah!

JONAH: What are you talking about?

GM 1: Dude, you smell like...like...fish vomit.

MI: Exactly! That is the next part of the story.

GM 1: Huh?

JONAH: Oh, so you want to talk about that?

(MI makes adjustments to Jonah. Eventually everyone takes their masks off)

There I was in the great fish for 3 days and 3 nights, praying to God, and then there was a gurgling sound...

GM 3: And...?

MI: The fish threw up.

GM 1: Oh, gross.

JONAH: It wasn't one of my favorite days.

MI: The Bible says that God spoke to the fish and told it to spit Jonah out. I believe this is lesson number one for tonight: God is in control of all things, even the fish of the sea. All God had to do was speak and the fish did what he said.

GM 2: I guess that's nothing for a God that could speak light into existence.

GM 1: I bet the next lesson to learn is: Take baths on a regular basis.

MI: No, that's not exactly what I had in mind, though, that is probably a good thing to do. Think about how you would feel after you just got thrown up by a fish. What would you feel?

JONAH: I'll tell you exactly how I felt. I was humiliated. Here I was, Jonah, God's great prophet, being spit out on the beach all smelly, clothes falling apart. Hardly the look for a man such as me.

MI: That's lesson number two. The Bible calls sin foolishness and often that's what we look like when we do bad things; a fool. Have you ever been caught doing something wrong and felt foolish afterward?

(Get responses)

GM 2: *(Share a real story)*

GM 3: *(Share a real story)*

GM 1: That's all fine and good, but I've been hearing people say that this whole thing about Jonah and the fish is fake. They say that no one could survive inside a fish for three days and three nights. What do you say about that?

GM 2: Well, I've heard stories of people's body parts being found inside a shark days after and attack.

GM 3: Gross. That's disgusting.

MI: Let me ask you a question: Do we have to prove that you can live inside a fish that long in order for the story to be true? What do you think kids?

(Get responses)

The fact is their might be a sea creature out there that you could live inside of or not. It doesn't really matter because it was a miracle. God was in control, and things were happening the way he wanted them to and nothing can stop God.

GM 1: Is this what we were talking about before? You know, that long word that means God has everything planned out.

MI: You mean Providence, and yes, that's part of what we are talking about. Could God work everything out so that a great fish would be at the right place at the right time to eat Jonah? And that once swallowed, Jonah could survive in the fish?

(Get responses)

GM 2: So it doesn't matter if no one ever survives inside a fish again because God did it and that's all that matters.

MI: And that brings us to one more thing; when Jonah was spit out by the fish, he got his life back. God could have let Jonah drown in the water. He could have said, "Jonah, you deserve this." But God chose to restore Jonah's life.

JONAH: And I was so happy that the fish spit me up on the beach and not in the middle of the sea. Being fish food once was enough.

GM 3: So God kept his promise, but did Jonah?

MI: Ah, that is a story for another night.

GM 3: Awww...I wanted to hear what happens.

GM 1: Yeah, does a great chicken eat him next?

JONAH: Hey, thanks a lot.

MI: No, no great chickens. But there is something we need to do right now.

GM 2, GM 3: Memory verse! "it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:6-7)

Music

Prayer

Week 13
Discussion Questions

- 1.) *Lesson #1 tonight was that God is in _____ of all things.*
 - a) control
- 2.) *How did the fish know that it needed to spit Jonah out?*
 - a) God told it to.
- 3.) *How did Jonah feel once he was spit out?*
 - a) varied – embarrassed, humiliated, foolish etc.
- 4.) *The Bible sometimes calls sin foolishness, why did Jonah feel foolish?*
 - a) Because he was a prophet of God which made him an important man, and now he was gross, dirty and stinky! This wouldn't have happened if he had obeyed God from the beginning and Jonah knew that.
- 5.) *When have you done something wrong and felt foolish once you were caught?*
 - a) Give kids time to respond
- 6.) *It can be hard to believe that Jonah lived inside the fish for 3 days and survived. Do we have to prove that this can happen today in order to believe the story?*
 - a) No
- 7.) *Why not?*
 - a) Because what happened to Jonah was a miracle
- 8.) *What is a miracle?*
 - a) ask for answers then give the definition. A miracle is an *extraordinary* event that shows God is at work in the lives of people.
- 9.) *Can we make miracles happen?*
 - a) NO! - only God can make a miracle
- 10.) *What is the word that means God has everything planned out?*
 - a) Providence

Words to learn:

rejoice: to be filled with great joy

wrongdoing: doing something wrong (this is self-explanatory but may not be a familiar word to the children)

truth: real things, real events, real facts (Make the point that God's word is Truth)

bears: does what is difficult to do and handles things that are hard

endures: stays firm – even through suffering, never gives in

Bible Verse: (1 Corinthians 13:6-7)

“it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Now we've learned the whole verse. Let's start with last week's part and say it all together now:

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Closing

GM 3: Hi everyone. I have a challenge for you. Can anyone say the memory verse from last time we met along with tonight's verse? Can you say 1 Cor. 13:4-7?

MI: That is awesome work. Love is an amazing thing, especially God's love. Do you think God loved Jonah? Why?

(Get responses)

GM 1: God's love must be enduring to put up with Jonah all the time.

JONAH: Thanks.

MI: God's love is all that those verses say. And Jonah's life is a great display of God's love. The question for us is: Do we know God's love? Have you seen God's love in your own life?

(Get responses)

God loves his children very much and it helps us to stop and think about all the things that he has done for us.

GM 2: Like sending Jesus to save us from our sins?

MI: Absolutely! Jesus is the greatest example of God's love. Jesus chose to lay down his life for his friends which the Bible says there is no greater love than that. So saving Jonah's life was a great sign of love but Jesus saving us to eternal life is the greatest.

JONAH: Alright kids. My work here is done. Time for me to go. Good night.

MI: Good night Jonah.

(JONAH goes in charger)

Time to see what PC is up to.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 14

January 11, 2012

Section 2: Pardon (God's Mercy Toward Jonah) Jonah 2:1-10

Family Night: Bingo!

Slideshow Of Kids From Previous Weeks

Welcome/Announcements

Music

MI: Welcome Adventure Club and guests.

JONAH: Is it family night again?

MI: Yes it is. Tonight we get to review everything that we have learned from this last section of the book of Jonah.

JONAH: So what did we cover?

MI: We went through all of Jonah chapter 2. The theme for this section was Pardon: God's Mercy Toward Jonah.

JONAH: I guess that will do.

MI: Well, it's too late now, because we already finished the section.

JONAH: Oh, yeah, right.

MI: Our first topic was God Hears.

GM1: When we pray God hears us just like he heard Jonah as he sank beneath the waves.

MI: Second was God Disciplines.

GM2: We learned that God disciplines those he loves.

MI: Third was God Honors Faith.

GM3: Jonah had faith in God's promises and God honored that faith just like when we have faith in Jesus we receive eternal life.

MI: God Accepts Confession was the fourth lesson.

GM1: Jonah confessed his wrong just like we ought to confess when we do wrong things and God will forgive.

MI: Finally, we talked about God Restores.

GM2: God restored Jonah back to life, just like God restores sinners to eternal life.

JONAH: That was a lot of learning.

MI: It was, but it's all worth it. We learned some great truths of the Bible.

JONAH: Bingo!

MI: Let's see, there was something else we needed to talk about. Oh yes, you've been memorizing the periodic table, haven't you? No. You've been memorizing your state capitals? No? That's right, You've been memorizing Bible verses.

(GM1, GM2, GM3 take microphones and try to find kids that will recite passages)

Is there anyone that will take the challenge and recite one of the verses for us?

GM1: I've got John 17:3 *(Keep searching until someone gets it right)*.

GM2: I have 1 John 4:7-8. *(Keep searching until someone gets it right)*.

GM3: I have 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

JONAH: The whole thing?

GM3: Yep. *(Keep searching until someone gets it right)*.

JONAH: Bingo!

MI: Yes, that was amazing kids. Keep working on those verses and they will change your life. Tonight, I need your help working on a new part of my exhibit. Last time we added a craft so I thought we would add a game this week.

JONAH: Bingo!

MI: That's right.

JONAH: BINGO!

MI: Yes, Jonah, yes. Tonight we are going to try out a new game called Jonah!

JONAH: Bingo!

MI: Yes Jonah it is Bingo, but instead of yelling bingo! you yell Jonah!

JONAH: That is the best idea you've had yet, except for creating me, of course.

MI: Of course. Are you ready? Let's pray and then we'll begin.

Prayer

Closing

MI: Welcome back. Did everyone have a good time? How did my Jonah...

JONAH: BINGO!

MI: Yes, how was the game? Was it fun? Next week we move on to the second half of Jonah's story. We'll learn all kinds of great things as we see Jonah finally accomplishing his mission.

GM1: His secret mission behind enemy lines.

MI: Yes, something like that.

GM2: And we have a whole new set of Bible verses to learn.

MI: That's right, so make sure you start working on those.

GM3: Will there be any new robot friends?

MI: You'll have to wait and see. I think you will really like some of the new inventions I've got in mind.

JONAH: Wow. It looks like the night is over. Time for me to go?

MI: That's right Jonah. Good night!

(JONAH goes back into charger)

We've got one thing left to do. Are you ready to upload the verse for next time? Here we go...

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 15

January 18, 2012

Section 3: Preaching (God's Power Through Jonah) Jonah 3:1-10

God Gives 2nd Tries (Jonah 3:1-2)

Welcome/Announcements

(MI working at work table. GM1, GM2, GM3 walk in)

MI: Hello there. How is everyone doing tonight?

