



Jonah Part One: Jonah Disobeys God

Lesson Aim: To know God watches over and rescues us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Is Faithful

THE WORD

Bible Story: Jonah 1:1-17

What He Has Done: God sent a storm when Jonah disobeyed, then He sent a fish to save Jonah from that storm.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "The Lord watches over you."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made." Psalm 145:13b

Unit 8: The Prophets and God's Faithfulness			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Jonah Part One: Jonah Disobeys God, Jonah 1:1-17	God sent a storm when Jonah disobeyed, then He sent a fish to save Jonah from that storm.	To know God watches over and rescues us.
39	Jonah Part Two: Jonah Prays to God, Jonah 2:1-10	God heard Jonah's prayer and forgave him.	To know God forgives us when we are sorry.
40	Jonah Part Three: Jonah Obeys God, Jonah 3:1-10	God gave Jonah a second chance to obey.	To know obeying God involves action.
41	God Chooses Jeremiah, Jeremiah 1:4-9	God chose Jeremiah to speak His messages.	To know God will give us the words we need to tell others about Him.
42	Jeremiah in the Well, Jeremiah 38:5-14, 17, 20	God saved Jeremiah in the well so he could give God's message to the king.	To know it is important to obey God.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 57. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness in helping us turn back to You when we stray and for sending Your Son to rescue us. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of two eyes
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "The Lord watches over you."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Lord Is Faithful" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Blessed Are Those" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Here Am I" "How Wide?" "I Am with You" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 38
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Jonah 1:1-17	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jonah 1:3 Visual: Swim fins or a flotation device
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Catching Jonah	Sturdy blue and white paper, paper cup, yarn or heavy string, wiggle eyes or stickers of eyes, tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Watching Over Jonah	None
		Game: Fish Confessions	Toy fish or a picture of a fish
		Snack: Fishy Snack	Fish-shaped crackers
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 38 Color This Story: "Jonah Disobeys God"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Jonah 1:1-17	None
	Up to 10	Game: World Toss	Inflatable globe or ball, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"
	Up to 10	Game: Prophet Puppets	Robe, #10 size envelopes, decorating supplies (wiggle eyes, yarn for hair), glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story with a positive learning outcome following an act of disobedience

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Lord watches over you

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of eyes. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of eyes help you remember God watched over Jonah. Today's Whisper Verse is "The Lord watches over you."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "The Lord watches over you."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with four hand motions. Note: The hand motion for the word "over" may be eliminated to make it easier.

"(The) Lord"	Extend thumb and index finger of right hand to create an "L" shape. Bring "L" shape diagonal across chest from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash.
"watches"	Make an upside down letter "V" shape with both hands. Start both hands by head and move hands away from the body and down continuing to keep the hands in the "V" shape.
"over"	Hands begin with palms down and the fingertips of the right hand gently resting on top of the left hand. Raise the right hand to chin level while the left hand remains stationary.
"you."	The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from the body at waist level.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "The Lord watches over you," Psalm 121:5. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God who is faithful

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 “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.



It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who is faithful. That means He keeps all His promises. The Lord God promises to watch over us and He is faithful to keep that promise. Sing: “I Am with You.”

That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse. Let’s try it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “The Lord watches over you.” Include sign language.

One way we can thank God for being faithful is to give our money offering to His church. This money will go to help people here and everywhere know God is faithful. Play: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” or “How Wide?” as background music while collecting the offering.



In today’s story, we will see how God was faithful to watch over Jonah, even when he disobeyed. Let’s see if Delbert and Lello have heard the story of Jonah and the big fish! Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 38.



God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Jonah didn’t want to go, so he ran away. But, God was with Jonah even when he disobeyed. God sent a storm to stop him from running away. Then, God sent a big fish to save Jonah when he was in the water. God is with us and He is mighty to save us, just as He saved Jonah! Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save.”

The Lord was faithful to Jonah. The Lord is faithful to all His promises. Our new Bible Memory Verse Song tells us about that. Let’s learn it together. Sing: “The Lord Is Faithful.”



Jonah disobeyed God

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

With my eyes on my teacher;

Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be,

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear,

Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Naaman obeyed God. Today, we will hear how God watched over and rescued Jonah even when he did not obey. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Jonah 1:3.

