Kingdom Divided

Jonah-Part 1of 2

**Series Objective:**

 Students will learn:

* The story of the Kingdom of Israel divided after Solomon’s death
* The story of Jonah
* The story of Joash

**Series Theme Verse:**“When I was in trouble, I called out to the Lord.
    And he answered me.” Jonah 2:2

**Lesson Objective:**Students will understand:

* God is responsive to small steps in the right direction.
* God’s compassion is not earned and never deserved.
* We respond to God’s Word by taking steps in the right direction.
* We recognize that God’s compassion is great.

**Lesson Passage:**Jonah 1

**Materials Needed:** blue plastic table cloth, white crepe paper, posterboard (to make tail),graham crackers, blue icing, gold fish, sprinkles, plates, napkins, plastic knives, crayons, scissors, brads, string, dry erase board and markers

**Lesson Plan:**

* Where did God tell Jonah to go?  (Nineveh)
* Why did Jonah run away from God?  (He didn’t want to go to Nineveh because they were Israel’s enemies)
* What city was Jonah sailing to?  (Tarshish)
* How did others suffer because of Jonah’s disobedience?  (The storm was causing the ship to break apart and the sailors were afraid)
* What was Jonah doing while all the sailors were praying to their gods? (Sleeping)
* How did the sea become calm? (Sailors threw Jonah overboard)
* What did God provide for Jonah?  (A great fish)
* What person do you not want to share the Good News with because they have been very hurtful to you?
* Pray that God will help you have compassion for that person as He does.  He will enable you to love that person and give you the power to share the Good News.

**The Story Retold:**

Using the link below, have students help decorate the table to look like the big fish in today’s lesson. If there is room for the students and you don’t feel it would be too much of a distraction, feel free to allow the students to sit in the “fish” while telling the story.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/242420392422341916/>

After telling the story of Jonah, have students decorate graham crackers using blue icing, gold fish, and sprinkles. Enjoy eating your treats!

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/141230138291061776/>

If time allows, students may color and cut out Jonah and the Fish. Attach Jonah to the “belly” of the fish using string and a brad.

<http://sundayschoolresources.co.uk/crafts/jonah.pdf>

**The Story and Me:**

Erase a Word—Write the memory verse on the board. Erase the verse a word at a time, each time asking the children to say the verse.