GM2: Great! What are you working on there?

MI: I've got a little machine I think you might like. It is a trivia candy dispenser. If you answer three questions right you get a piece of candy. Want to try?

GM1: That's a silly question. Fire it up!

MI: Are you ready?

(Show Powerpoint questions)

Question 1: Who made the Ark of the Covenant? [Bezalel]

Question 2: Who was Joseph's second born son? [Ephraim]

Question 3: What was the name of the judge who was the grandson of Dodo? [Tolah]

Sorry, you lose. I guess you don't get any candy.

GM1: Those questions were impossible.

GM3: Do you think we could try again, please, please, please.

MI: You want a second try?

GM2: Yes, please.

MI: Well, alright. But you might want Jonah to help.

GM1: Seriously?

GM3: Yeah, we could use all the help we could get.

(Jonah turns on)

JONAH: Hello friends. What are you doing?

GM2: We are trying to answer the questions to get candy. Can you help?

JONAH: I'll give it a try.

MI: Here we go.

Question 1: Where was Og king of?

JONAH: That's easy, Bashan.

MI: Right. Question 2: What was the city of refuge in Galilee?

JONAH: Kedesh. Wow, these are easy.

MI: Question 3: How was Perez related to King David?

JONAH: He was his great-great-great-great-great-great-great- grandfather.

MI: You win!

(MI hands candy to everyone)

GM2: Thanks Jonah. We couldn't have done it without you.

MI: So, how does it feel to get a second try?

GM3: Tasty!

MI: Did you know that Jonah got a second try too?

JONAH: There I was, spit up by a great fish when God came to me again.

GM1: And what did he say?

JONAH: The same thing he told me before. I had to go to Nineveh and speak out against it.

GM2: Wow, not only did God speak to you once, twice but three times. That's amazing.

JONAH: Why yes it is my young friend, yes it is. God found me, spoke to me, and told me what to do again.

GM1: I bet you couldn't wait to go on your secret mission this time. Did you gear up? Did you put on some camo, night vision goggles, face paint?

JONAH: What?

MI: You would think that Jonah would be grateful for a second try, wouldn't you? I was just thinking about another man that God gave a second try. His name was Peter.

GM2: You mean Peter from the New Testament, the follower of Jesus?

MI: Exactly. He was an apostle and a close friend to Jesus. When Jesus was arrested Peter stood outside and watched what happened. Some people asked Peter if he knew Jesus and three times he said he didn't know him.

JONAH: So what happened?

MI: Awhile later Jesus met with Peter. He did not hold Peter's sin against him but instead told Peter to lead God's people and care for them.

GM1: And what did Peter do? Did he deny Jesus again?

MI: To be sure, Peter was not perfect but he did not deny Jesus. Actually, on the Jewish holy day of Pentecost, Peter stood up to a huge crowd of people and told them all the Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah that all of them had been waiting for.

GM2: So Jesus *did* give him a second try, but that didn't make what he did okay, did it?

MI: Absolutely not. There is never an excuse for doing bad things. We can never make excuses before God. But God loves his children and is willing to use them even when they mess up.

GM3: That reminds me of something from the Bible too. I think, in the book of Hebrews it says that Jesus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Jesus never forsook Peter and God never forsook Jonah.

JONAH: That's true. God was with me every step of the way. Even when I tried to run away, he was with me. When I sank under the water, God was with me. When I was spit up on the

shore by the fish, God was with me, and he made himself known to me.

MI: Did you know that God is always with you? Even though you never see him or you may never hear him speaking out loud he is with you.

GM2: I love knowing that God is always with me. Our pastor told us that even though we may not hear him speaking with our ears, we can hear him speaking when we read the Bible.

MI: That is very true. The Bible is how God speaks to us today. If we want to hear what he has to say to you, all you have to do is pick up the Bible and read it.

GM3: Just like our memory verse for tonight.

GM1: What does it say?

GM2: Ephesians 6:1-2 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),”

JONAH: Hey, I know that verse. It's from the Ten Commandments.

MI: That's right Jonah and we will talk a little about the verse after the kids come back from the rest of their club time.

Music

Prayer

Week 15
Discussion Questions

- 1.) *Did God give Jonah another chance to go to Nineveh?*
 - a) Yes
- 2.) *The second chance that Jonah received from God is like the extra chance that Jesus' friend received in the New Testament. What was his name?*
 - a) Peter
- 3.) *How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus?*
 - a) 3 times
- 4.) *Did Jesus forgive Peter?*
 - a) Yes
- 5.) *Did God forgive Jonah?*
 - a) Yes
- 6.) *Will God forgive you and me for our sins?*
 - a) Yes. -Yes He will, when we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)
- 7.) *In the book of Hebrews there is a verse that says Jesus will never leave you or forsake you, what does that mean?*
 - a) That He is always with us – Yes, he is with us in every moment of our lives – even our death – and He will bring us to be with Him in Heaven one day.
- 8.) *Did God ever forsake Jonah?*
 - a) No
- 9.) *Will He ever forsake you?*
 - a) No!

Words to learn:

Obey: to follow the commands (rules) of someone (in this case their parents)

Honor: to treat someone with special respect

Commandment: a rule given by God

Bible Verse:

Ephesians 6:1-2

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), (remainder of verse will be learned next week)

If time allows you may review previous material learned to prepare students for the upcoming game show night, or another activity of your choosing.

Closing

MI: Hey guys. I hope you had a good time tonight. Tonight we talked about how God gave Jonah a command. As we learned before, Jonah disobeyed and tried to run away.

JONAH: Yeah, yeah I think the kids know that part of the story. Do you have to keep bringing it up?

MI: Just trying to make a point, old buddy. The point is that God didn't give up on Jonah but gave him a second try. Do you remember your Bible verse for tonight? Say it with me. Ephesians 6:1-2 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),"

JONAH: Like I said before, that's from the Ten Commandments.

GM2: That's true Jonah, but it's repeated again in the New Testament. In Ephesians. Chapter 6.

JONAH: I get the point. The command hasn't changed. Kids today need to obey and honor their parents just like I did.

MI: Yep. All of the kids here need to obey their parents. Now, let's think about this for a minute. What if you mess up and disobey or do something that is dishonoring to your parents?

GM1: You mean, like when you jump your skateboard off the hood of your parents car and they told you not to?

MI: Yes. That would be a good example. If you sinned and jumped the skateboard off the hood of the car, could God forgive you?

(Get responses)

Would God give you a second try to obey your parents?

(Get responses)

If God forgives you and gives you a second try and your parents forgive you and give you a second try, does that mean it was okay for you to disobey or to disobey again in the future?

(Get responses)

GM2: Thank God for second tries.

GM1: And third and fourth and fifth tries too.

MI: Well, kids, it looks like time is up. Time for Jonah to go. Goodbye Jonah.

(JONAH goes in charger)

GM3: Now it's time for PC!

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 16

January 25, 2012

Section 3: Preaching (God's Power Through Jonah) Jonah 3:1-10

God Gives Warnings (Jonah 3:3-4)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(There is a flashing red light on Jonah's charger. MI is working frantically on things. GM1, GM2, GM3 walk in)

GM2: Hey, what do you think is going on?

GM3: I don't know. It doesn't look good.

MI: Oh hey. Come in, come in.

GM1: What's with the red light?

MI: That's what I'm trying to figure out. The warning light let's me know when there is a possible overload of some kind.

GM2: What can we do?

MI: I'm not sure. Let me see if I can get Jonah out and we can talk to him to see if he knows what's wrong.

(JONAH comes out of charger, takes a few steps and then collapses on the floor)

GM3: Jonah are you okay.

JONAH: *(Mumbles)*

GM2: What did he say? I couldn't understand him.

JONAH: No, I don't want to go. Where's my mommy?

GM1: What is he babbling about?

MI: I think he is thinking about Nineveh again.

GM1: Isn't he overreacting a little.

MI: I'm not so sure. Nineveh was a scary place. It was one of the leading cities in Assyria. Remember, Israel, Jonah's people, and the Assyrians were enemies.

JONAH: That's right! That's right! Listen to the man. The Assyrian armies were feared for their might all over the world.

MI: The people were also known for their violence. They did all kinds of horrendous things to people; scary things.

JONAH: But God called me to go, *again*. He didn't change his mind, so I gathered up the things I needed for my trip and headed off for Nineveh.

GM2: How long was the trip again?

JONAH: Over a month.

GM3: So it really wasn't an easy task to go.

MI: No, but when Jonah went he was following the word of God. And, following God's word is always a good thing. God was with Jonah every step of the way.

JONAH: That was true, God was with me. But when I got to Nineveh I had to work. This wasn't a vacation that I was on. I had to preach to the people for several days.

GM1: And I thought an hour long sermon was long.

GM2: What was your sermon about?

JONAH: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

GM3: That's not exactly a pleasant message.

GM1: I like it. You guys have forty days then, KABOOM!, you're toast.

GM2: Is that all you said to the people?

JONAH: Yep, that's it.

MI: Well, that may or may not be true. You see, the Bible only records for us the one phrase. But, I think we can be sure that the people asked Jonah some questions about his God and why he was angry with them. If some guy came into our town saying that in forty days our city would be destroyed what would you ask him?

(Get responses)

GM3: So what did the people do? Did they listen to Jonah?

GM1: I bet God nuked the city just like he did that other place with the salt-woman.

