

March 29th
4S-1st grade

Bible Passage: Jonah 1—4

God Saves

REMEMBER VERSE

**The LORD your God is with you, the
Mighty Warrior who saves.**

Zephaniah 3:17a

Schedule

- 1. Optional Activity**
- 2. Storytime**
- 3. Questions to go Deeper**
- 4. Blessing**
- 5. Optional Worship Music**

Supplies

- **Toy trains, boats, cars**
- **Plastic bin with water, towel**
- **Masking tape**
- **Pieces of paper**
- **Running shoes**
- **Markers, crayons, or colored pencils**
- **Bible (yours and your child's)**

//Optional Activity//

Parents, this is a way to introduce the lesson and get your kids to thinking about traveling on water, just like Jonah did.

Want to Get Away?

When Jonah received word that God wanted him to deliver a message to the people of Nineveh, he tried to find a way to escape God's plans for him.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Toy planes, trains, boats, and cars
- Plastic bowl with a shallow amount of water
- Towels
- Train track and/or car paths made from masking tape

SET UP

Place all items on the table with the bin of water in the middle. Have kids help you make some car tracks and paths with masking tape on the floor.

RELATE

Welcome children and encourage them to explore the various modes of transportation. As they play, engage them in discussion. **How are all these things alike? How are they different? If you were going on a very long trip, how would you want to travel? Would you travel on a boat? In a car? On a train? In a plane? Why? Which would be the fastest? Is there a way you've never traveled before?**

//Storytime//

Hey parents! We will start with learning our Remember Verse.

- Write the Remember Verse (listed below) on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in your house near where you will be telling the story
- Grab a pair of sneakers or running shoes. Hide them in a box with a lid near where you will tell the story. This will be used to help tell the story 😊

Mail Time (at church we use a mailbox, but you don't have too)

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse written on a piece of paper
- Bibles

RELATE

Hide the Remember Verse somewhere in your house, perhaps near where you will tell the story. Choose one child to "seek" the Remember Verse. Give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the verse is found, find the Remember Verse in Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory.

REMEMBER VERSE

The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.

Zephaniah 3:17a

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Mighty Warrior: A name for God that means He is powerful in battle.

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

The LORD your God: Make “L” with right index finger and thumb. Move the “L” from right shoulder to left hip.

is with you: Put both hands in front of body and pull close to chest.

the Mighty Warrior: Make fists and flex to show muscles.

who saves: Make fists and fold arms across chest, then open arms.

Wardrobe of Wonder (Where a secret item is hidden that connects to the Big God Story. Use a box, a cabinet or whatever you have)

SUPPLIES

- Secret Item/What’sIt: Pair of Running Shoes
- Covered place to hide secret item

What’sIt: Pair of Running Shoes

The Lord God told His servant Jonah to take a message to the city of Nineveh. Jonah refused and ran from God. He journeyed on a boat until a storm hit. In an attempt to save the crew, Jonah told the men to throw him overboard. Jonah began to sink, and God sent a large fish to swallow him___rescuing him from death. Jonah was no longer running from God, but back to Him.

RELATE

Invite one of your children (assistant) to “spy” on the What’sIt by peeking into the wardrobe. Have him whisper the identity of the What’sIt in your ear to ensure he knows what it is. If you have one child participating, consider giving them hints of what the secret item is and see if they can guess it.

Then lead your kids in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What’sIt. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’sIt from the wardrobe and bring it to you.

ASK

(Child's name), **why do you think the What's It is a pair of running shoes?** Invite a child to give you some suggestions. **When would you use this type of shoes?** Children respond. **I wonder how the What's It will be connected with what we're going to hear today from The Big God Story! Friends, what do you think? Let's find out because, do you know what time it is?**

The Big God Story

This is the “meat” of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people's lives

Jonah 1—4
God Saves

SUPPLIES

- What's It: Pair of Running Shoes
- Bible (one for you and one for your child)
- **Storytelling video (optional) [Access video HERE](#)**

RELATE

Hello, friends! It's so good to see you here today! Before we jump into The Big God Story, let's stop and ask God to teach us. Let's quiet our voices and rest our hands and feet as we close our eyes and talk to God. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Open up a Bible to Jonah 1. Explain to your child that the Big God Story they are about to hear is a TRUE story that comes from the Old Testament in the book of Jonah. Encourage them to find the book of Jonah in their own Bibles. **Many years ago, there was a prophet named Jonah. What's a prophet?** Wait for children to answer. **That's right! A prophet is a person to whom God gives a special message that He wants shared with His people. God may send a message for many people, or just one or two. No matter what God says in His message, it's the prophet's job to obey God and get the message to the right people.**

Jonah was a prophet who lived in the Promised Land of Israel. One day God told Jonah to take a message to the people in the city of Nineveh. Can you say that with me? NIN-e-veh. Children repeat. **God saw how badly the people of the city were acting and knew something had to be done. God told Jonah to take a message to the people. But Jonah ran away from the Lord instead.** Pump arms as if running, and cue children to follow along. **Wait a minute. I just heard a sound from the Wardrobe of Wonder.** Cup hand around ear as if listening, and cue children to follow along. **Running shoes were our What's It today in the wardrobe. Why do you think we found a pair of running shoes? Is someone running in The Big God Story?** Pause for answers. **Yes, you're right! Jonah was trying to run away from God. Let's see what happened.**

Jonah got on a boat that would take him far, far away, because he didn't want to take God's message to the people of Nineveh. Wave good-bye. **Friends, can we ever really run away from God?** Children answer. **No** (shake heads no), **we can't! We can turn away from Him and try not to listen, but we can't ever really run away from God. And that's a good thing, because we need God. While the boat was sailing away, a great storm hit the sea. Waves crashed and the boat swayed back and forth** (sway from side to side). **The sailors on the ship were very scared. They didn't know what had caused this great big storm.**

