



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Discovery Digs  
Summer Year 4, Lesson 12

# Jonah Preaches in Ninevah

**Take Home Point:** \*Share God's love with your enemies. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Jonah 3-4

**Key Verse:** Matthew 5:44, "But I tell you this: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Jonah preaching God's love to the Ninevites and the need for their repentance.
- It is important to share God's love, even with people who might be our enemies.
- They need to make a decision to turn their anger for those who hurt them into love.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Compassion for those who do not know God's love.
- Ready to turn their anger for enemies into love for them.

**We will help kids do:**

- Place "hurt wads" on a scale to balance injuries they have received and then knock them off.
- Catapult beads that symbolize love toward a list of things others have done to hurt them.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	The children will weigh hurts from enemies and then find out how God wants us to knock over the scales and forget those things.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a scale made from two spoons taped together</li> <li>• 3"x3" sheets of square paper</li> <li>• pens or pencils</li> <li>• "Share His Love with Enemies" printed on cardstock (p.11)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  9  9	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Jerry Dude Wants to Get Even"—Jerry Dude is angry and wants to get even when he finds out a mean girl got something she didn't deserve.  <b>Video Presentation:</b> <i>Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible: Jonah and the Whale</i>  <b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> "Jerry Dude Wants to Get Even"—Jerry Dude learns that he should love his enemies and pray for them instead of getting even.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerry puppet</li> <li>• box or tub of sand labeled "Sands of Time"</li> <li>• a medium size wad of paper</li> <li>• piece of sackcloth or burlap</li> <li>• key with discovery point: "Share God's love with your enemies"</li> <li>• video –<i>Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible: Jonah and the Whale</i> by Goodtimes Entertainment Limited, 2003. (order from amazon.com, Christiancinema.com or Christianbooks.com)</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Children will shoot "love beads" at the things that hurt them and share ways they can love their enemies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a spoon</li> <li>• "Share His Love with Enemies" card from Warm Up</li> <li>• a heart- shaped, "love bead" for each child available at hobby stores(See "love gems" at <a href="http://www.orientaltrading.com">www.orientaltrading.com</a>.)</li> <li>• option: paper wads</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Supplies needed: two spoons taped together, 3"x3" sheets of square paper and pens, one "Share His Love with Enemies" card*

In advance, tape two plastic spoon handles together so the spoon heads are at opposite ends. When balanced on your finger, it will look like a scale.

Set the 3"x3" sheets of square paper and the pens in the center of the group.

Have each child take a piece of paper and write down something mean done against them without writing the person's name. Say:

**Write one word that reminds you of a mean thing done against you.  
Don't write the name of who did it, just what they did.**

Have kids share what was done to them and how it felt. As the children share, (shepherd) write down each hurt on the backside (or inside when folded) of the "Share His Love with Enemies" card. You will use this at application time.

**Take your paper and wad it up as tight as you can and place it on this end of our "enemy scale." We may not consider the people who did wrong things enemies, but we are still calling this balance the "enemy scale."**

Place the scale on your finger, then place wads on one end of the scale so it will tip to one side only.

**Now take another piece of paper and write something you did to get even. Wad that up and place it on the other end. These are our "hurt wads."**

**Does getting even really make you feel better? Why or why not?**

**Do you ever do anything to hurt God? If you have ever disobeyed God, it might be like hurting him. Does God get even with you? No. Instead he offers you forgiveness. That is just like emptying all these hurt wads.**

Hit one end of the scale so that the wads fly everywhere!

**Today, we are going to talk about how we treat enemies. Just like God emptied the scale filled with all the things we did to hurt him, he wants us NOT to keep a record of the things others have done to hurt us. God wants us to *\*share his love with our enemies.***

**In large group, we will finish our event about Jonah and how he felt about his enemies.**

# Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “Jerry Dude Wants to Get Even”—Jerry Dude is angry and wants to get even when he finds out a mean girl got something she didn’t deserve.

**Video Presentation:** *Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible: Jonah and the Whale*

**Puppet Presentation Conclusion:** “Jerry Dude Wants to Get Even”—Jerry Dude learns that he should love his enemies and pray for them instead of getting even.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to the book of Jonah in their Bibles.