MI: Do you mean the city of Sodom? Well, you'll have to wait until next week to get the answer. The important thing that we need to learn is that God gives warnings. Imagine that there were no warnings in our world. Things just happened. How would that cause problems?

(Get responses)

GM2: I think it would be extremely dangerous to drive a car without warnings; no yellow lights, no stop signs, no do not enters, there would be a lot more accidents.

MI: Yes, indeed. Have your parents ever given you a warning? What kinds of things have your parents warned you about?

(Get responses)

Why do you think parents give warnings?

GM3: I think parents warn us about things because they love us and want the best for us.

MI: Usually that is the case with parents, but with God it is always true. He didn't just send Jonah to Nineveh to tell the people that they were going to be destroyed, they were being warned so that they would stop doing what was bringing the destruction.

GM1: Did God warn other people in the Bible?

MI: The Bible is full of God's warnings. Throughout his word, God shows us what is dangerous to us and what we should stay away from. He also warns us to seek what we really need.

GM2: I remember Jesus, in his teachings, warning people quite a bit.

MI: Yes, that's true. One of the main warnings that Jesus gave to us was about hell. He talked about it on numerous occasions and warned people to stay away. He also warned them that if they tried to save themselves from hell they wouldn't be able to do it.

GM3: That is probably the most important warning of all isn't it?

MI: It is definitely one of the most important, because so many people think that they don't need Jesus.

JONAH: So, God's discipline and his warnings are a sign of his love. *(red flashing light turns off)*

MI: Exactly, Jonah. I think you're getting it.

GM1: Hey, the red light shut off. I guess we just needed to talk Jonah down from his overload.

MI: We all feel scared or stressed out sometimes. But God's warnings can remind us of the truth and help us overcome our feelings.

GM2: Should we look at our Bible verse for this week before we move on?

MI: Sounds good to me. Tonight you are looking at the promise God made to us when we honor our fathers and mothers.

GM3: Right! It's Ephesians 6:3. "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

MI: Let's pray and then I'll see you back here in a little while.

Prayer

Week 16
Discussion Questions

- 1.) *Was Jonah happy to go to Nineveh?*
 - a) No
- 2.) *Why was he scared?*
 - a) Because the people of Nineveh were his enemies
- 3.) *What country was Nineveh in?*
 - a) Assyria
- 4.) *What country was Jonah from?*
 - a) Israel
- 5.) *Were the people of Nineveh peaceful or violent?*
 - a) Violent!
- 6.) *The people of Nineveh were violent and scary, they were also Jonah's enemies. Do you think it was easy for Jonah to obey God's command to go to them?*
 - a) No
- 7.) *That's right, it wasn't easy. But obeying God's commands is always the right thing to do isn't it?*
 - a) Yes!
- 8.) *How long did Jonah's trip to Nineveh take?*
 - a) Over a month
- 9.) *When Jonah got to Nineveh, what did he do?*
 - a) Preach
- 10.) *What was Jonah's message to the people of Nineveh?*
 - a) In 40 days they would be destroyed.
- 11.) *How many days did they have to repent?*
 - a) 40 days
- 12.) *How did God show love and mercy to the people of Nineveh?*
 - a) by sending Jonah to warn them, instead of just destroying them
- 13.) *Does God give us warnings?*
 - a) Yes – all throughout the Bible
- 14.) *Can you tell me 2 things that Jesus warned us about in the Bible?*
 - a) Hell and that we cannot save ourselves
- 15.) *Sometimes we may feel scared or stressed out like Jonah did when he went to Nineveh. What should we do when we feel like that?*
 - a) Pray and read God's word

Bible Verse

Ephesians 6:3.

“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Let's say the whole verse together with last week's verse:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise, that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Spend remaining time discussing what you've learned so far with the kids, reviewing previous material or completing another activity as you choose.

Closing

MI: Hey, kids. Welcome back. Let's look at Ephesians 6:3 again. It says, "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Often God's warnings go hand in hand with his promises and blessings.

GM2: What do you mean by that?

MI: Well, when God told the Ninevites that their city would be destroyed in 40 days, obviously, for the evil that they had done the opposite would be true. If they turned from their evil and to God then they would be saved.

GM3: So if we obey our fathers and mothers we will live long in the land and it will go well with us.

MI: But if you disobey your parents...

GM3: Then it won't go well with us and we won't live long in the land.

MI: Exactly. Try a promise this time.

GM2: The meek shall inherit the earth.

JONAH: Let me try...um...the arrogant shall inherit nothing.

MI: Very good. Remember, when God is warning us not to do something there is always something good attached to it. God loves us very much.

GM1: Oh, look. It's time to go already. And I was just getting the hang of this.

MI: You'll just have to come again next week. Say goodbye to Jonah everyone.

JONAH: Goodbye kids and thanks for your help. See you next week.

MI: Alright, let's see what PC has to upload tonight.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 17

February 1, 2012

Section 3: Preaching (God's Power Through Jonah) Jonah 3:1-10

God Desires Obedience (Jonah 3:5-9)

Welcome/Announcements

(MI and GM1 walk in. MI immediately flips on Jonah. GM2 and GM3 will operate puppets)

GM1: You're not wasting anytime tonight, are you?

MI: We've got a lot to do tonight.

GM1: You're the boss.

JONAH: Hello, Adventure Club. How are you?

MI: Just fine Jonah.

GM1: If I remember right, when PC uploaded the verse for this week, Jonah wasn't even mentioned.

JONAH: So what's your point?

GM1: I'm just saying...we all need to conserve energy...

MI: Jonah needs to learn about this part of the story too. Obedience wasn't exactly Jonah's strongest subject.

JONAH: Touche'.

MI: Last week, we talked about how Jonah went throughout Nineveh preaching its destruction.

GM1: So did the people listen to Jonah? Was Nineveh destroyed?

MI: The Bible tells us that the people believed God. All over the city, the rich and the poor people listened to what God had to say through Jonah. They began to fast and wear sackcloth.

GM1: Whoa, time out. They did what? What is fast and sackcloth.

JONAH: To fast: to abstain from food voluntarily for a time, for the mortification of the body or appetites, or as a token of grief, or humiliation and penitence.

MI: That's right. To fast, meant that the people stopped eating and drinking for a time because they felt bad about the evil they had done.

JONAH: Sackcloth: Linen or cotton cloth such a sacks are made of; coarse cloth; anciently, a cloth or garment worn in mourning, distress, mortification, or penitence.

GM1: So the people made clothes out of sacks. Sounds itchy.

MI: It was itchy and would irritate your skin. The people did that as a sign that they were truly sorry for what they had done.

GM1: Okay. Then what happened?

MI: Well, all the news made it to the King of Nineveh.

(King Nineveh puppet pop up. Played by GM2)

GM2: Hello fair people. I am the King of Nineveh.

GM1: Hi King of Nineveh. So what's your story?

GM2: The news of Jonah had reached my palace. I heard that God was planning to destroy our great city. I rose up from my throne, removed my royal robe, put on sackcloth, and then I sat in ashes.

GM1: You sat in what? Ashes? I hope they had time to cool off, ouch!

JONAH: To sit in ashes was a sign of deep mourning and repentance.

GM2: Then I issued an official decree to be published throughout the land. Do you want to know what it said?

JONAH: Not really.

GM2: It said, "By the decree of the king and his nobles. Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water..."

GM1: Whoa, whoa, whoa. The animals could not eat or drink? My dog goes crazy when I forget to give him his Kibble n' Bits. I can't imagine all the animals doing that.

GM2: Might I continue? "...but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth..."

GM1: Hold on. They made sackcloth clothes for their animals too? This just got weird.

MI: What can I say, they were serious.

GM2: "...and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his anger, so that we may not perish."

MI: You see, the people knew that they had done evil things and that God was angry with them because of their evil. Their hope was that if they turned away from their evil and called out to God, God would not destroy them as he said.

GM1: Why would God care if they turned from their evil and obeyed him; they were the enemies of Jonah's people, God's chosen people?

JONAH: That's what I'm saying.

MI: But that's God's plan. Do you remember King Solomon and the prayer he prayed?

(Little King Solomon pops up. Played by GM3)

GM3: Hello people. Little King Solomon here.

MI: In Solomon's prayer he also mentioned the foreigners, like the people of Nineveh.

GM3: That's right, I did. I said, "Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for the sake of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays toward this house, hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name."

GM1: So if anyone turned from evil, prayed toward the temple, and trusted God, he promised to save them.

MI: Can you see how important obeying God is? It's a matter of life or death. Remember, your Bible verse for this week?

GM1: Yeah. It's Ephesians 6:3. Let's say it together. ""that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

MI: Yes. To obey God means to obey your parents. And when you obey, things will go well for you and you will live long in the land.

GM1: Does that mean that if I always obey and honor my parents then everything will go my way and I'll live to be really old?

MI: Not exactly. We'll talk a little more about this later. Okay?

JONAH: Are you guys done talking? It's time to sing some songs!

