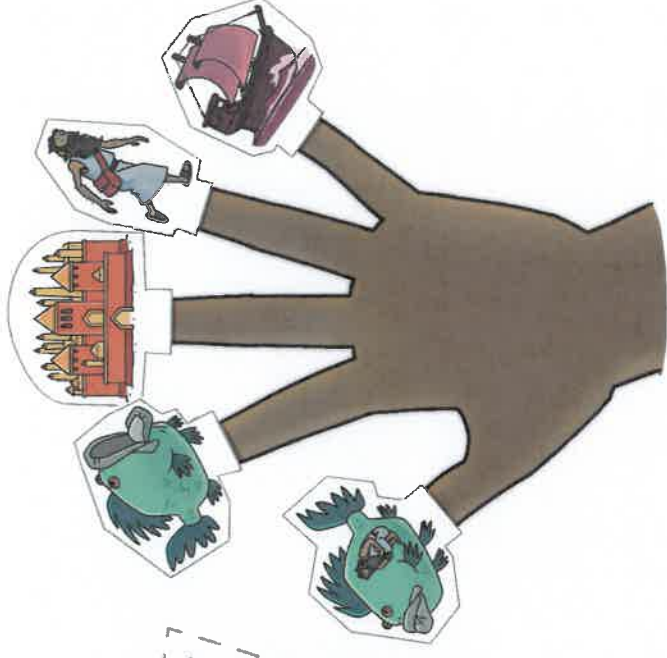
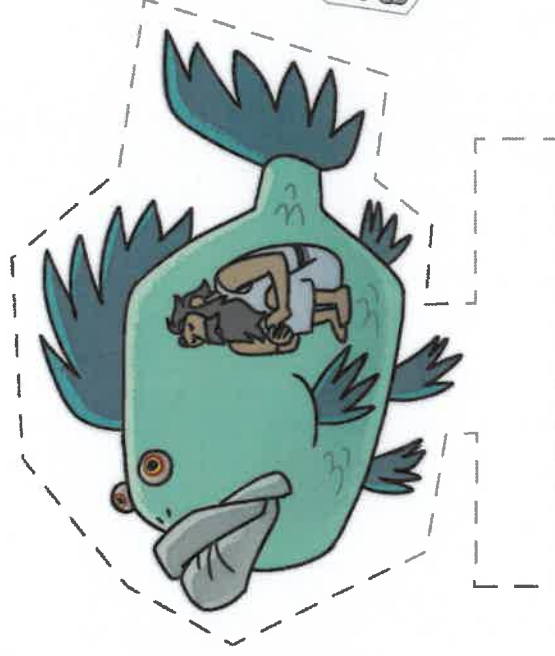
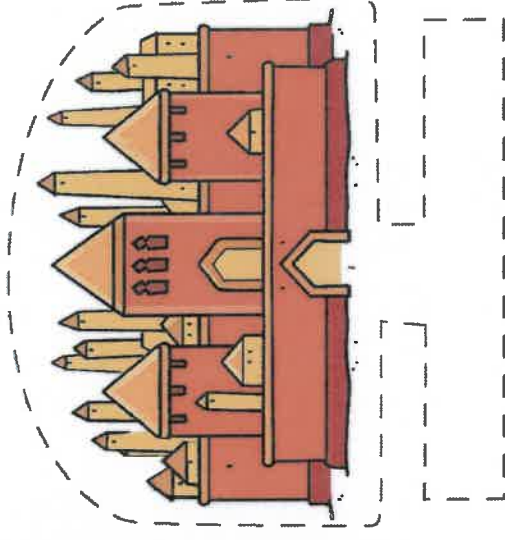
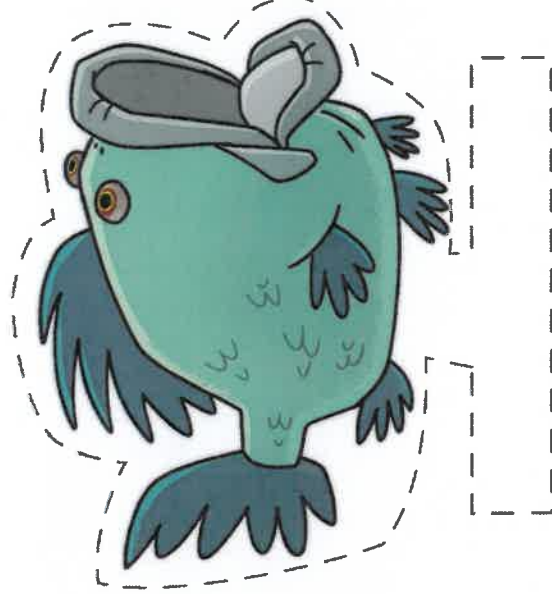
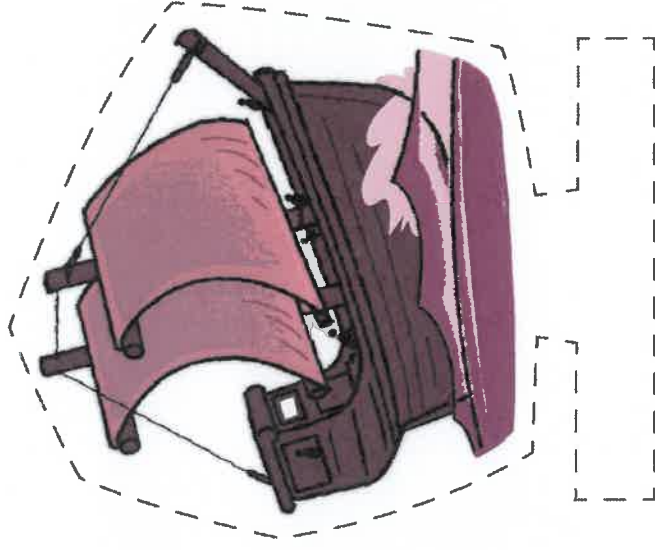


## Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

| Where       | Who and What                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | What you Need                                                 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Classroom   | Teacher takes attendance<br>Give students a sticker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard |
|             | Cut out finger puppets<br><br>If still waiting, don't tell story quite yet. Instead, play the compassion game on page 59                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Scissors<br>Cardstock puppets<br>Tape<br><br>Pg. 59           |
| Large Group | <b>Large Group Time:</b> Leader is Sophie. She will get you when she is ready.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                               |
| Classroom:  | Ask questions from page 64<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did Jonah deserve to be saved from the sea? Did Nineveh deserve to be saved from punishment? Why not?</li> <li>2. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days. How long was Jesus in the tomb?</li> <li>3. Who can you share the good news of Jesus with? What will you tell them?</li> </ol> | Bible<br>Ask Questions                                        |
|             | Page 65: Finish the puppets and have students pair up and retell the story to each other.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Finger Puppets                                                |
|             | 2 Kinds of Activity Pages today                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Activity Page                                                 |









## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Have you ever had to share a message with someone that you didn’t want to? Tell me about it. Did you end up sharing the message? Why?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Find the Way” activity page.

**SAY** “Today, we will learn how God sent the prophet Jonah to share a message with the people of Nineveh, but Jonah didn’t want to go.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: GULP!

Provide each kid with a blue plastic cup. Using cardstock, invite kids to cut out a fish’s tail fin that will fit at the bottom of their cup. Glue the fin to the bottom of the cup. Then distribute googly eyes and direct kids to glue the googly eyes toward the top of the cup to complete their “giant fish.”

Then form kids into pairs, standing 2 feet apart. Provide one kid from each pair with a pom-pom and challenge them to toss the pom-pom into the “fish’s mouth,” while their partner keeps the cup stationary in the air. If the pom-pom lands in the cup, invite the kids to say “Gulp!” Allow kids to each take turns tossing the pom-pom into their partner’s cup. Then challenge kids to stand 3 feet apart and repeat the game. Play as time allows.

**SAY** “Today, we will learn how God sent Jonah to Nineveh to tell the people to turn from their sinful ways. However, Jonah chose to disobey. As a consequence, Jonah was tossed into a stormy sea. But God was merciful and sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, saving him from drowning in the sea.”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: COMPASSION



Tell kids that compassion means to feel pity and sadness for others’ sufferings or situations and want to help them. Challenge kids to listen to each scenario and determine if it shows compassion. If it does, kids will run to the right side of the room. If it doesn’t, kids will run to the left side of the room. Consider using the following examples and create more of your own:

- A woman makes a meal for her sick neighbor.
- A man sees someone who is homeless and offers him a job.
- A kid skips someone in line.
- A girl makes fun of a classmate.
- A boy holds the door open for an elder lady who needs help.
- A kid refuses to share his toys.