The captain went looking for Jonah and found him sleeping below deck! Jonah told them it was his God, the Creator of the heavens, sea, and land, who had sent the storm. Jonah told the men that he was running away (pump arms) from the Lord. The sea kept getting rougher and rougher (sway from side to side). “What should we do to calm the sea?” they asked. “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” replied Jonah, “and it will become calm. I know it’s my fault this storm has come to you.” The men didn’t like Jonah’s answer, not one bit. So, first they tried to row the boat back to shore (row oars), but the storm was getting worse. Finally, the sailors did what Jonah said and they threw him overboard. Once Jonah was off the boat, the storm quieted (big sigh of relief). When the men saw this, they knew God was mighty and powerful. God saved them.

What do you think happened to Jonah? Interact with children's answers. God didn’t forget Jonah and let him die in the sea. He sent a great big fish to swallow Jonah up. Use hands to make swallow up motion. A giant fish! Can you imagine that? Only God could send a giant fish to save one of His people! And that’s where Jonah stayed for three whole days and three whole nights. Hold up three fingers. What would you do if you were in the belly of a great big fish? Pause for responses. Those are all very good ideas! Jonah prayed! He thanked God for saving him. Jonah knew he could’ve died in the sea, but God saved him. As he prayed, Jonah told God he’d obey Him and take God’s message to the people of Nineveh. Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it spit Jonah out onto dry land. Who saved Jonah? Children answer. God did!

God told Jonah a second time, “Go to the city of Nineveh and tell them the message I give you.” So Jonah went. He told the people the message God gave him, and the people believed God. They stopped doing harmful things and turned away from their bad choices. When God saw this, He showed them mercy. God cared for them and loved them, even though He could’ve punished them for the way they were behaving. God saved the people and their city from being harmed.

Who saved the sailors from the great storm at sea? Children answer. God did! Who saved Jonah? Children answer. God did! Who had mercy and saved the people of Nineveh from being harmed because of their sin? Children answer. God did! God saves! When we cry out to Him, God will save us. God made you and He loves you. He wants you to know Him and know that you belong to Him. God is full of mercy and saves those who call on Him.

Worship as Response (Children get to pause and respond to what they have just heard)

SUPPLIES

- Worship music (use YouTube or your favorite way to listen to music)
- Paper
- Markers, crayons, or pencils

PREPARE AHEAD

Cut ribbon into 2’ sections, making one streamer for each child.

SET UP

Set the paper and markers on a table.

RELATE

Friends, it’s so good to know that God saves. He saved the sailors, Jonah, and the people of Nineveh. And ... God saves us, too! What are some ways God saves us? Interact with children's answers. One of the big ways God saved us was by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Because of what Jesus did, we can

live with God forever in heaven someday if we choose to trust and obey Him. How amazing is that?

God saves. This makes me want to worship Him. Right now we're going to listen to a couple worship songs. As they play, you can talk to God or just sit quietly and listen to the words. Take some time to think of what you know to be true about God. On these tables we have some paper. You can come up to one of the tables and tell me what word or words about God you'd like to have written on your ribbon, along with your name. They can also draw a heart or another symbol to show how you feel about God. When they're finished, you can take your ribbon back with you. If you'd like, you can dance to the music, using your paper as a streamer. Or you can sit quietly with the paper in your hands and thank God for saving you.

While the worship music plays, encourage kids to come up and talk to you about what they want on their papers. Allow children to respond freely with their finished papers.

//Questions to go deeper//

RELATE

Jonah was a prophet who was given a special message from God to deliver to Nineveh. At first Jonah tried to run from God, but God sent him back. The people of Nineveh heard God's message and cried out to Him. He showed them mercy and saved them.

I wonder ... How did Jonah feel when God found him and sent the storm?

I wonder ... What did Jonah say to God inside the fish?

I wonder ... Why does God save me?

//Bless//

This is where YOU get to speak God's word over your child. It's powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won't regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

RELATE

Consider gathering all your family members, join them in a circle and encourage everyone to hold hands. Today we learned that God saves. That truth is for everyone! Let's bless each other right now by sending a hand squeeze and words of blessing around the circle. I'll start by squeezing the hand of the person on my right and telling her, "God saves." She will then squeeze the hand of the person on her right and repeat the words. We'll go around the circle until everyone has had a chance to squeeze a hand and say, "God saves." If it is just you and your child, you can hold each other's hands and take turns saying the blessing to one another.

When everyone in the circle has been blessed, encourage children to hold out their hands in front of them as you speak a blessing over the group:

Children, may you always remember you are God's

child. When you call out to God, He will save you.

//Worship Songs//

Find our weekend songs here <https://vimeo.com/user66402259>

April 2020

4 Year olds-1st graders

MORNING TIME

Pray this blessing over your child: [Insert child's name], may you know and experience God's great love for you, and may you see in each day the special way you're a part of His big story.

MEAL TIME

Read to your child Luke 24:1. Ask and discuss the following questions: What happened to Jesus on the third day? What does this mean for us? What is your favorite part of the Big God Story?

CAR TIME

Practice the Remember verse from John 5:24a, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life." Try practicing the verse in different voices (ex. Cat, robot voice, slow, fast, etc.)

BED TIME

Read Exodus 12:1-30 together. Discuss with your child(ren) that The Passover Feast was a significant celebration of Passion Week. It was the remembrance of when the Lord's judgement "passed over" all those who obeyed Him during the Israelite's final days in Egypt. Jesus became our unblemished lamb and his blood covers all those who believe and choose to follow Him.