Music

Prayer

Week 17
Discussion Questions

1. *Did the people in Nineveh listen to Jonah?*
a) Yes
2. *The people in Nineveh did 2 things to show they were sorry for their sins. What were they?*
a) Fast and put on sackcloth
3. *What does it mean to fast?*
a) To stop eating or drinking for some time
4. *What is sackcloth and what do you do with it?*
a) Itchy and uncomfortable cloth sacks, people wore them when they were overcome with sorrow or sadness
5. *Did the King of Nineveh believe Jonah?*
a) Yes
6. *What did he do when he heard Jonah's message?*
a) He took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth and sat in ashes
7. *Why did he sit in ashes?*
a) To show he was very repentant (sorry) for their sins
8. *The King of Nineveh made a decree (an announcement) to all the land. What are some of the things that he told them?*
a) varied but should include: none of the people OR animals could eat or drink, the people and the animals were to wear sackcloth, that everyone was to cry out to God and turn away from evil and violence
9. *What did the King and the other people of Nineveh hope would happen?*
a) That God would not destroy them
10. *In King Solomon's prayer, God promised that if the people turned from evil, prayed toward the temple and trusted him he would do something....what was it?*
a) To save them
11. *Will God save you and me if we trust Him and turn away from our sin?*
a) Yes!

Bible Verse

Ephesians 6:3.

“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Let's say the whole verse together:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Spend remaining time discussing with the children the material they've learned so far. Remember to review previous questions and Bible verses. You may have them complete another activity you've chosen as well.

Closing

MI: Welcome back everybody. We were talking about obedience and God's promises before you left. Now, what was that Bible verse again?

GM1: Can you say it with me? Ephesians 6:3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

MI: What does it mean "to go well with you"?

(Get responses)

It means that God will do what's best for you. Which may not always be what we want.

GM1: You mean if I obey my parents I won't get a brand new car?

MI: Well, you may or may not, but you can be sure that if you obey your parents and God you will get what's best for you.

GM2: You said earlier that obeying God was life or death. What did you mean by that?

MI: The people of Nineveh obeyed God because they did not want to perish. They obeyed God and lived. God commands everyone everywhere to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. If we do we will be saved if we don't we will perish.

GM1: So obedience is life or death.

MI: Absolutely. The question for each of us is: Will we obey God and find life?

JONAH: I see by the clock on the wall that it is time for me to go kids. It's been fun.

MI: Goodbye Jonah. See you next time.

(JONAH goes in charger)

GM3: We are ready for upload.

(Run Video)

Prayer

Week 18

February 8, 2012

Section 3: Preaching (God's Power Through Jonah) Jonah 3:1-10

God Relents (Jonah 3:10)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI is working. GM1, GM2, GM3 walk in)

MI: Hello everyone. Come on in. I was just about ready to talk to Jonah. Are you ready?

GM2: We're ready!

(MI flips switch. Jonah turns on)

JONAH: Hi everyone.

GM1: Hi Jonah. So, next week is the big race, huh? We get to try out that awesome new addition to your exhibit.

GM2: Yeah, I can't wait. My race looks sweeeet.

GM3: Well, mine is the fastest.

MI: I don't know guys. I think I'm going to scrap the whole thing. No one is excited about, it except maybe you three. Everyone else could care less.

GM2: That's not true. Right kids! They all want to race next week.

(GM1, GM2, GM3 encourage excited responses)

JONAH: I don't know, they sound pretty excited to me.

MI: Alright, alright. I won't scrap the race. It will go on as planned.

GM1, GM2, GM3: Yeah!

MI: Actually, I didn't want to throw out the race. I just wanted to make sure you wanted to race. I had a pretty good hunch that you might.

GM1: I almost had a heart attack.

GM2: So what are we talking about tonight?

MI: We've made it to the end of chapter 3.

JONAH: Jonah 3:10, "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it."

MI: Well done, Jonah. The first thing that the verse tells us is that God sees what the people did. He saw when they did the bad things and when they stopped.

GM3: God sees everything, doesn't he?

JONAH: Yes he does. Even when you are hiding in the bottom of a boat.

MI: The second thing we learn is that the people really did stop doing the bad things they were doing. They weren't faking, they were serious.

GM2: So, nothing *you* have a problem with.

GM1: Hey, that's not...well...okay, you got me.

MI: It's important not to be fake because the only person you are really fooling is yourself. You can't put one over on God.

GM3: How could you fool God? He knows everything before it even happens.

MI: Exactly. The verse continues on and tells us that God did not go through with the destruction that he said he would bring because the people changed their ways.

GM1: So God changed his mind?

MI: What do you think? Did God change his mind? Let's take a vote. Who says God changed his mind raise your hand.

JONAH: I'm voting no. The Law says, "God is not man that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it?" (Num. 23:19)

GM2: I vote no too. The New Testament says that with God, "There is no variation or shadow due to change." (Jas. 1:17)

GM1: Well, it seems like he changed his mind.

MI: From our point of view it does seem like that doesn't it. When I said I wouldn't cancel the race because you guys were excited we would say that I...

GM1: ...changed your mind.

GM2: But you are just a person. And we people change our minds a lot.

GM3: The book of James talks about how we shouldn't be double-minded.

MI: Yes, but God is not like us. He is not double-minded and he knows everything. Actually, God knew everything before time began.

GM2: God knew that the Ninevites would do evil.

GM3: God knew that He would be angry with them.

GM2: God knew that he would only give them 40 days.

GM3: God knew he would send Jonah to tell them.

GM2: God knew Jonah would disobey, He would send the storm, Jonah would be thrown overboard, swallowed by that fish and spit up again on the third day.

GM3: God knew that he would tell Jonah again to go and this time he would.

GM2: God knew the people would believe him and turn from their evil.

GM3: God knew he would not destroy the people because they would turn from evil.

JONAH: Please tell me you get the point already. I'm afraid that they will go all night long.

GM1: I think so. God can't change his mind because he knows everything?

MI: Yes. Everything that happens was in God's plan and that plan was made before time.

GM1: I think I'm starting to get it.

MI: It is a hard thing to understand. But keep working at it. You'll be glad you did. Hey, we still need to look at that memory verse that you are learning this week. What is it?

GM2: It's 1 John 2:28. Say it with me! And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he

appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

MI: Great job. Let's pray together and then we'll split up.

Prayer

Week 18
Discussion Questions

1. *Did God destroy the city of Nineveh?*
 - a) No
2. *That's right. God saw how the people repented and he did not destroy them, but does that mean that God changed His mind?*
 - a) No
3. *How do we know that God doesn't change His mind?*
 - a) Because the Bible tells us AND because God knows everything always

Teachers: this week's discussion question time is very short to allow time to prepare for next week's race.

Words to learn:

Abide: to stay/remain in one place

Confidence: being sure about something

Shame: a painful feeling caused by our guilt for doing something wrong

This week's Bible verse:

1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

Closing

MI: Hey Adventure Club. Let's say your memory verse again. 1 John 2:28, "And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming." That's right. Part of the reason why we can have confidence before God has to do with what we talked about tonight.

GM2: We can have confidence in God because he never changes.

MI: Can you imagine what it would be like if God changed his mind as often as we do?

GM3: The world would be a complete mess.

MI: Do you think Jonah changed his mind? How?

(Get responses)

Yes, he sure did. And he's not done yet, as we will see in the rest of his story.

JONAH: Hey, I'm only human.

MI: My point exactly. So we've made it to the end of chapter 3. Next week we will try out the next new part of my exhibit: The Fish Race.

GM1: I can't wait!

GM2: Bring it on!

MI: Don't forget to bring your family. I'm sure they'll enjoy it too.

JONAH: I guess it's time to go.

MI: Goodnight Jonah.

(JONAH goes in his charger.)

Let's see what PC is up to tonight.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 19

February 15, 2012

Section 3: Preaching (God's Power Through Jonah) Jonah 3:1-10

Family Night: Fish Race

Slideshow of previous weeks

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI, JONAH, GM1, GM2, GM3 are all standing across the front of the stage)

MI: Hello everyone. We have a lot to do tonight so let's get started.

GM2: Let's start with the Bible verses we memorized for this section. Let's have all the girls say Ephesians 6:1-3. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise) that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.

GM3: And all the guys get to say, 1 John 2:28. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

MI: Now let's do a quick review of what we learned from Jonah chapter 3: God's Power Working Through Jonah.

GM1: First, we learned that God gives second tries. We might mess things up but God doesn't give up.

JONAH: Then we talked about how God gives warnings. He warned the Ninevites and he warns the rest of us to stay away from evil.

GM2: Next, we learned that God desires obedience. God wants people to obey them because he loves them.

GM3: Finally. We talked about how God relented from destroying the Ninevites. God didn't change his mind but worked through the circumstances to bring about his plan.

MI: Well done everyone. And now the moment you've been waiting for, the unveiling of the newest addition to the exhibit: The Fish Race. You've been working hard the last two weeks and now we get to see it in action. Are you ready? Set! Go!

Closing

MI: That was a lot of fun, wasn't it Jonah?

JONAH: It sure was.

MI: I think that the Fish Race was a complete success and I'll add it to the exhibit so that others can enjoy it as well.

JONAH: Sounds good to me. I just want to congratulate all of those winners. Who knew that those fish could travel so fast and so slow?

MI: Thankfully, God appointed one of the fast fish to swallow Jonah. Well, next week we start the last section of Jonah. We'll learn about how God ministers to Jonah. And we will see why Jonah is the Pouting Prophet.

JONAH: The what?

MI: Pouting Prophet.

JONAH: I don't pout. I don't think I want to come next week.

MI: You don't really have a choice.

JONAH: Oh, yeah, right. Rats!

(JONAH goes back into the charger)

MI: Before we go home let's see what PC has in store for us this week.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 20

February 22, 2012

Section 4: Pouting (God's Ministry To Jonah) Jonah 4:1-11

God Listens To Complaints (Jonah 4:1-4)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI is sitting reading his Bible. GM1, GM2, GM3 walk in)

MI: Hello everybody. Are you ready to begin the last phase of work on Jonah?

