



UNIT 15 | SESSION 1

JONAH WARNED OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

JONAH

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus obeyed God's plan.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God made me. Psalm 139:14

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh.
- Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people God's message.
- The people of Nineveh were sorry for their wrong choices, and God forgave them.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

God gave Jonah a message: "Tell the people in Nineveh to stop doing wrong things." But Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. Instead, Jonah got onto a boat to go far away. God sent a storm. Jonah told the sailors on the boat to throw him into the sea. When the sailors threw Jonah into the sea, the storm stopped. God sent a large fish to swallow Jonah. For three days, Jonah was in the fish's belly. Jonah prayed and thanked God for sending the fish. Then the fish spit Jonah out, and Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people God's message. The people of Nineveh were sorry for their wrong choices, and God forgave them.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Jonah. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A HYMN

Sing the chorus of “Trust and Obey.” If you are unfamiliar with the tune, look it up before the session.

“Trust and obey, for there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”

SAY “Jonah did not want to obey God and go to Nineveh. Jesus always obeyed God’s plan. We obey God because He loves us.”

2 DROP THE POM-POM

Stand three toilet paper tubes on a sturdy piece of cardboard and tape or glue in place. Collect large pom-poms or cotton balls. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows on the floor with prepared tubes within reach. Show babies how to drop pom-poms into the tubes.

SAY “God made you to obey Him. God gave you hands and fingers to use to obey God. Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh to tell the people God’s message.”

3 WHISPER IT!

Sit babies in high chairs or in a horseshoe-shaped pillows on the floor. Cup your hands around your mouth to speak messages to the babies. Notice how babies respond to whispering, speaking in full voice, using animated tones, or singsong speaking. Message suggestions include “God loves you,” “God made you,” or “You are loved.”

SAY “We know God loves His children because He sent the best message ever—Jesus. Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people God’s message.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Jonah. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 MAKE A FISH

Provide a small ball of play dough for each toddler. Form a fish from play dough as you review the Bible story. Encourage the children play as interest allows.

SAY “ God made a big fish to rescue Jonah. Then Jonah obeyed God, went to Nineveh, and told the people God’s message. The people were sorry for their wrong choices, and God forgave them. ”

3 BUILD O-BEAD-IENCE SHAKERS

Fill empty plastic water bottles halfway with beads. Secure lids with glue and tape to ensure safety. Demonstrate how to shake the bottles as you sing the chorus to “Trust and Obey” twice. Encourage children to sing along as they play. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Obedience is one way to worship God. Jesus obeyed God’s plan and we can too. Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people God’s message. The people of Nineveh obeyed God after Jonah told them God’s message. ”

4 ACT OUT JONAH

Develop Bible story actions with the toddlers. Actions include rowing a boat [arms at waist and rock back and forth], rain falling [wiggle fingers], throwing Jonah into the sea [tossing hands from your waist to over your shoulder], praying inside the fish [show praying hands], three days [hold up three fingers], and Jonah telling people about God [hands cupped around mouth]. Retell the Bible story, pausing for actions. Explain that the people of Nineveh were sorry for their wrong choices, and God forgave them.

SAY “ Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. God loved and protected Jonah by sending the fish. Jonah prayed and thanked God for the fish. Jesus obeyed God’s plan. We can obey God too. ”

5 PLAY “WHAT FLOATS?”

Fill a plastic tub with enough water to float items (such as a small ball, a toy car, plastic animals, empty plastic spice bottles, and a crayon). Allow the children to place one item in the bin at a time. After each item ask, “Does it float?” Review the Bible story.

SAY “ God protected Jonah, so Jonah obeyed God and told the people God’s message. The people of Nineveh were sorry for their wrong choices, and God forgave them. Jesus obeyed God’s plan. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MAKE A FISH FLING



Gather blue cups with a small hole cut in the bottom, string, permanent marker, deflated balloons, flour, and googly eyes. Fill balloons with enough flour to weigh it down, and tie off the balloon. Attach a precut string to the balloon and through the hole in the bottom of the cup. Knot the string. Attach googly eyes to the sides of the cup and decorate like a fish. Draw eyes on the balloon to decorate as Jonah. Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY “ God sent a large fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah prayed and thanked God for the fish. Jonah obeyed, went to Nineveh, and told the people God’s message. Jesus obeyed God and we can too! ”

2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “The B-I-B-L-E”:

“God M-A-D-E me,
Like I’m supposed to be.
I can obey ‘cause that’s God way,
God M-A-D-E me!”

3 SKETCH GOD MADE ME DRAWINGS

Gather washable markers, crayons, yarn, glue, and googly eyes. Provide paper and allow children to draw a picture of what they look like. Encourage children to include details that make them special and unique. Assist as needed. Print God made me. Psalm 139:14 on each child’s drawing. Read the key passage phrase.

SAY “ God made Jonah, God made me, and God made you. He made everything from our heads all the way down to our toes. We can praise God because He made us special. ”

4 BUILD A BOAT

Gather interlocking bricks or foam or cardboard building blocks and people figures. Encourage the children to build a boat for Jonah. Allow children to act out the story. Continue as interest allows. Review the Bible story, assisting as needed.

SAY “ Jonah got onto a boat to go far away. God sent a storm. God rescued Jonah with a large fish. Then Jonah obeyed God. Jonah took the message to the people, and they obeyed. God sent Jesus to rescue us. Jesus obeyed God’s plan and we can too. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.