WATCH THE WORD: JONAH 1:1-17

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a picture of swim fins or a flotation device. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **The Lord told Jonah, "Go to Nineveh."**
- **Jonah did not obey.**
- **Jonah ran away from the Lord;**
- **In a boat, he sailed away.**

- **The Lord sent a mighty storm,**
- **With lots of waves and wind.**
- **When Jonah was tossed in the water,**
- **A big fish the Lord did send.**

- **The big fish swallowed Jonah,**
- **But, Jonah was safe inside.**
- **He stayed in the fish's belly,**
- **For three days and three nights!**



The Lord told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Did Jonah obey the Lord? (No.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Jonah 1:3 from the teacher's Bible. **Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names.**

Jonah disobeyed, but the Lord still watched over him. Does the Lord God watch over you? (Yes.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "The Lord watches over you." Include the sign language or hand motions.

Next time, we will find out what Jonah did while he was in the belly of the big fish.



God watches over us

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: CATCHING JONAH

Purpose: To remind children of when Jonah disobeyed God.

Supplies: Sturdy blue and white paper, paper cup, yarn or heavy string, wiggle eyes or stickers of eyes, tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: From sturdy blue paper, cut two fins and a tail shape. Cut a one-foot length of yarn. Poke a hole in the bottom of the cup and thread the yarn through the hole. Inside the cup, tie a knot in the yarn so the yarn dangles from the bottom of the cup. From sturdy white paper, cut out a drawing or picture of Jonah. Jonah should fit inside the cup. On a label, print: **God rescued Jonah. Jonah 1:1-17**

Directions:

1. Color the cup blue for the body of the big fish.
2. Draw eyes or attach eye stickers near the mouth of the cup.
3. Tape the fins and tail to the cup.
4. Color Jonah.
5. Tape Jonah onto the end of the yarn.
6. Show children how to move Jonah in and out of the big fish's mouth by pulling on the string.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who told Jonah to go to Nineveh?** (The Lord God.)
- **Did Jonah obey the Lord?** (No.)
- **Did the Lord keep watching over Jonah?** (Yes.)
- **That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the sign language or hand motions.
- **Did the Lord watch over Jonah in the storm?** (Yes.)
- **What did the Lord send to save Jonah from the stormy sea?** (A fish.)
- **Swing your fish so Jonah flies up in the air, then move your fish to catch Jonah in the fish's mouth.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: WATCHING OVER JONAH

Purpose: Children will see how God watched over Jonah even though he disobeyed.

Supplies: None

Directions: Have children repeat each phrase and action after you.

The Lord said go to Nineveh, (Point away.)

Jonah said no, (Shake head no.)

Jonah ran away, (Run in place.)

Where did Jonah go? (Shrug shoulders.)

Jonah went on a boat, (Pretend to row.)

He rowed and he rowed. (Pretend to row.)

Who watched over Jonah? (Shrug.)

The Lord watched over him. (Whisper Verse sign language.)

The Lord sent a storm, (Wave arms as wind.)

With waves and wind. (Make waves motion.)

Who was watching over Jonah? (Shrug.)

The Lord was watching over him. (Whisper Verse sign language.)

Jonah is in the water! (Hold your nose.)

He tried to swim. (Pretend to swim.)

Who watched over Jonah? (Shrug.)

The Lord watched over him. (Whisper Verse sign language.)

The Lord sent a big fish, (Stretch arms apart.)

To swallow Jonah down. (Swallow loudly.)

Who watched over Jonah? (Shrug.)

The Lord watched over him. (Whisper Verse sign language.)

Jonah was safe, (Hug self.)

In the belly of the fish. (Pat tummy.)

Who watched over Jonah? (Shrug.)

The Lord watched over him. (Whisper Verse sign language.)

Who watched over Jonah? (Shrug.)

The Lord watched over him. (Whisper Verse sign language.)

GAME: FISH CONFESSIONS

Purpose: Children will realize God watches over them even when they disobey.

Supplies: Toy fish or a picture of a fish.

Jonah ran away from the Lord, but the Lord watched over Jonah even when he disobeyed. We have all disobeyed. Think of a time when you didn't do what you were supposed to do.

Directions:

1. The first child holding the fish tells of a time he or she disobeyed someone by saying, **"I disobeyed when I ____."** (For example: *told a lie, didn't listen, hurt someone, etc.*)
2. Lead the children in saying, **"The Lord is sad when you disobey, but the Lord is with you anyway!"**
3. Pass the fish to the next child and repeat until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: FISHY SNACK

Purpose: Children eat a fish snack and discuss how God watches over them even when they disobey.