GM2: Yes we are!

MI: Okay. Let's just turn on the switch..

(MI flips switch)

GM1: Where's Jonah?

MI: I'm not sure.

GM3: Is this the same problem that we had before?

MI: No, it doesn't look like it. My readings tell me that Jonah is on and fully operational. He's just not coming out of the charger.

GM2: Hey Jonah, are you in there?

JONAH: Go away!

GM3: Oh come on Jonah. We want to talk to you.

JONAH: I'm not coming out. Go away!

MI: Please Jonah. The kids want to see you. Right kids?

(MI encourages the kids to respond urging Jonah to come out)

JONAH: Alright. Keep your pants on. But, I'm not going to be my usual perky self.

GM2: What's the matter Jonah?

JONAH: What's the matter Jonah?!? Did you read chapter four? Read it to them. Go on, read it.

(GM3 picks up Bible off of work table)

GM3: "But it displeased Jonah exceedingly and he was angry."

JONAH: You bet I was. I can't...what was I...40 days...ugh!

GM1: What's his problem. The people repented. I thought that was a good thing.

MI: It is, but Jonah...

JONAH: But Jonah what? God did not destroy those Assyrians as he said he would. Do you want to hear the prayer I prayed?

GM2: Oh, yes! I loved your other prayer.

JONAH: Here's what I said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country?"

That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

GM2: Oh my. I don't like that one at all. Oh, my.

MI: Let's see if we can learn something from this. First, this prayer is coming from an angry heart not a fearful heart like before.

JONAH: Oh yeah, that's right.

MI: Why was Jonah angry?

(Get responses)

It kind of seems like Jonah is angry because he knew that God would be himself and not who Jonah wanted God to be.

GM2: But God doesn't change.

MI: That's right. Jonah said that he knew God was gracious. What does that mean?

GM3: I think it means that God gives us what we haven't earned or deserve.

MI: Right. He also mentions that God is merciful. What does that mean?

(Get responses)

Yeah, it means that he doesn't give to us what we deserve, like punishment. Jonah also says that God is slow to get angry and he abounds in love.

GM2: Those sound like all good things to know about God. So why be angry, since that is what God is like?

JONAH: I'll tell you. First of all, my reputation was at stake. What kind of prophet would I be if I tell people they've got 40 days and then nothing happens.

GM1: You could have told the people the truth that God didn't want to destroy them in the first place.

JONAH: And what about my country? Those Assyrians that God spared would have baby Assyrians that would grow up and attack my country.

MI: It is true that the generations that followed would rise up and attack Jonah's country, taking them away from their homes.

GM2: But that's no excuse for not helping those that were alive then.

MI: Yes, Jonah was more concerned for himself than his responsibility before God. Why don't you read in the Bible how God responded to this.

GM3: “And the LORD said, 'Do you do well to be angry?'”

MI: You see, God doesn't mind if we bring our complaints to him.

GM1: He doesn't? I would be super annoyed.

MI: No he doesn't. But he often asks us to examine our hearts to make sure we know why we are complaining. And do you know what happens to most people that complain in the Bible?

GM1: They're eaten by worms?

MI: No, no. When God's people complain they end up realizing that they have no reason to. Some find out that they are the cause of their own problems.

GM2: But God always listens, right?

MI: Right. I think it is about time for us to split up into groups, but before that we need to go over that verse again. What is it?

GM3: 1 John 2:28. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

MI: That's right. Abide in him. You know we should talk a little about that. And we will when you get back. But for now let's pray.

Prayer

Week 20
Discussion Questions

- 1.) *Was Jonah happy that God saved the people of Nineveh?*
 - a) No!
- 2.) *Was it right for Jonah to feel that way?*
 - a) No
- 3.) *Jonah said in his prayer that God is gracious. What does that mean?*
 - a) That He gives us things we haven't earned and don't deserve.
- 4.) *How had God been gracious to Jonah?*
 - a) varied – namely that he saved his life and gave him a second chance
- 5.) *Jonah also said that God was merciful – what does that mean?*
 - a) That He doesn't give us what we DO deserve (punishment!)
- 6.) *Does God get angry when we complain?*
 - a) No
- 7.) *What usually happens once we start complaining to God?*
 - a) We see that we have no reason to be complaining...because of how good God is to us.
- 8.) *Does God always listen to us?*
 - a) Yes
- 9.) *When we complain to God what does He do?*
 - a) He helps us see the problems in our own hearts
- 10.) *When we see the problems or sins in our own hearts, how does that help us?*
 - a) It makes us turn to God and ask for help and forgiveness. It should also help us to be more merciful to others.

Bible Verse:

1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

Continue reviewing previous material and verses, or complete another activity of your choice.

Closing

MI: Welcome back. I hope you got that verse locked into your brains because we are going to say it again. 1 John 2:28. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

GM1: What does it mean to abide in him?

MI: What do you think kids? What does that mean?

(Get responses)

JONAH: To remain stable or fixed in some state or condition; to continue; to remain.

MI: That's right Jonah. If we remain in him then we will have no reason to be ashamed when Jesus comes back.

GM2: So it okay to complain as long as we remain.

MI: In a rhyming nutshell, yes, that is what we are saying. None of us are perfect in this life. We all make mistakes. Even God's children sin. But the important thing to remember is to confess our sin and turn back to him. Abide in him.

GM3: Did you get that Jonah?

JONAH: Yeah, yeah. It's okay to complain to God but I need to examine my heart and abide in him. But I was really angry. I mean those nasty Assyrians and there...

MI: Jonah!

JONAH: Okay, I got it. Sometimes we are the cause of our own problems.

GM1: With you I'd say its 99 percent of the time.

JONAH: Thanks. Hey, wait.

MI: Okay, you two. It's time for Jonah to go now. Say goodbye everyone.

(Jonah returns to charger)

GM2: I can't wait to see what PC has for us this week.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 21

February 29, 2012

Section 4: Pouting (God's Ministry To Jonah) Jonah 4:1-11

God Gives Comfort (Jonah 4:5-6)

Welcome/Announcements

(MI, GM1, GM2, GM3 walks in)

MI: Come on in guys. Are you ready to see how we can help Jonah tonight?

GM2: I hope he is not angry like he was last week.

MI: I have a feeling he won't be.

(MI flips switch)

JONAH: Hi everyone. It's good to see you.

(JONAH walks around grabbing things to make a booth for himself)

GM1: Uh, no. What's he up to now?

JONAH: Excuse me. Which way is east?

MI: Back there.

JONAH: Thanks.

(JONAH sets up his booth on the east side and sits down)

MI: The Bible says that after God told Jonah he would spare the city, Jonah left the city and made a shelter for himself.

GM1: Why did you do that? Why didn't you just go home?

JONAH: I am waiting to see if there was going to be a good show. You know what happened with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah don't you?

GM3: God rained fire down upon them because of their wickedness.

JONAH: You betcha. You think those Ninevites are any better? No way. That fire should be coming down any minute.

GM2: But Jonah, the people repented of their sin.

GM3: Yeah, and God already told you that he was relenting from the destruction.

GM1: And last week you were angry because God was not going to destroy them.

JONAH: Well, you know those people. I'm sure they have done something evil since I left. It's just a matter of time. I'm in no hurry.

MI: What do you think kids? Should Jonah have left the city and made his booth?

(Get responses)

GM2: I think he should have stayed in the city and helped those people overcome their sin.

MI: Yes, that would have been a great thing to do. As God's children we are not only to warn people of destruction but make disciples of Jesus. That means we teach them about God and help them to live rightly.

GM3: And be good examples, right Jonah?

JONAH: Still waiting!

GM1: It doesn't look like we are going to get anywhere with Jonah tonight. Maybe we should look at the rest of the passage.

MI: The Bible says that God caused a plant to grow up over Jonah that gave him shade for his head and eased his discomfort.

GM2: I'll be right back. I thought I saw a plant around here somewhere.

(GM2 leaves and comes back with a potted plant)

Let's see if this works.

JONAH: What's this? A miraculous growing plant? This is awesome. It was getting pretty uncomfortable with all this light on me. Now I have a perfect spot for the show. Life is good.

GM1: Wait a minute. God caused the plant to grow instantly. So that's where they got the idea of Jack and the Beanstalk.

MI: Maybe, but this story is true. And it teaches us a good lesson about God.

GM2: I know what it is: God gives comfort.

MI: Yes, he often does give us things to comfort us. To Jonah, God gave the plant.

GM3: He gave us families to comfort us when we are lonely or afraid.

MI: Not only does God give us things or family to comfort us but God himself is our comfort. A lot of you probably know Psalm 23, don't you?

(Get responses. See if anyone can recite it)

GM2: I see what you are talking about. Verse four says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." God does comfort us.

MI: Yes he does. Did you know that the Holy Spirit is called the Comforter? When we become Christians the Comforter lives in us. When you are sad or angry or scared you need to remember that Comfort is always with you.

GM3: I know something else that God gave us to comfort us.

MI: What's that?

GM3: His Bible. Reading it always makes me feel good when I have problems.

MI: That's right. Your memory verse is one of those verses that brings comfort. Let's say it together, 1 John 3:2, "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

GM2: I love when John says "beloved".

MI: Yes, the apostle John often used that word to describe the Christians he was writing to. That certainly brings comfort when others say that they love you. You know what? We should talk some more about this when we get back. Right now we need to sing some songs and pray for a good meeting tonight.

