



Jonah and the Ninevites

Lesson Aim: To know God gives second chances because He cares about everyone.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: Jonah 1:4-5, 7, 11-12, 17; 3:4, 8-9; 4:10-11

What He has done: God gave Jonah and the Ninevites each a second chance.

Key Verse: Jonah 4:2

THE WAY

Christ Connection: John 3:16

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Prepare to meet your God, O Israel. He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is His name." "Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say He is." Amos 4:12b-13; 5:14

Unit 7: The Prophets and God's Power			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Elijah on Mount Carmel, 1 Kings 18:24, 26-27, 31-32, 36-39	God sent fire to prove He is the one true God.	To acknowledge God as the one true God.
33	Elijah and Elisha, 2 Kings 2:1, 7-15	God chose Elisha to be Elijah's successor when He brought Elijah up to heaven.	To know God gives us spiritual gifts and mentors to help us accomplish the work He has for us.
34	Elisha and the Chariots of Fire, 2 Kings 6:15-20	God sent invisible horses and chariots of fire to protect His people.	To know we are surrounded by God's protection.
35	The Prophet Joel, Joel 2:1, 13, 25, 28, 32	God sent a message to His people through the prophet Joel.	To know God judges our hearts and wants our hearts to turn to Him.
36	Jonah and the Ninevites, Jonah 1:4-5, 7, 11-12, 17; 3:4, 8-9; 4:10-11	God gave Jonah and the Ninevites each a second chance.	To know God gives second chances because He cares about everyone.
37	Amos and the Plumb Line, Amos 4:12b-13; 5:14; 7:7-8	God sent Amos with a message of justice and righteous living to the Israelites.	To know the Bible is the standard God gives us for living upright lives.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Jeremiah 31:3. Please join in praying, "Lord, thank You for speaking through the prophets. Fill the children with Your Spirit so they may know Your mercy and show kindness to others. Amen."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Dodge Fish	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Prepare to Meet Your God" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Everyone Who Calls" "I Lift Up My Eyes" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Neither Death nor Life" "Search Me, O God" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God" "How Great Thou Art" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Jonah 2:7-9	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 36 The Love Sub script or storybook
		Read the Word: Jonah 1:4-5, 7, 11-12, 17; 3:4, 8-9; 4:10-11	Readers' Theatre scripts, props, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: John 3:16	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Any candy or snack shaped like a worm (gummy worms, licorice), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "Prepare to Meet Your God," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Little Fish, Big Fish	Any fish-shaped snack
	Up to 10	Game: Second Chance Toss	Two cups, two small balls (ping pong balls, golf balls, or marbles), floor tape or chalk
	Up to 15	Craft: Jonah and the Giant Fish Mobile	Paper plate, sturdy paper, yarn, paper clip, scissors, glue or tape, hole punch, crayons or markers
	Up to 5	Discussion: Jonah Was Angry	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Picture God's Power	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase board and marker or chalkboard and chalk, timer
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Unscramble the Verse	Paper, marker, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player, timer
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: When has someone given you a second chance?

GAME: DODGE FISH

Purpose: Children will begin to discover God gave Jonah and the Ninevites a second chance.

Supplies: None

Let's pretend we are sailing to a place called Tarshish. When the captain of the ship chooses you to swim, try to sneak past the Great Fish without getting caught!

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be the Giant Fish. Choose another child to be the Captain. The remaining children are the Sailors.
2. At one end of the play area, the Sailors stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a line. The Captain stands behind the Sailors. Point to a wall or object on the opposite side of the play area to represent Tarshish. The Giant Fish stands in the middle of the room, facing the Sailors, and closes his or her eyes.
3. The Captain touches one Sailor on the shoulder and says, "It's time to go to Tarshish." The Giant Fish opens his or her eyes and the Sailor must try to get past the Giant Fish and touch Tarshish.
 - If the Giant Fish tags the Sailor before he or she touches Tarshish, the Sailor becomes the Giant Fish and the Giant Fish becomes a Sailor.
 - If the Giant Fish does not tag the Sailor before the Sailor touches Tarshish, the Giant Fish returns to wait for another Sailor.
4. Play as often as you like.
 - Choose a new Giant Fish if the Giant Fish misses three Sailors in a row.
 - You may choose to pick a new Captain if you play several times.

God told the prophet Jonah to go and warn the Ninevites, but Jonah disobeyed and tried to sail the opposite direction to a place called Tarshish. In our Bible story, we will find out how God gave Jonah and the Ninevites each a second chance to obey Him and do what was right.

