



Date: _____
Series: **Jonah**
Fall Year 2, Lesson 20

Jonah and the Big Fish

Take Home Point: *Obey God.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Jonah 1-3:2

We will help children know:

- God talked to Jonah and wanted him to obey.
- Jonah chose not to obey and tried to hide from God.
- God wants me to obey.




We will help children feel:

- Excited to obey God.
- Happy to know that God loves us always.

We will help children do:

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that reminds us to obey.
- Make a big fish like the one that swallowed Jonah.
- Play a game called *Do We Obey God When...* and an action game called *Am I Obeying God if...?*
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce today's Take Home Point: ***Obey God.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys of your choice
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice Judy puppet <i>optional: video—The Beginners Bible: The Story of Jonah and the Whale; distributed by Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.—order from www.amazon.com</i> children's picture Bible
	3	Puppet Presentation (<i>Optional: video during puppet presentation</i>)	
	4	Bible Reading	
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible
	9	Activity 2: Snack	<i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> circle cereal napkins cups of water
	10	Activity 3: Craft	<i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> paper lunch sack, one per child newspapers or shredded paper rubber bands, one per child glue wiggly eyes crayons or markers
	11	Activity 4: Learning Game Movement Game	<i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> beanbags two different color hula hoops
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	14	Review Lesson and Take Home Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice
	14	Pray	
	15	Sing (Optional)	

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the "joke" but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Singing: Use music of your choice.

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: children's picture Bible

Judy Learns to Obey

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's call out Judy.

Kids call for Judy: **Judy... Judy... Judy.**

Presenter: Good morning, Judy.

Judy: It's not a good morning.

Presenter: My, oh, my, what's wrong?

Judy: I don't have my pink pony.

Presenter: Where is it?

Judy: My mommy took it from me.

Presenter: Why?

Judy: She told me to get ready for church, but I couldn't.

Presenter: Why?

Judy: Because I was playing with my pink pony.

Presenter: What did your mommy want you do?

Judy: She wanted me to get dressed and stop playing.

Presenter: Did you obey?

Judy: Well..... Ahhh....

Presenter: I don't think you obeyed, Judy.

Judy: I guess I didn't.

Presenter: That is why she took away your pink pony. You need to learn to obey. It reminds me of a man named Jonah who had to learn to obey.

Judy: Did he have to obey his mommy?

Presenter: He learned to obey God. God told him to go to a special place and he chose not to. Would you like to hear the Bible Event?

Judy: Yes, I would.

Presenter: Okay, listen carefully. See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible. Let's put on our listening ears.

Read the Bible Event from a children's picture Bible. You may also use the video option.

Video Option:

Today instead of reading the Bible, we are going to watch it on video.

Video name: *The Beginners Bible: The Story of Jonah and the Whale* (Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.)
Start time after opening credits: 12:30
Spoken Cue: "He is the one and only God."
End time: 16:09
Spoken Cue: "Jonah prayed to God for three days and three nights."
Total length of clip: 3 minutes, 39 seconds

Presenter: Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Judy, will you help us sing our song of the week?

Judy: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD,
O-bey GOD, O-bey GOD.
JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD.
I NEED to O-bey, TOO.

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible

Jonah and the Big Fish

Jonah 1:1-17

Introduction

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

Jonah hears from God.

- **Jonah was a man who told other people about God and his love. He was called a prophet. God told Jonah that he should go to a city far away called Nineveh.** Walk in place.
- **The people in Nineveh were doing bad things.** Make fists and a mean face.
- **They did not love God.** Shake head "no".
- **God wanted Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things. Let's say, "Stop it!"** Hold hand out like a stop sign.

Jonah runs away.

- **But did Jonah obey God?** Shake head “no”.
- **No, Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. He did not like the people who lived there.** Cross your arms and turn your head.
- **Jonah did not obey God.** Shake head “no.”
- **He decided to run far away.** Run in place.
- **He tried to hide from God.** Cover eyes with arm.
- **Jonah got on a ship that was going far away from Nineveh. After he got on the ship, he lay down and fell asleep. Let me hear you snore.** Snore.

A big storm comes.