Music and Praye

Week 21
Discussion Questions

- 1.) *After Jonah learned that the city of Nineveh would be spared, what did he do?*
 - a) He left the city and made a shelter for himself
- 2.) *Why didn't Jonah go home?*
 - a) He wanted to see if they were going to be punished
- 3.) *Did Jonah want the people to be punished?*
 - a) Yes
- 4.) *Did Jonah do the right thing?*
 - a) No
- 5.) *What kinds of things should Jonah have done?*
 - a) varied – but he should have stayed and helped the Ninevites learn more about God and how to serve Him
- 6.) *Did Jonah show mercy to the people of Nineveh?*
 - a) NO! - (even though he obeyed God's command to go to Nineveh and preach, he definitely had not changed his attitude about the people)
- 7.) *Jonah should have stayed and helped make the people disciples of God. What does disciple mean?*
 - a) To teach someone about God and how to live rightly
- 8.) *The Bible says that we are disciples of Christ and that we should help make others disciples of Christ. How could you do that?*
 - a) varied – help the children look for ways that they can continue learning themselves and help teach others
- 9.) *Even though Jonah was still being angry, God did something very kind for him what was it?*
 - a) He caused a plant to grow and gave him shade
- 10.) *The plant was a comfort to Jonah. What kinds of things has God given to you as a comfort?*
 - a) answers will vary but reinforce that God Himself is our comfort, the Holy Spirit is the Comforter and his Word is also our comfort

Word to learn:

Beloved: a person who is greatly loved (in this case loved by God)

Bible Verse:

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Continue to review this year's material and discuss topics covered with the students.

Closing

MI: Hey, welcome back. Let's recite your verse again. 1 John 3:2, "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is." Before you left we were talking about comfort.

(JONAH lays down in his box)

JONAH: Oh yeah. You've got to love comfort. Hey, this beats that box thing over there.

GM1: Thanks Jonah for that insight. But seriously, what else from that verse can we take comfort in?

MI: Well, if we are God's children, then what we are now will not be what we will be in the future.

GM1: You mean we'll change, like mutants?

GM2: No, it's talking about in heaven. We'll be without sin and have perfect bodies.

MI: It is a comfort to know someday we will be like Jesus.

GM3: Wow! To be like Jesus. What does that mean?

MI: I wish I knew exactly, but I think it is too wonderful for us to fully understand. The last great comfort is that we will see Jesus as he is.

GM2: That's amazing! To see Jesus with our own eyes. I can't wait.

MI: That is why this verse gives us comfort in these hard times. The best is yet to come.

I guess we need to wrap it up tonight.

JONAH: Goodnight kids.

MI: Okay Jonah, back in the charger.

JONAH: Alright, hold your horses.

(JONAH returns to charger)

MI: Let's upload next week's verse.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 22

March 7, 2012

Section 4: Pouting (God's Ministry To Jonah) Jonah 4:1-11

God Takes Away (Jonah 4:7-8)

Welcome/Announcements

(Jonah's booth and plant are still in same spot. MI is working at his table. GM1, GM2, and GM3 walk in. GM1 has a bag of gummy worms. GM2 is carrying a dead plant in a pot)

MI: Welcome everyone. How are you?

GM2: Fine. I brought this dead plant you asked for.

GM1; Yeah, and I brought this bag of gummy worms.

MI: Great! Take one of those gummy worms and put it on the dead plant. Now let's get Jonah out here.

(MI flips switch and the lights dim. Jonah walks out and goes straight to his booth and lies down)

GM1: He's sleeping again? All this guy does is complain and sleep.

MI: Remember last week? Jonah was outside Nineveh in his booth and God comforted him with the plant that grew up near him. Nothing happened that day so Jonah went to sleep...until the next morning.

GM3: Then the dawn came.

(Lights brighten a little)

GM2: And God sent a worm to attack the plant and the plant withered.

(GM2 replaces the plant next to Jonah with the dead one)

GM1: Then the sun rose.

(Lights turn up all the way)

MI: God sent a scorching east wind.

(MI brings in a big fan and blows it on Jonah. Jonah sits up and yawns)

JONAH: Wow, it's getting hot in here. What's going on?

GM3: Should we tell him?

MI: Let's just watch for a little bit.

(JONAH in obvious discomfort looks around and finally sees the plant)

JONAH: Oh, man! What happened to my plant? A worm? Gross. And this wind. Ugh. I don't know how much of this I can take.

GM2: How long do we have to wait?

MI: Not much longer.

JONAH: That's it. "It's better for me to die than to live."

MI: Okay. Now we can talk to him.

GM3: Jonah, why did this happen to you?

JONAH: I don't know. Maybe God hates me. First, he gives me a plant for shade and then he just takes it away. It's not fair.

MI: That's not true and you know it, Jonah. You see kids, God is trying to teach Jonah a few lessons here; ones that we all need to learn.

GM1: I bet the first lesson is to always spray your plants for bugs.

MI: Not quite. The first thing God is doing is reminding Jonah of what it means to be miserable, hopeless, and helpless.

JONAH: Hello! I'm there right now. Lesson learned.

GM1: Why did he need to be reminded of that?

MI: Jonah had forgotten what it's like to be without God. Before Jonah came and preached to the Ninevites were miserable, hopeless and helpless spiritually.

GM2: Is everyone like that?

MI: Yes they are. Though many people are good at tricking themselves to think that they are happy and have it all together.

JONAH: Why didn't God just tell me what's going on? Did he have to take my plant away?

GM3: He did try telling you, but you tend to run away.

JONAH: Oh yeah, right.

MI: Sometimes we can trick ourselves so well that we need something bad to happen to make us pay attention. The plant dying was a wake up call to Jonah.

GM1: What else can we learn?

MI: James 4:8 says, "purify your hearts, you double-minded." Do you think double-minded is a good description of Jonah?

GM2: Hmm...one moment he is running away the next he is preaching.

GM3: First he asked to be saved then he asked to die.

GM1: On one hand he says he knows what God is like and on the other he acts as if he has no clue.

MI: Double-mindedness is a sin. It's something that we need to be purified from. In order to do that, the Bible says we need to humble ourselves.

GM1: Jonah, humble? Ha!

MI: The last thing we can learn is from Jonah's actions. Let me ask you this: Was Jonah more concerned about his comfort or the lives of the Ninevites?

(Get responses)

Yes, his comfort. God has called his children to do the opposite. We are not to worry about our comfort especially above the lives of the lost. Jesus told us to seek his kingdom first and he would take care of what we needed (Mt. 6:33). We'll talk a little more about this later.

What's your verse for this week?

GM2: 1 John 3:2, Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

MI: Very good. Now, isn't there something else we need to do? Memory verse? No, we did that. M-M-M-monkeys? No, that's not it. Mmmm...

GM3: Music?

MI: Yes that's right.

Music

Prayer

Week 22
Discussion Questions

- 1.) *After God made the plant grow for Jonah what did he do?*
 - a) Went to sleep until the next day
- 2.) *The next morning God sent something to attack the plant, what was it?*
 - a) a worm
- 3.) *What happened to the plant?*
 - a) it died (withered)
- 4.) *Then the sun rose and God sent something else to Jonah, what was it?*
 - a) a scorching wind
- 5.) *What did Jonah say when he realized his plant had died?*
 - a) That it was better for him to die than live
- 6.) *The first lesson that God was teaching Jonah by taking away his plant was reminding him of what it's like to be miserable, hopeless and helpless. Why did Jonah need this lesson?*
 - a) To remember what life without God is like
- 7.) *Why was it important for Jonah to learn this lesson?*
 - a) So he could understand what life was like for the people in Nineveh
- 8.) *Why is it important for us to learn this lesson?*
 - a) So we can understand what life is like for other people who don't know God
- 9.) *What are some ways that Jonah was double-minded?*
 - a) varied – he ran away then he preached, he asked God to save him then said he wanted to die he tells God how much he knows about him then sometimes acts like he doesn't know God etc.
- 10.) *Did Jonah care more about his own comfort or the lives of the Ninevites?*
 - a) his own comfort
- 11.) *What does the Bible say about that?*
 - a) varied – but mainly that we should put the needs of others ahead of our own and that if we seek the kingdom of God first, He will always take care of us
- 12.) *Sometimes we think that because the Bible tells us the story of a person, like Jonah, that means we should act just like that person. I think we've learned that this is not always true. The only person in the Bible that was perfect was Jesus and we should always try to be more like Him. The other stories in the Bible tell us about ordinary people, like us. These people sometimes do the right things, but a lot of the time they make mistakes just like we do. We can often learn from the mistakes we read about what not to do. What kinds of things have you learned from Jonah – NOT to do?*
 - a) varied – may include: trying to hide from God, disobeying God, running away from God, being selfish, hating your enemies, etc.

Bible Verse:

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Closing

GM2; Hey guys. Good job tonight. Let say our memory verse out loud. 1 John 3:2, "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

MI: That was awesome. Someday we will see Jesus. But for right now he's given us a job to do.

GM3: To tell others about him?

MI: That's right. That's what Jonah's job was but he was always more concerned about himself then those who needed to hear about God.

JONAH: What can I say. I've got issues.

MI: Yes, it's true. But we all do. We often think of what we want before we think of others. Try this. Think of your favorite toy. Would you be willing to give that away to someone else that has no toys?

GM1: Oooo...that's a tough one.

MI: But if I broke your toy or took it away would that get your attention? Sometimes God has to take things away from us so that we will get back to doing what we should.

GM2: That's like Paul in the Bible. He gave up a lot of things and was beaten and shipwrecked and went through all kinds of bad things to tell others about Jesus.