Limited space? Play SECOND CHANCE TOSS located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



The God of Power

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the God of Power. In today's story, we will see His power in the way He provided a storm, a big fish, a vine, sunshine, and even a worm to offer second chances to Jonah and the Ninevites. Jonah prayed to God because he knew about God's power, patience, and kindness. Each time, God heard and answered Jonah's prayers. Listen as I read part of Jonah's prayer from when he was inside the belly of the big fish. Read Jonah 2:7-9.



As we give our offering today, let's thank God for the second chances He has given us. Play: "Search Me, O God" as background music while collecting the offering.

The same Lord that was with Jonah then is with us now. Let's praise Him as Jonah did in the belly of the big fish. Sing "How Great Is Our God" and "He Is Mighty to Save." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's patience and His kindness.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 7, Lesson 36.



Just as He did with Jonah and the Ninevites, God gives us many chances to come to Him. He wants us to be prepared to meet Him one day. Sing the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Prepare to Meet Your God."



God gives Jonah a second chance

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned the prophet Joel warned the people the Day of the Lord was coming when Jesus will come to judge the world. Today, we will learn about Jonah and the good news that God will always give us second chances to turn away from wrongdoing. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. If a map is available, point to the location of the ancient city of Nineveh located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean. Nineveh was across the river from the modern-day major city of Mosul, Iraq, on the eastern bank of the Tigris in ancient Assyria.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Jonah 1:4-5, 7, 11-12, 17; 3:4, 8-9; 4:10-11.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

READERS' THEATRE: Instead of reading our Bible passage, let's act it out. Distribute the Readers' Theatre scripts to the children, assign roles, and hand out props. Read and act out the Bible story from Jonah 1-4.

Optional: The Readers' Theatre script directly quotes the Bible Story Scripture passages. If you choose to omit the Readers' Theater, read the following information and passages. **Jonah ran away when God told him to go to Nineveh. Check out what happened when Jonah sailed for Tarshish.** Read Jonah 1:4-5, 7, 11-12, 17. **Inside the big fish, Jonah prayed for God to save him. God heard Jonah's prayer and commanded the big fish to spit him onto the shore. This time, Jonah obeyed. Read the warning Jonah gave the Ninevites.** Read Jonah 3:4. **Look for the choice and promise from God in the king's decree to the Ninevites.** Read Jonah 3:8-9. **The Ninevites turned from their evil ways, so God gave them a second chance. He did not harm them. Jonah was angry that God did not punish them. To teach Jonah why He gave them a second chance, God gave Jonah a vine for shade. Then, God sent a worm to chew up the vine. Let's read how God used the vine and the worm to teach Jonah about second chances that day.** Read Jonah 4:10-11.



God gives everyone second chances

THE WAY

The first time God told Jonah to warn the Ninevites, he did not want to go. He disobeyed God and sailed away on a ship in the opposite direction. What happened next? (God sent a big storm.) **What did Jonah tell the sailors to do?** (Throw him overboard.) **How did God save Jonah when he was in the sea?** (A big fish swallowed him whole.)

Jonah realized he had made the wrong choice and he was sorry for disobeying God. What did Jonah do inside the belly of the big fish? (He prayed.) **God gave Jonah a second chance and commanded the big fish to spit Jonah onto the shore. The second time God told Jonah to warn the Ninevites, did Jonah obey?** (Yes.)

Have you ever been sorry for your wrongdoing and wanted a second chance to make things right? (Children respond.) **Has someone ever given you a second chance to do the right thing?** (Children respond.)

We all do wrong in God's eyes, so we all need second chances. If you have done wrong in God's eyes lately and would like to ask Him to forgive you and give you a second chance, you can pray and ask Him for that second chance right now. Lead the children in a brief prayer asking for forgiveness and for a second chance to do what is right.

The Ninevites were known for doing evil. Did God give the Ninevites a second chance? (Yes.) **God saw they repented, which means they turned from doing wrong in God's eyes. Why was Jonah angry that God gave the Ninevites a second chance?** (He wanted God to punish them.)