**SAY** “Today, we will see how God had compassion on Jonah and the people of Nineveh. Even though Jonah and the Ninevites deserved death for their sin, God was compassionate to them. He took care of them and spared their lives.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God by Applying the Story

#### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Jonah 3. Remind kids that Jonah traveled from Joppa (F9) to Tarshish. Then after being spit out by the fish, Jonah went to Nineveh (E11). Consider pointing out these locations on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Jonah 3:3-5 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** 🗨️ The first time God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, he disobeyed. The second time God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, he obeyed and told the people about God's judgment on their sin. When Jonah preached, the people of Nineveh turned from their sin and believed God.

Today, God calls Christians to tell others to turn from their sin and trust in Jesus to be saved. Christians have received the love and mercy of God and want others to receive these gifts too. Unlike Jonah, believers rejoice when God saves someone from the punishment of sin. 🗨️

#### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** 🗨️ Did Jonah deserve to be saved from the sea? Did Nineveh deserve to be saved from punishment? Why not? 🗨️

Tell kids that both Jonah and Nineveh were sinful and disobedient. They did not deserve God's mercy or grace. Share how all people deserve eternal death for their sin, but God is merciful and doesn't give people what they deserve when they trust in Jesus. Tell kids that Jesus took the punishment people deserve for sin when He died on the cross.

**SAY** 🗨️ Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days. How long was Jesus in the tomb? 🗨️

Remind kids that Jesus was in the tomb for three days after He died on the cross. Tell kids that when Jesus was on earth, He compared Jonah's time in the fish to how long Jesus would be in the tomb. Jesus told the people that He was greater than Jonah. Jesus is greater than Jonah, because—while the Ninevites repented when Jonah preached—Jesus is the only One who can save people from their sin.

**SAY** 🗨️ Who can you share the good news of Jesus with? What will you tell them? 🗨️

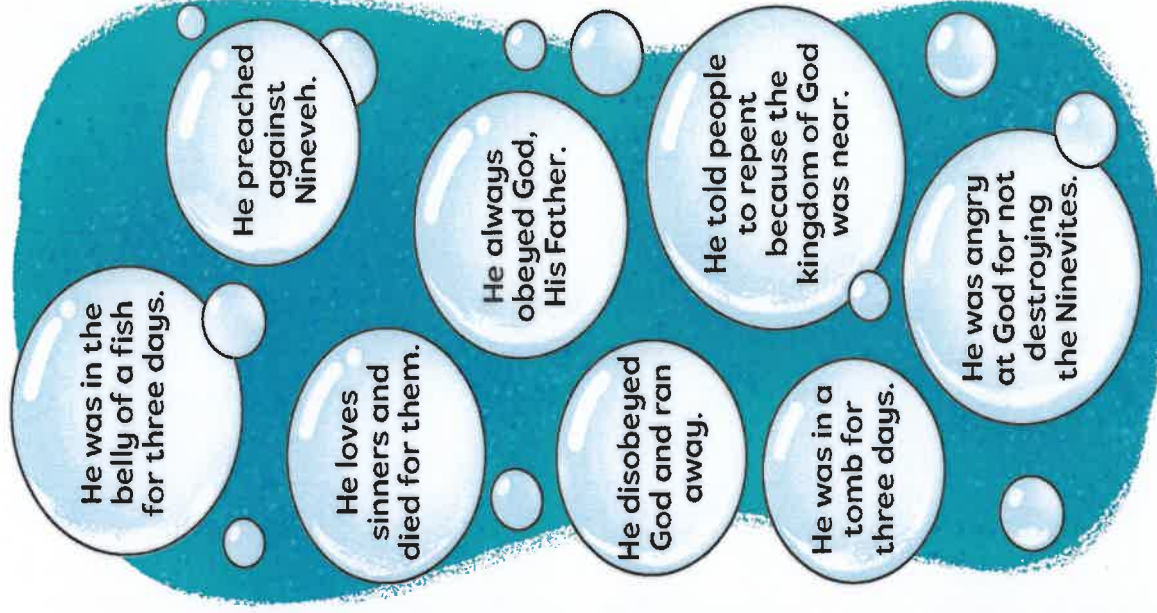
Encourage kids to remember that God calls all Christians to share the gospel. Tell kids that the gospel is the good news—the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Invite kids to practice how they might share Jesus with someone.



Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**



**Before and After** | Compare both pictures and circle the 10 differences.



**Greater than Jonah** | Circle the bubbles that describe Jesus. Draw an X on the bubbles that describe Jonah. Look up Matthew 3:2; Matthew 12:40-41; and Romans 5:8 if you need help.



# Find the Way

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Help Jonah find his way to Nineveh by following the correct path through the maze.