MI: That's right. But Paul didn't sit around and complain...

(All look at Jonah)

JONAH: What?

MI: Paul said that he counted everything he went through all joy just to know God and to tell them about him.

GM1: Comfort, shmumfort. Who needs that?

MI: Exactly! Well, Jonah, it's time to go. Say goodbye.

JONAH: Yeah, yeah, back in this hard cold cubicle.

MI: Time to upload. Go!

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 23

March 14, 2012

Section 4: Pouting (God's Ministry To Jonah) Jonah 4:1-11

God Teaches Mercy (Jonah 4:9-11)

Welcome/Announcements

Music

(MI brings out the withered plant. GM1, GM2, and GM3 walk in)

MI: Welcome, welcome. How are you doing tonight?

GM2: Great. What are you doing with that old plant?

MI: We're not done with it yet. We have a few lessons to learn from this little thing.

GM3: Let's get Jonah out here and see what we can learn.

MI: Okay!

(MI flips switch to charger. JONAH comes out)

JONAH: Hello Adventure Club. How are you...get that plant out of here!

GM2: What's the matter Jonah?

JONAH: That dried up old plant. Get that out! I don't want to see it.

GM1: This guy has some serious plant issues.

GM3: I don't think it's the plant itself but what it represents, you know, from the biblical story.

MI: You're right. After God made the plant that shaded Jonah die, Jonah got angry. God asked Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant."

JONAH: "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die."

GM1: It's a plant! Are you kidding me?

(GM2 picks up Bible off the work table)

GM2: No. That's what Jonah said.

GM1: He really does have plant issues.

MI: You could say that.

(GM2 still reading Bible)

GM2: Hey, I just realized that there are only two more sentences left in the story of Jonah.

MI: That's right and there are several lessons left to learn.

GM3: Like what?

MI: Start reading what God's response is to Jonah and his anger over the plant. God is going to teach Jonah about mercy.

GM2: And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor..."

MI: Stop here. You see, God is examining why Jonah is angry and points out to him that he

is being foolish.

JONAH: Have your shade taken away and see how you feel.

MI: God points out that Jonah did not work to get the plant to grow. If he did, then, maybe, he would have a reason to be angry.

GM3: Like if we were gardeners spending hours tilling the ground and pulling weeds and watering. If the plants all died then we would be upset.

GM1: That would make me mad.

MI: Yes you probably would because of all the time and energy wasted. Continue reading...

GM2: ...nor did you make it grow...

MI: Jonah definitely had no part in that. The plant that shaded Jonah grew by the miraculous power of God. What normally causes plants to grow?

(Get responses)

Right. The sun, water, and soil all help the plant to grow. What's next?

GM2: ...that came into being in a night and perished in a night."

GM3: What do we learn from that?

MI: Think about when a bad storm knocks over an old tree. Why do people get upset about that?

(Get responses)

How do people respond when someone cuts down a dandelion when they are mowing their lawn?

(Get responses)

GM1: I see what you are getting at. A tree grows for years and gives shade and a home for animals. We get used to it being there. A dandelion pops up and then is gone. You don't care because they come and go so quickly.

MI: So, you see why it's silly for Jonah to be upset about the plant. But then God points to what he should be concerned about.

GM2: "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right from their left, and also much cattle?"

MI: What is God talking about here?

GM3: He is comparing the two. On one hand you have a plant on the other 120,000 people and cattle. Which is more important to have mercy on?

MI: Yes. That's it! Should Jonah have pity for a little plant or 120,000 people? God makes it clear, it's the people. God wants us to care about people not on things that come and go. People last forever.

GM1: So what was Jonah's answer?

(GM2 looks at the Bible and shrugs shoulders)

GM1: Well...?

MI: The Bible doesn't say.

GM1: What? That's the end of the story? What happens to Jonah? Does he repent? Does God use him again in the future?

MI: I don't know. But I do know, it's time for our Bible verse this week.

GM2: Right! It's Revelation 22:20, "He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

MI: Great job guys. Let's pray and then we will take some more later.

Week 23
Discussion Questions

- 1.) *God pointed out something to Jonah about how he felt about the plant. What was it?*
 - a) That Jonah was so upset about a plant he didn't even have to work for
- 2.) *What else did God remind Jonah about the plant?*
 - a) That he didn't make it grow
- 3.) *What did God tell Jonah he SHOULD care about?*
 - a) The city of Nineveh
- 4.) *How many people were living in Nineveh?*
 - a) 120,000
- 5.) *What else were living there?*
 - a) Cattle
- 6.) *What did Jonah do after that?*
 - a) We don't know!
- 7.) *That's right, we don't know. The Bible doesn't say. But even though we don't know what Jonah did we can still learn what we should do if we are in the same situation. If God wants us to tell other people about Him what should we do?*
 - a) Tell them!
- 8.) *Right! And does God tell us to tell other people about Him?*
 - a) Yes!
- 9.) *That's right. God tells us in His word to tell other people we know about Him. Who do you know that you could tell about God?*
 - a) get answers from the kids
- 10.) *The best things we can learn and remember from Jonah are that we should always obey God, even if it's hard AND we should always love other people and share the good news about Jesus with them!*

Word to learn:

Testifies: to tell the truth about something you know

Bible Verse:

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Closing

MI: Come on in. Let's go over your verse again. Revelation 22:20, "He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

GM2: So, we really don't know what happens to Jonah?

MI: No, but God wasn't done with his story yet.

GM3: What do you mean?

MI: Hundreds of years later, Jesus talks about Jonah.

JONAH: Wow! The Messiah talks about me? Put me in the charger and upload those verses, quick. Hurry up!

(JONAH goes in charger)

GM1: Jonah really wants to know about Jesus, doesn't he?

MI: In spite of all Jonah's weaknesses he was a child of God and was looking forward to Jesus, the Messiah to come.

GM2: That's like our memory verse, "Come Lord Jesus!"

MI: That is 100% right. That verse is looking forward to his second coming. And that has been the cry of all God's children from the beginning. "Come Lord Jesus!"

(JONAH yells from charger)

JONAH: Stop your yapping and get uploading.

MI: Right you are Jonah.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 26

April 11, 2012

Section 4: Pouting (God's Ministry To Jonah) Jonah 4:1-11

Jesus Teaches Us About Jonah (Matthew 12:38-41)

Welcome/Announcements

(MI is reading his Bible. GM1, GM2, GM3 walks in)

MI: Hey kids. Come on in.

GM2: What are you reading?

MI: Just looking over the verses that I programmed into Jonah last week. We've finished the book of Jonah. But there is one more teaching on Jonah.

GM3: If I remember right, Jesus taught on Jonah.

MI: That's right. Let's get Jonah out here and see what we can learn.

(MI flips switch. Jonah comes out)

JONAH: Shalom and good evening my friends. I am so happy to see you.

MI: Hi Jonah. Are you ready for your last night of programming?

JONAH: This is the last night already? It seems like we just started.

GM2: Where do we start tonight?

MI: The Bible tells us that there were some scribes and Pharisees, or religious leaders, that were talking to Jesus.

GM3: What did they say?

MI: Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.

GM1: What did Jesus say?

MI: An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

GM1: Wow. That's really tough. Jesus wasn't a pushover.

MI: No, he wasn't.

JONAH: But what did Jesus mean by that?

MI: Good question. The first part is a condemnation of that generation of people that just wanted to see miracles. They didn't want to listen and believe the teaching of Jesus, they just wanted a good show.

GM2: That's like a lot of people in the world today. They say that they will believe in Jesus if they if they could just get a sign from heaven.

MI: Jesus said that those people are evil because instead of trusting they just wanted to see signs. They want the sign not the one its pointing to.

GM3: That makes sense but what was the whole, "Sign of Jonah" thing?

MI: Actually, Jesus tell us, "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

JONAH: So the sign was what happened to me? Huh. I just thought I was being disciplined for my running away, but God used it to point to his Son.

MI: There is a special word that we use in church for this. It's "type". Jonah was a type of Jesus.

GM1: You mean like Oreos are a type of cookie or Skittles is a type of candy?

MI: No, this type means that Jonah was like a shadow of Jesus. A shadow kind of looks like you but it's not you. We can see a little of what you look like. In some ways Jonah and Jesus were similar, like the 3 days and 3 nights.

GM1: I think I understand. Types help us to know certain things about the real thing to come later.

MI: That's right. So, let's put this all together.

GM2: Jonah sinking beneath the waves and being swallowed by the fish was like the death and burial of Jesus.

MI: Yep. Remember, Jonah mentioned in his prayer how God snatched him from the place of the dead.

GM3: Then the three days and nights were like Jesus being in the grave three days and three nights.

MI: Yes, that wasn't just a coincidence. God planned it that way.

GM2: Then when the fish spit up Jonah that was like Resurrection Sunday. Jesus came back to life.

MI: Yes, you got it. That was the sign that the Jews were to look for to make sure that Jesus was telling the truth that he was the Son of God.

JONAH: The Messiah!

MI: And what did we just celebrate?

GM1: Easter. So that was when the sign of Jonah came true.

MI: Yes, and all the Jews were to look for him to die and rise from the dead three days later.

JONAH: It all seems so simple now.

GM1: Wait a minute, wasn't there more to the verse you just read?

MI: Jesus said, "The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

GM2: So the people of Nineveh really did believe in God.

MI: Yes, but a lot of the people in Jesus' day did not believe in God. Jesus said that when he returns and judges all of mankind, the Ninevites will stand up and judge the people that were alive when he lived with them.