- **While Jonah was sleeping** (rest head on hands, eyes closed), **a huge storm came.**
- **The ship was blown by big winds.** Put your arms in the air and sway back and forth.
- **The ship was tossing and spinning.** Spin around.
- **The rain was pouring down.** Put your arms in air and bring them down quickly.
- **The captain of the ship woke up Jonah.** Pretend to tap on someone.
- **He said, “How can you sleep? Get up and pray to your God.”** Fold hands in prayer.
- **Jonah knew the storm was his fault, because he did not obey God.** Shake head “no.”
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Jonah is thrown overboard.

- **God wanted to stop Jonah from running away.** Hold hand out like a stop sign.
- **Jonah told the captain to throw him out of the boat.** Pretend to throw him out.
- **Jonah said then the storm would stop.** Hold hand out like a stop sign.
- **The sailors knew that if they threw Jonah out of the boat, Jonah might sink to the bottom. So instead of throwing him into the water, they tried to row back to the land.** Pretend to row a boat.
- **The storm grew worse.** Put arms in the air and sway back and forth.
- **Finally, they threw Jonah out of the boat and into the water.** Pretend to throw him out.
- **Splash! The storm stopped.** Hold hand out like a stop sign.

God sends a big fish.

- **Jonah sank down, down, down** (raise hands in air and bring them slowly down) **deep into the water.**
- **Seaweed wrapped around his head.** Move arm around head.
- **Jonah was afraid.** Make a scared face.
- **God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah! Open your mouth really big and pretend to swallow Jonah.**
- **Now Jonah was inside the big fish. Do you think it was dark inside?** Wait for children to answer.
- **Do you think the fish smelled good inside?** Wait for children to answer.
- **Do you think God took care of Jonah?** Wait for children to answer.
- **Yes, God did take care of Jonah.** Shake head “yes.”

Jonah is sorry.

- **Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.** Hold up three fingers and count **one...two...three.**
- **He was cold** (shiver) **and wet.**
- **Jonah knew God loved him** (hug yourself) **so Jonah prayed to God.** Fold hands in prayer.
- **He told God he was sorry for running away.** Run in place.
- **He told God he was sorry that he didn’t obey.** Shake head “no.”
- **He asked God to rescue him. God heard Jonah’s prayers.** Cup hand over ear.
- **God made the big fish spit Jonah out onto dry land. God told Jonah he must go to Nineveh. He had to tell the bad people** (make fists and mean face) **about God’s love** (hug yourself).
- **Jonah knew he must obey God** (shake head “yes”) **and go to Nineveh** (walk in place).

God wants us to obey.

- **God loves us very much.** Hug yourself.
- **He wants us to listen to him.** Cup hand behind ear.
- **He wants us to obey him.** Shake head “yes.”
- **God talks to us when we listen to the Bible.** Show the Bible.
- **The Bible is God’s word. The Bible tells us how we should live our lives. We can obey God.**

Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Help us obey you. Help us obey you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD,

O-bey GOD, O-bey GOD.

JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD.

I NEED to O-bey, TOO.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies:

- Circle cereal, any kind
- Napkins
- Cups and water

Be aware of any food allergies children may have.

Today we are going to eat a snack that will help us remember to obey God. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Help us obey you. Help us obey you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Today we have been learning that God wants us to obey him. See this cereal that I am holding up? These are shaped like an “O.” ‘O’ is the sound that reminds us of the word “obey.” Let’s all say obey. Obey.

Pass out napkins, cereal and cups of water.

Let’s practice obeying. Everyone put your cereal down. Do not eat it until we count to five. Ready One...two...three...four...five. Now you can eat your cereal. Thank you for obeying. When you eat circle cereal, remember that God wants us to obey him.

Let’s practice the Take Home Point. I’ll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Let’s sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD,
O-bey GOD, O-bey GOD.
JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD.
I NEED to O-bey, TOO.**

Activity 3: Craft

Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, “I did it myself.”