**What happened to Jonah after he had been in the fish for three days and three nights?** (*Jonah 1:17, 2:10. The Lord spoke to the fish, and it spit Jonah out onto the shore.*)

**God told Jonah to go to Nineveh again and preach repentance to the sinful people, how did Jonah respond this time?** (*Jonah 3:3. He obeyed and went to Nineveh, IMMEDIATELY.*)

**How did the people respond to Jonah’s message?** (*Jonah 3:5. They believed God.*)

**What did the king do because of what Jonah preached?** (*Jonah 3:6-9. He covered himself in sackcloth and told everyone else to do the same. He hoped God would show them compassion.*)

**What did God do in response?** (*Jonah 3:10. He had compassion on them and did not destroy them.*)

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

How do you think Jonah felt having to preach to people who were his enemies? (*Scared, angry.*)

In Jonah 4:1, it says Jonah was still angry even though the Ninevites told God they were sorry. Why do you suppose Jonah was still mad? (*He wanted the Ninevites to get what they deserved. He did not want God to save them.*)

How was Jonah's attitude different than God's attitude toward the Ninevites? (*Jonah wanted to get even. God forgave.*)

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

How is this like the way we sometimes treat our enemies? (*We want revenge or to get even.*)

How does God want us to treat our enemies even when they wrong us? (*He wants us to forgive them just as he forgives us when we sin against him.*)

Our key verse from Matthew 5:44 says, ***"But I tell you this: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."***

What should we do to our enemies? (*Love them. Pray for them.*)

#### Application Activity:

*Supplies needed: a spoon, heart-shaped "love bead" for each child, and "Share His Love with Enemies" card from Warm-Up*

*Option: draw hearts on paper, wad it up and shoot!*

Fold the "Share His Love with Enemies" card in half so it can stand up like a tent. It will be used as a target for the children. Hand kids a spoon and a bead. Have them think about the wrong things done to them that were discussed and written down in Warm-Up. Using the spoon, have kids shoot a bead at the target. Say:

**One at a time, we are going to take a "love bead" and shoot it at this list of all the mean things that happened to us. As you shoot a bead, tell one way that you can love the person who hurt you.**

After all the kids have had a chance to shoot his/her bead, say:

**As we close today let's remember that God wants us to *\*share his love with our enemies*. Because God forgave us all the wrong things**

**we have done through Jesus' death and resurrection, he gives us the power to love others just as he loves us.**

Closing Prayer:

**Dear Lord, thank you for sending Jesus who is the ultimate example of love. He died for us instead of getting even. Please help us to find ways to love our enemies and especially ways for us to share your love for them, too. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

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# Large Group Presentation

## Love Your Enemies

### Discovery Digs – Puppet Presentation

*The theme for this series is "Discovery Digs." Two presenters play the role of explorers searching through the sands of time for lessons from God's story in the Bible. The characters' or story tellers' are Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round (Dr. G and Dr. T, for short). We suggest that both characters develop their own personality, accent and costume. Both are archeologists and historians. Both know the Bible events enough to tell them well. Since they are presenting to kids, it's helpful to note that "overacting" works well with kids! Exaggerate expressions of surprise, exhortation or puzzlement.*

*Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round search through the "Sands of Time" and through the pages of the Bible for a special discovery each week. These are Bible truths that students not only discover, but truths that they put into practice. The Bible events are not told as exact readings of the Bible but are paraphrased. Still, it is a good idea to have a Bible in hand so that students can see the source. They might use a clipboard to hold their script, though it looks like archeologist's notes.*

*Each week a student is brought forward to pull a special key out of the "Sands of Time"—a key that has a clue to the discovery of the day. It is helpful for the characters to use a dry paint brush to brush off the sand from objects pulled from the sand. There is special humor as the archeologists first put their hands in the sand to pull out a rather surprising or intimidating object. This creates just a bit more suspense for the student who then goes searching for the key. Then the characters tell their story in creative fashion using the student volunteer or perhaps the entire audience.*

*The puppet for this series is Gordy's cousin, Jerry, the surfer dude. He speaks in surfer dude language. He came in to town for summer vacation and likes to come to Kingdom Quest, especially since they play in the sand a bit. He serves as the one to start and close the large group presentation. He interacts with Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner, whom he calls Dr. G and Dr. T. The presenter's lines are labeled: Dr.\_\_\_\_\_. (Both characters can be used in all presentations, but in the case of unavailable volunteers or a smaller congregation, one individual would be sufficient, as well. Fill in with whichever character is available this week.)*

#### *Props:*

- *a tub of sand, at least 6 inches deep. Label it "Sands of Time"*
- *a medium size wad of paper*
- *sackcloth or burlap*
- *a key with discovery point: "Share God's love with your enemies"*

# **Jerry Dude Wants to Get Even**

## **Puppet Presentation**

Jerry: Hey, dudes and dudettes! How goes it today? I'm lookin' for Dr. T. or Dr. G. Anyone seen them?