GM3: Why would they do that?

JONAH: I was just a pouting prophet. A sinful man that messed things up...a lot. There was nothing special about me, but the Ninevites listened to what God said through me.

MI: And the people of Jesus' time had Jesus, God himself walking with them and talking to

them. If people listened when Jonah spoke how much more should they have listened when Jesus spoke.

GM3: Wow, that's true.

MI: We've learned a lot tonight. Let's take a break and we will meet back later. But wait, what was your verse again for this week? Revelation 22:20, "He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

Music

Prayer

Week 24
Discussion Questions

- 1.) *Who else taught about Jonah in the Bible?*
 - a) Jesus
- 2.) *Jesus was talking to the scribes and the Pharisees, who were they?*
 - a) the religious leaders
- 3.) *The scribes and Pharisees wanted something from Jesus, what was it?*
 - a) a sign
- 4.) *Jesus said that an evil and adulterous generation would want a sign. What do you think he meant by that?*
 - a) **Teachers - help the children to understand that the people just wanted a show, they didn't really believe in Jesus (even though they were the religious LEADERS!)**
- 5.) *Jesus said the only sign they would receive was the sign of who?*
 - a) Jonah
- 6.) *What does that mean?*
 - a) **Teachers – explain that just like Jonah was in the belly of the fish for 3 days and nights, Jesus was buried and rose on the 3rd day. God used this lesson from Jonah to point to Jesus.**
- 7.) *Jonah was a _____ of Jesus.*
 - a) type
- 8.) *A type is kind of like something that each of you have, what is that?*
 - a) A shadow
- 9.) *How is a type like a shadow?*
 - a) **Teachers – you may need to explain this. Just like a shadow kind of looks like you and tells a little bit about you, it isn't REALLY you. A type is the same way. In the Bible, in the Old Testament, there are types of Christ, who teach us a little bit of what Jesus would be like. Each type teaches us certain things about what the REAL thing will be like when he comes later.**
- 10.) *What holiday do we celebrate that shows the sign of Jonah came true?*
 - a) Easter
- 11.) *Jesus said that the people of Nineveh will have a special job one day, do you remember what it will be?*
 - a) They will help him judge the people that lived with Jesus and didn't believe in Him.
- 12.) *Even though some parts of the story of Jonah may have seemed hard to believe we can know for certain that all of it is true because God put it in His word for us. We also know that it is true because Jesus talked about it and God used what happened in Jonah's life to point us to His Son, Jesus.*

Bible Verse:
Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Closing

MI: Hey kids. Are you ready to finish off Jonah's programming? Before we do that, let's say

the memory verse again. Revelation 22:20, "He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

JONAH: So I learned tonight that I was a type, a shadow or a sign pointing to Jesus. My experiences were a sign to my people to expect the coming of Jesus.

GM2: And now we are waiting for him to come again.

MI: That's what the memory verse is about. Jesus came the first time to seek and to save the lost. I hope all of you know Jesus and that you have been saved by him.

GM1: What do you need to do to be saved?

MI: Nothing.

GM1: Nothing?

MI: Yep. Jesus did all the work. He is the Savior, after all. However, when God saves us we do respond.

GM1: How do we respond?

GM3: The same way the Ninevites did. They repented of their sin and believed God.

GM1: I heard some people say that you had to pray a prayer to be saved.

MI: No, there is no prayer you *have* to say, but God's children do pray or talk to him.

GM2: Just like our memory verse. It has a little prayer on the end of it. "Come Lord Jesus!"

MI: That's right. Come Lord Jesus! Come Lord Jesus and save those that don't know you. Come Lord Jesus and make everything new again.

JONAH: Amen! Well, kids it's time for me to recharge. See you next week.

MI: Goodnight Jonah.

GM3: Hey do we need to upload anything for next week?

MI: No we don't. The program is done.

GM1: But can we see PC again. Please.

MI: Sure. I'm sure he won't mind.

(Run video)

Prayer

Week 27

April 18, 2012

Section 4: Pouting (God's Ministry To Jonah) Jonah 4:1-11

Family Night: Game Show

Welcome/Announcements

(MI is packing boxes. GM1, GM2, GM3 walk in)

GM2: Watcha doin'?

MI: Just packing up.

GM1: What happened? Do you have to get rid of Jonah?

MI: On the contrary, I presented Jonah and the other part of the exhibit to the Board of Directors. They want to put my exhibit on display.

GM3: Congratulations! You did it.

MI: Well, I couldn't have done it without all of you. Your help working through the story of Jonah made all the difference.

GM1: Did you pack up Jonah already? I was hoping we could see him one more time.

MI: I thought you might so I left him for last. Go on, flip the switch.

(GM1 flips switch. JONAH come out of charger)

JONAH: Hello Adventure Club. I hear tonight is the last night we'll all be together.

GM2: It's true.

(GM1, GM2, GM3 all run over to JONAH and give him a hug)

GM3: We'll miss you.

JONAH: Okay, okay. Let's not get all sappy. We have some things to do tonight. You're not off the hook yet.

MI: That's right Jonah. The Board of Directors suggested I add one more part to the exhibit and we need to let your families know what you've learned over the past few weeks. Let's start with what you've learned.

GM1: The last section we covered was all about Jonah and his pouting.

MI: Well, that's not all we learned. Jonah was pouting but we saw God's ministry to Jonah.

GM2: We saw how God listened to Jonah's complaints and he'll listen to ours too.

GM3: Then we saw God giving comfort to Jonah. When we have a problem God will find ways to comfort us.

GM1: We also saw that God often takes away our comfort to teach us a lesson, like when Jonah's plant died.

GM2: God also taught Jonah and us about mercy and how we should practice it like He does.

GM3: Finally, we saw Jesus teach about Jonah. Jonah was a sign that pointed to Jesus, the sign that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. Jonah's experience showed us that Jesus

would die, be buried, and rise again three days later.

MI: And that's what we learned. And now we need to look at those Bible verses you memorized over the last few weeks.

GM2: Alright K-2's, stand up. We are going to say 1 John 2:28 together. But we have to run in place and then when I say "freeze!" we say it. Ready? (kids run) FREEZE! "And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming."

GM3: 3's and 4's stand up. We've got 1 John 3:2. I want you to turn around and face the other way and say it with me. "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

GM1: 5 and 6's. We have Revelation 22:20. I want you to turn to the person next to you, look them in the eye and say it. "He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

JONAH: Excellent job. Now, what is this final part to the exhibit?

MI: It's a game show called "Thrown Overboard." Would you kids like to try it out? Oh yeah, I've brought in an old friend to help out. Some of you might know him from another game show called "Go Directly to Jail". It's Richard Smarts. He's back tonight. Let's sing some songs, pray and then, let the show begin!

Music

Prayer

THROWN OVERBOARD

(Game show set up is the same as last year)

Game Show Announcer-voice only: Ladies and gentlemen, it is time for the game show “Thrown Overboard!” where our contestants will attempt to answer questions correctly. However, if they answer incorrectly, they will be sent overboard. They may be able to get swallowed by a fish if they are able to correct a missed answer by another contestant. Please welcome the host of “Thrown Overboard”, Mr. Richard Smarts!

Richard: Welcome, welcome! I'm Richard Smarts and you're not. Ha, ha! I guess we will find out if you are smart. Are you ready to play? Here are the rules. The first to ring your bell can answer the question. Each answer gives you 50 points. Our lovely assistant will tally the points. Each wrong answer costs you 25 points and you must be...

(Everyone says prompted by assistant's sign)

“Thrown Overboard” Here we go.

(The rest of the show should be ad lib)

Questions:

1. **Jonah had a special job what was it?** He was a prophet of God
2. **What country was Nineveh in?** Assyria
3. **Instead of Nineveh, where did Jonah want to go?** Tarshish
4. **When the pagan men woke up Jonah what did they tell him to do to make the storm stop?** Pray to his God
5. **What word means that God is in control of all things?** Sovereignty
6. **What does Sheol mean?** The place of the dead
7. **Is discipline a good thing or a bad thing?** A good thing
8. **Has God ever broken a promise he has made?** No!
9. **What is a vow?** a promise
10. **How did the fish know that it needed to spit Jonah out?** God told it to.
11. **Did God give Jonah another chance to go to Nineveh?** Yes
12. **What country was Jonah from?** Israel
13. **The people in Nineveh did 2 things to show they were sorry for their sins. What were they?** Fast and put on sackcloth
14. **Did God destroy the city of Nineveh?** No
15. **Was Jonah happy that God saved the people of Nineveh?** No!
16. **God did something very kind for Jonah, what was it?** He caused a plant to grow and gave him shade
17. **What did Jonah say when he realized his plant had died?** That it was better for him to die than live
18. **How many people were living in Nineveh?** 120,000
19. **Who taught about Jonah in the Bible?** Jesus
20. **What is the name of this game?** Thrown Overboard

Closing

MI: Did you like the game show? That's great! We've learned a lot over these past few months.

JONAH: Yes we have. Thank you for helping me. I am now fully programmed and ready to tackle anyone's questions.

MI: Say goodbye Jonah.

JONAH: Goodbye kids. It was great getting to know you.

(JONAH goes back in charger. MI wraps caution tape around it)

MI: Well, I guess that's about it. Thanks again for all you help. I hope you learned about Jonah and the God we serve. Maybe I'll see you again, sometime. You never know. There is one more person or program we need to say goodbye to.

(Run video)

Prayer