Supplies:

- Paper lunch sack, one per child
- Newspaper to stuff in sack (or any paper; shredded paper from a shredder works well)
- One rubber band per child
- Large wiggly eyes, two per child
- Glue
- Crayons or markers

Today we are going to make a big fish like the one that swallowed Jonah. First we are going to stuff the fish (*sack*) with paper. Open your sack and crumple up the paper and push it in until your fish is full. Now I will put a rubber band around the opening.

Gather the sack and leave about 2”. This becomes the tail of the fish.

See how this is the tail? Now we can glue a wiggly eye on each side of the fish’s head. When you are finished gluing, you can color your fish.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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I NEED to O-bey, TOO.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

Today we have been learning that Jonah tried to run away from God. Jonah did not want to obey God. Now we are going to play a game called *Do We Obey God?* When I ask you a question, you can answer and do the actions.

1. Do we obey God if we go to bed when our mommies tell us? Yes, we do. Let's pretend to sleep.
2. Do we obey God if we hit our friends? No, we do not. Let's say, "I'm sorry."
3. Do we obey God if we pick up our toys? Yes, we do. Let's pretend to pick up our toys.
4. Do we obey God if we cry in the store because we want a toy? No, we do not. What is a good way to ask for things? (Say "please," ask nicely, etc.)

5. Do we obey God if we sit quietly in church? Yes, we do. Show me how you can bow your head and fold your hands.
6. Do we obey God if we run away from Daddy or Mommy at the park? No, we do not. Show me how you would run if I asked you to come to me.
7. Do we obey God if we give our grandma a big kiss? Yes, we do. Let me hear you make a kissing sound.
8. Do we obey God if we will not play ball with our neighbor? No, we do not. Show me how you throw a pretend ball.
9. Do we obey God if we scream really loud when the baby is sleeping? No, we do not. Let me hear you whisper “Shhh.”
10. Do we obey God if we say our prayers? Yes, we do. Let’s pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Help us obey you. Help us obey you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus’ name. In Jesus’ name.

Amen. Amen.

Movement Game

Supplies:

- Beanbags
- Two different color hula-hoops (Option: Using masking tape, tape two squares on the floor.)

Place the hula-hoops near each other on the floor.

Boys and girls, today we are going to play a game called *Am I Obeying God if...*? I will ask you a question like this: “Am I Obeying God if I hit my sister?” What is the answer? No! After I ask the question, I will drop the beanbag in front of someone. It might be you. Pick up the beanbag and run to the “No” circle.

This color hula-hoop is the “Yes” hoop and this hula-hoop is the ‘No’ hoop. Point out each one as you speak.

Let’s all sit down and practice. Remember this is the “No” circle and this is the “Yes” circle. Put your beanbag into the circle that answers the question.

Am I obeying God if I clean up my room when my mommy tells me to?

Drop the beanbag in front of a child and encourage him/her to run to the “yes” circle.

Is that the right answer? Yes, it is. It was put in the right circle.

Use the situations in the Learning Game or make up your own. (*Example: Are we obeying God if we go to bed when mommy tells us? Run up to the yes or no hoops and throw your beanbag in the right hoop.*) Do not emphasize winning the game, just play for fun.

Let’s practice the Take Home Point. I’ll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Let’s sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD,
O-bey GOD, O-bey GOD.
JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD.
I NEED to O-bey, TOO.**

Let’s fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

**Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus’ name. In Jesus’ name.
Amen. Amen.**

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter reviews the lesson with questions or by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the answers as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

**See if you know the words I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event.
If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.**

God wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people about God and to stop doing bad things. Did Jonah obey? (No.) What did Jonah do? (Ran away.) Jonah ran away by getting on something that sailed on water. What was it? (A boat.) When he was on the boat, what woke him up when he was sleeping? (A storm or a man waking him up.) Jonah knew the storm came because he had disobeyed God. How did the men on the boat stop the storm? (The men on the boat threw him overboard.) When Jonah was in the water, he didn't sink to the bottom. Instead, what happened to Jonah? (A big fish swallowed him.) Was Jonah sorry that he did not obey God? (Yes.) Did God rescue Jonah? (Yes.) Do you want to obey God? (Yes.)

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

**Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD,
O-bey GOD, O-bey GOD.
JOnah NEEDS to O-bey GOD.
I NEED to O-bey, TOO.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.