

LENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

“Jonah: When We Sin, We Must Ask God to Forgive Us”

Series Objective: Students will learn:

- God chose Jonah and God chooses us
- We must ask God to forgive us when we do not do what God wants
- God uses us to help others know God
- God cares for everyone

Series Theme Verse: “In my (trouble)* I called to the Lord, and he answered me.”

Jonah 2:1 **The word for trouble in the NIV is “distress” but for the Preschool, “trouble” is a little easier to understand and used in the NIRV.*

Lesson Objective: Students will discover and understand:

- We sin when we do not do what God wants us to do
- We must ask God to forgive us of our sin

Lesson Passage: Jonah 2

Materials Needed: Fish drawn on butcher paper, crayons, “air bubbles,” poster board of theme verse.

Lesson Plan: Remind the students of where we left off last week in the story of Jonah. Read Jonah 2 to the students. *The Message* translation is a great version to read this story out of, especially for children.

Talking Points:

- Who is Jonah? (A Prophet for God)
- What is a Prophet? (Someone who speaks to people for God)
- Where is Jonah? (In the belly of a giant fish)
- What is Jonah doing? (Praying)
- What does it mean to “Pray”? (Talk to God)
- The first verse is part of our Series Theme Verse, does anybody remember our Series Theme Verse from last week? (Let kids say the verse or reinforce the verse here.)
- What is Jonah saying in our Series Theme Verse? (That when he prayed to God, God answered him)
- Can God hear Jonah, even in the belly of a fish, way down in the bottom of the ocean? (Yes, God can hear us anywhere)

- Why does Jonah say he is in the belly of the fish? (Because God put him there for protection from the sea – Verses 3-6)
- Why did God put Jonah in the belly of a fish? (Because Jonah was not doing what God wanted Jonah to do, he was running from God which was a sin)
- What is sin? (Anything we do that God does not like, or when we do not do what God wants us to do)
- When Jonah sinned, and was in the belly of the fish, what did he ask God in his prayer? (To forgive him – Verses 7-9)
- Jonah says that only God can forgive our sin, and we must ask God to forgive us when we sin.
- After Jonah asks forgiveness and has been in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights, what does the fish do? (Vomits or throws up Jonah onto land)
- What do you think Jonah looked like after being thrown up by a fish he was in for three days and three nights? (Slimy, smelly, etc.)
- What do you think Jonah will do now that he is out of the belly of the fish? (We will have to see next week!)

The Story Retold:

- On Green Butcher Paper, draw a BIG FISH.
- Lay the fish out on the ground and let students color the fish while an adult draws Jonah in the belly of the fish.
- Give each child an “air bubble” and have them tell something they can pray to God about.
- Write the item on the “air bubble” and let them stick it to the fish, or somewhere by the fish.
- When each child has had a chance, tell the children that God is always listening, and we should pray to God about everything, because God wants us to talk to God.
- Jonah talked to God and we should, too!

The Story and Me:

- Remind students of the series verse.
- Have students sit in a big circle.
- The leader will “swim” like a fish around the group and stop at one student.
- That student will say the verse and then they will “swim” around the circle choosing someone else to say the verse.
- Give every student a chance to say the verse and “swim” around the group.
- Remind students that prayer was important for Jonah and it should be important to us to.