When the worm ate Jonah's shade vine, God was showing him that just as He could do whatever He wanted with the vine He made, He could give a second chance to any of the people He made. By giving Nineveh a second chance, God showed He loves the whole world, not just His own people. God is so kind that He will give a second chance to anyone, no matter who they are or what evil they have done. They just have to turn from their wrongdoing and believe in Him.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

God gave Jonah and Nineveh second chances to obey and be close with Him. 800 years later, who did God send to give the whole world a second chance? (He sent His Son Jesus to give the world a chance for forgiveness and life forever with Him.) **Let's see how Jesus Himself explained the answer.**



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: John 3:16. Let's find this scripture. John 3:16.

Jesus gives everyone a second chance to be close with God. Anyone who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior is forgiven for all their wrongdoings and is given a second chance to be close with God forever.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a snack shaped like the worm God sent to chew Jonah's shade vine! Tell your family the story of Jonah and his second chance.

(Alternate treasure treat: A fish-shaped snack like the big fish in the story.)

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 36 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jonah praying to God from inside the belly of the big fish.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Prepare to Meet Your God," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: LITTLE FISH, BIG FISH

Purpose: Children will eat a fish-shaped snack while discussing second chances.

Supplies: Any fish-shaped snack

What was the name of the city of people who were given a second chance to obey God in today's story? (The Ninevites.) **Who else received a second chance?** (Jonah.) **God gives us second chances because of His patience and loving kindness. We can show His patience and loving kindness when we give others a second chance to do what is right. Let's eat a snack shaped like the fish that swallowed Jonah and talk about a time when you gave someone a second chance.**

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When have you given someone a second chance?"**

GAME: SECOND CHANCE TOSS

Purpose: For children to appreciate getting a second chance from God to do what is right.

Supplies Two cups, two small balls (ping pong balls, golf balls, or marbles), floor tape or chalk

Prepare: Mark a start line for each team with floor tape or chalk. Place a cup several feet in front of each start line. (The distance will depend on the ability level of the children. It should be a challenge to get the ball in the cup, but not impossible.)

Directions:

1. Form two teams. Teams line up behind their designated start line.
2. The children on each team each get one chance to toss the ball into the cup from behind their team line. Keep a total of the successful tosses for each team.
3. After all the children have a turn, read the scores aloud.
4. **Many of you missed the cup, but don't worry; this game is called "Second Chance Toss." That means you get a second chance!**
5. Move the cups so they are only one foot in front of the start lines.
6. Give each child a second chance to toss the ball into the cup. Keep a total of the successful tosses for each team.
7. After all the children have a turn, read the new scores aloud.

How did you feel about getting a second chance to score points for your team? (Children respond.) **Both Jonah and the Ninevites disobeyed God. What did God do?** (Gave them each a second chance to obey Him.) **How do you feel about getting a second chance to obey God?** (Children respond.) **God gives you a second chance because He cares about you!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: JONAH AND THE GIANT FISH MOBILE

Purpose: Children will make a mobile featuring Jonah and the giant fish to help them remember God gives second chances to everyone.

Supplies: Paper plate, sturdy paper, yarn, paper clip, scissors, glue or tape, hole punch, crayons or markers

Prepare: From sturdy paper, draw and cutout Jonah (one to two inches tall). On the paper plate, draw a wedge shape from the edge to the middle of the plate. Children will cut this out to make the fish's mouth and then use the wedge piece for the fish's tail. Between the point of the wedge and the opposite edge of the plate, draw a circle shape (using the rim of a cup or other round object) for the fish's belly.

Optional: You may choose to cut out the wedge and circle for younger children or if your time is limited. Use large wiggly eyes on the fish. Cover the fish with shiny paper or glitter for scales.

Today, we learned God gave Jonah a second chance. What did God want Jonah to do? (Warn the people in Nineveh to stop doing evil.) **What did Jonah do instead?** (Ran away and sailed for Tarshish.) **How did God give Jonah a second chance?** (When Jonah was in the stormy sea, God provided a big fish to swallow him and spit him up onto the shore three days later.) **What did God give Jonah a second chance to do?** (To obey God by going to warn Nineveh.)

Directions:

1. Cut out the circle shape for the fish's belly.
2. Cut out the wedge shape for the fish's mouth.
3. Glue or tape the wedge cutout to the opposite edge of the paper plate for the tail.
4. Decorate your fish.
5. Color Jonah.
6. Punch holes in the top of Jonah, above the fish's belly, and at the top of the fish.
7. Slide the paperclip through the hole above the fish's belly.
8. Slide Jonah onto the paper clip so he hangs down into the belly.
9. Tie a length of yarn through the top hole for a hanger.