Snack Suggestion: Fish-shaped crackers

Let's eat a little fish, just like the big fish in our story would eat!

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "The Lord watches over you."
 - **Jonah disobeyed the Lord. Did the Lord keep watching over him?** (Yes.)
 - **The Lord is happy when we obey. Does He watch over you when you obey?** (Yes.)
 - **How do you think the Lord feels when we disobey?** (Children respond.)
 - **Does the Lord watch over you even when you disobey?** (Yes.)
 - **The Lord always loves you. Pray He will help you obey next time you are tempted to not do the right thing.**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Catching Jonah" craft. Tell someone God watched over Jonah even when he disobeyed.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Jonah disobeyed God. Remember, God always watches over you even when you disobey.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jonah Disobeys God." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Lord Is Faithful," as the children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JONAH 1:1-17

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **The Lord told Jonah, "Go to Nineveh."** (Point away.)
- **Jonah did not obey.** (Shake head no.)
- **Jonah ran away from the Lord;** (Run in place.)
- **In a boat, he sailed away.** (Put hand over eyes, as if looking in the distance.)

- **The Lord sent a mighty storm** (Point to heaven.)
- **With lots of waves and wind.** (Wave arms as wind.)
- **When Jonah was tossed in the water,** (Put hands on cheeks in surprise.)
- **A big fish the Lord did send.** (Stretch arms apart.)

- **The big fish swallowed Jonah,** (Swallow loudly.)
- **But, Jonah was safe inside.** (Hug self.)
- **He stayed in the fish's belly,** (Pat tummy.)
- **For three days and three nights!** (Hold up three fingers.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises
and loving toward all He has made." Psalm 145:13b

GAME: WORLD TOSS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflatable globe or ball, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"

God is faithful. That means He keeps all His promises. Will God ever forget to keep His promises? (No.) **God made everyone in the world.** Hold up the globe. **Do you think God loves everyone in the world?** (Yes.) **God loves everyone, including you!**

Directions:

1. Children stand (or sit) in a circle. Give the ball to one of the children.
2. When the teacher starts playing the song, children toss (or roll) the ball to one another.
3. Periodically stop the song. When the song stops, the child holding the ball gives the ball to another child in the circle and says, "**God loves you.**"
4. Repeat steps 2-3 for as long as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: PROPHET PUPPETS

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Robe, #10 size envelopes, decorating supplies (wiggle eyes, yarn for hair), glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: For each child, seal an envelope. Cut a slit from side to side in the middle of the flap side of the envelope. Fold the envelope along the cut line to create two pockets.

God chooses people like Jonah and Jeremiah to be God's messengers. They are called prophets. Our Bible Memory Verse is a message from God. Let's make prophet puppets, so they can tell others this message from God.

Directions:

1. Show children how to place their thumb in the bottom pocket and their other four fingers in the top pocket. Show children how to make the puppet's mouth open and close.
2. Children add faces and decorate their "Prophet Puppets." Suggest they name their puppets after one of the prophets you have studied such as Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, or Jeremiah.
3. Choose one child each round to wear the robe and pretend to be his or her favorite prophet. Have that child help you lead the verse.
4. Say the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse, a few words at a time. Have children use their puppets as they repeat the words after you.
5. Have children write their names on their puppets. Collect the puppets at the end of teaching time, so they can be reused during all Unit 8 lessons (Lessons 38-42).



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story with a positive learning outcome following an act of disobedience.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 8, Lesson 38: Jonah Part One: Jonah Disobeys God

PONDER! Read Jonah 1:1-17 with your family. Talk about how Jonah disobeyed God. Where did God want Jonah to go? Where did Jonah go instead? Even though Jonah disobeyed God, was God still watching over him? What did God send to save Jonah when he was in the stormy sea?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, help us to always obey You. Thank You for watching over us even when we disobey. Amen."

PLAY! Jonah in the Water! Outline the shape of a boat outside on the ground. Choose one person to be Jonah in the boat and another to be the big fish who stands to the side. Everyone else gets a squirt bottle and stands near Jonah. Say, "The Lord sent a mighty storm." Those with a squirt bottle spray Jonah with water. Jonah runs from the storm. The storm stops when the big fish tags Jonah.

Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse:

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made." Psalm 145:13b