**Dr.\_\_\_\_: Hi, Jerry! How are you doing today?**

Jerry: Groovy, except I'm kind of mad.

**Dr.\_\_\_\_: What about?**

Jerry: There is this dudette named Peggy in my small group. She's a major bummer, dude. I try to, like, talk to her and stuff but she just makes fun of me. Today she was throwing the hurt wads at me when our shepherd wasn't looking instead of putting them on the scale.

**Dr.\_\_\_\_: Let me guess. You want to get even with her for that, huh?**

Jerry: Yeah, but that's not why I'm mad.

**Dr.\_\_\_\_: So, why are you mad?**

Jerry: Well, right before we slid on in here for large group, I saw our shepherd give her a plate of cookies...like, all for herself. It's just not fair! She should totally get a giant spit wad thrown at her head! Not fair, man!

**Dr.\_\_\_\_: Whoa, Jerry! Slow down! I know it doesn't seem fair to you that she got that plate of cookies. You know, this reminds me of what happened at the end of the book of Jonah. Let's look in the Sands of Time for some clues to our Bible event for today. Let's see...**

Pulls out the wad of paper, acting as if it is a "spit wad."

**Oh, gross! *(He drops the wad.)* Jerry, did you put that spit wad there because you were going to throw it at Peggy later?**

Jerry: Sorry, man. Yeah, I put it there for safekeeping.

**Dr.\_\_\_\_: Jerry, that's just like God kept Jonah in the fish for safekeeping. Then after three days and three nights, the fish spit Jonah on the shore. You really need to watch our Bible event today!**

**Okay, I think I saw something else in here. *(Pulls out the piece of sackcloth.)***



Jerry: What's that?

Dr.\_\_\_\_: **It's a piece of sackcloth. That is what people used to wear instead of clothes when they were really sorry for the bad things they had done.**

Jerry: Did Jonah wear that?

Dr.\_\_\_\_: **Not exactly. Let's take a look at our video today and find out what did happen.**

## Video

Show the video, *Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible: Jonah and the Whale*. Start where left off from last week with Jonah inside the fish.

## Jerry Dude Wants to Get Even

### Puppet Conclusion

Dr.\_\_\_\_: **What do you think about that, Jerry?**

Jerry: I think I was totally wrong to want to get even.

Dr.\_\_\_\_: **Oh, yeah. Did you learn that from what happened to Jonah?**

Jerry: That, too, man. But when the video came on, I looked at Peggy's plate of cookies and it had a note on top. It said, "I hope your dad gets out of the hospital soon." Man, it was totally awesome of our shepherd to do that for her. I don't want to get even now, dude.

Dr.\_\_\_\_: **That's good, Jerry. I think our secret key has something to say about that, too. Let's bring up a volunteer to pull it out.**

Pick a volunteer to pull the key from the Sands of Time.

**It says, *\*Share God's love with your enemies.***

Jerry: So I should find a way to love Peggy?

Dr.\_\_\_\_: **Yes, Jerry. Jesus is our example. He is even more than that. He's the one who rescues us from sin. Sometimes we do bad things like hurting others. But Jesus loved us so much that he died for us. This way, we could be forgiven for our sins. Then, we are free from wanting to always get even with others. Instead, we can love them. We can tell them what Jesus did for them, as well**

Jerry: Man, that is totally bodacious!

**Dr.\_\_\_\_:** **One other thing, Jerry. Jesus tells us that not only should we love our enemies but we should also pray for them. Jerry, would you like to start sharing God's love for Peggy by praying for her?**

Jerry: Totally man! Dear totally awesome God, Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross and show us how to be "right on" by loving others. I'm sorry for wanting to throw a spit wad at Peggy. Please help me share your love with her and others. Help her dad to get out of the hospital soon. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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# **Share His Love with Enemies**