Take your "Jonah and the Giant Fish Mobile" home. Use your craft to tell the story of how God gave Jonah a second chance. Take Jonah on and off the paperclip to tell the story.

DISCUSSION: JONAH WAS ANGRY

Purpose: Children discuss Jonah's anger over Nineveh's second chance.

Supplies: None

Why do you think Jonah became angry when God gave the evil Ninevites a second chance? (Jonah wanted God to punish them.) **Have you ever been angry when someone else was not punished for their wrongdoing?** (Children respond.) **Are you glad when God gives you a second chance?** (Children respond.) **Do you think that remembering how much God loves everyone may help you be glad for everyone who gets a second chance?** (Children respond.) **What else might help you be glad for them?** (Children respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Prepare to meet your God, O Israel. He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is His name." "Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say He is." Amos 4:12b-13; 5:14

GAME: PICTURE GOD'S POWER

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase board and marker or chalkboard and chalk, timer

Our Bible Memory Verse describes God's power. What are some of the things these verses say that God does? (Makes the mountains and the wind, tells His thoughts to us, makes day and night happen, is everywhere on the earth.) **What does the verse say His name is?** (The Lord God Almighty.) **Let's think of more powerful acts of God.**

Directions:

1. Choose one child to draw. Child thinks of one way God is powerful. (He sent Jesus to die on the cross, created trees, created sheep, heals people, gives food, etc.) Younger children can focus on drawing one of God's creations.
2. Set the timer for 60 seconds. (Add more time, if needed.) On your signal, the child draws a simple picture (cross, tree, sheep, person dropping crutches, plate of food, etc.) without talking.
3. The other children try to guess what the picture represents.
 - If a child guesses correctly before the time is up, that child takes the next turn.
 - If no one guesses, the child who was drawing picks the next child to draw.

GAME: UNSCRAMBLE THE VERSE

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Paper, marker, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player, timer

Prepare: Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. Divide the Bible Memory Verse into five or six phrases. Write each phrase on a separate sheet of paper and fold the papers in half so the words are hidden. For non-readers, number the papers in order. For more of a challenge, increase the number of phrases.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Shuffle the folded papers. Give each paper to a different child.
3. Play and sing the Bible Memory Verse Song as children pass the folded papers around the circle.
4. After a short time, pause the music. When the song stops, the children holding the folded papers race to put them in order on the floor in the center of the circle. Time how long it takes. Children may look at the Bible Memory Verse poster for help. Non-readers may use the numbers to help them put the phrases in order.
5. Play again. Each time you play, challenge the children to beat their previous times. Eventually, remove the poster for an added challenge.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Create or purchase a Bible Timeline to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the questions noted below. Prophets & Promises Part 2 segment of the Bible Timeline begins circa 870 B.C.

Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) Elisha was the next prophet after Elijah. God had a plan for Elisha when He chose him and gave him Elijah as a teacher. When Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, what did Elisha do? (He took Elijah's cloak and parted the Jordan River just as Elijah had done.) Everyone who saw this miracle knew Elisha was a prophet of the Lord. When surrounded by the enemy, what did Elijah's servant see when God opened his eyes? (He saw the hills filled with God's horses and chariots of fire.) What did Elisha ask God to do to the enemy army? (Blind them so he could lead them to Samaria.)

Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) Joel warned the people of Judah that the Day of the Lord was coming. He compared it to an invasion of locusts. He told them they had a choice to return to God by turning away from sin. He told them God's promises to restore what the locusts had taken, to pour out His Spirit on all people, to save anyone who called upon His name, and to judge the nations for their wrongdoing. Which promise from God means the most to you? (Children respond.)

Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) God sent Jonah to warn the Ninevites. Jonah disobeyed and sailed away to Tarshish. God sent a storm. When the sailors threw Jonah overboard, what did God send to rescue Jonah from the sea? (A big fish.) God gave Jonah a second chance to obey. Jonah obeyed and warned the Ninevites. They turned from evil, so God gave them a second chance, too. Jonah was angry that God took pity on the Ninevites. God used a vine to show Jonah he had no right to be angry with Him for giving the Ninevites a second chance.

How to create a Bible Timeline:

1. Print the story title or person's name with historical date (whenever available) on a card.
2. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline.
3. Attach the card to a wall or clothesline in the following order for Prophets & Promises Lessons 32-47: Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)
4. For Unit 10, add cards labeled 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-0 B.C.) and The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.).

Teacher Tip: For a comprehensive list of stories for Genesis through Revelation in timeline form, see ResourceWell.org.