



# Jonah Part Three: Jonah Obeys God

Lesson Aim: To know obeying God involves action.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The God Who Is Faithful

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Jonah 3:1-10

**What He Has Done:** God gave Jonah a second chance to obey.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "Now get up and go."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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

<b>Unit 8: The Prophets and God's Faithfulness</b>			
	<b>Bible Story</b>	<b>What He Has Done</b>	<b>Lesson Aim</b>
38	Jonah Part One: Jonah Disobeys God, Jonah 1:1-17	God sent a storm when Jonah disobeyed; 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 119:57-64. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the second chances you give us. Strengthen us to obey Your Word and help us find joy and comfort in trusting You alone. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of feet
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Now get up and go."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "The Lord Is Faithful" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Be Still and Know" "Blessed Are Those" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Here Am I" <b>"How Wide?"</b> "I Am with You" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "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 40
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Jonah 3:1-10	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jonah 3:2 Visual: Running shoes or a picture of running shoes
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Jonah in Nineveh	Sturdy white paper, happy face stickers, tape, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Race to Nineveh	White or tan blanket, sheet, or banner paper; water or sand toy; timer
		<b>Game:</b> "Obey, Right Away"	None
		<b>Snack:</b> Quick Like a Fish Snack	Fish-shaped crackers
	<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None	
Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 40 Color This Story: "Jonah Obey's God."	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Jonah 3:1-10	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> World Toss	Inflatable globe or ball, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is Faithful"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Prophet Puppets	Robe, #10 size envelopes, decorating supplies (wiggle eyes, yarn for hair), glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about actively obeying God

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



## Now get up and go **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 feet. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of feet help you remember to get up and go obey God. Today's Whisper Verse is "Now get up and go."** 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: "Now get up and go."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:**

- "Now"**            The hands move straight down to indicate the present (now).
- "get up"**        The upside down V hand shape is used to represent a person. Move the upside down V as a person moving from a lying down to a standing up position.
- "(and) go."**     The open hand moves away from the body and gradually closes which represents a person getting smaller as it recedes (moves away into the distance).

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:** "Now get up and go," Acts 9:6. 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 the Lord God keeps all His promises. Last time, we heard Jonah disobeyed God when he would not go to Nineveh, then he was swallowed by a big fish. He prayed while he was inside the fish's belly. God was faithful to hear Jonah's prayer. He gave Jonah a second chance to get up and go to Nineveh. That is today's Whisper Verse. Let's try it together.** Review Whisper Verse together: “Now get up and go.” Include sign language.



**Obeying God means doing what is right in His eyes. Loving, sharing, helping others, and obeying our parents and teachers are all ways we can obey God. We are blessed with good things when we obey Him.** Sing: “Blessed Are Those” or “I Will Always Obey Your Law.”

**One way we can obey God is to give offering to His church. Let's do that now.** Play: “Be Still and Know” as background music while collecting the offering.



**In today's story, we will see how God gave Jonah a second chance to obey Him. Do you think Delbert and Lello know about this part of the story? (Children respond.) Let's see!** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 40.



**God wants us to get up and go do what He tells us to do. He is faithful to give us the strength and courage to get up and go obey Him in everything we do.** Sing: “The Lord Is Faithful” and “Here Am I.”



Jonah obeyed right away

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** Complete the craft before Watch the Word. The children will use their Jonah in Nineveh crafts to demonstrate the story as you tell it.

**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 after God heard Jonah's prayer, He told the fish to spit Jonah out of his mouth. Today, we will hear how God gave Jonah a second chance to obey.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Jonah 3:2.

## WATCH THE WORD: JONAH 3:1-10

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 running shoes or a picture of running shoes. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **God said, "Go to Nineveh."**
- **Jonah disobeyed.**
- **Jonah prayed inside the fish;**
- **The fish spit him out right away.**
  
- **"Now get up and go to Nineveh,"**
- **God said and Jonah obeyed.**
- **God said, "Warn the people there**
- **That they must change their ways."**
  
- **The people there believed God,**
- **So, they were very sad.**
- **They stopped doing evil.**
- **God saw this and He was glad!**



**What did God tell Jonah to do?** (Go to Nineveh and give them God's message.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Jonah 3:2 from the teacher's Bible. **Remember that "Lord" is one of God's special names.**

**What should Jonah do?** (Get up and go.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Now get up and go."** Include the sign language or hand motions.



Obey, right away

## 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: JONAH IN NINEVEH**

**Purpose:** To remind the children of the story of how Jonah obeyed God by going to Nineveh.

**Supplies:** Sturdy white paper, happy face stickers, tape, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** On a sheet of white sturdy paper, draw or print an ancient cityscape and print **Jonah Obeys God. Jonah 3:1-10**. From white sturdy paper, draw and cut out a 2 or 3-inch outline of Jonah, leaving paper tabs on either side of the cutout.

**Options:** Place the background scene inside a shoebox. Add stickers of people and pets or draw faces instead of using stickers.

#### **Directions:**

1. Color the city of Nineveh.
2. Put the face stickers in the windows of Nineveh.
3. Color Jonah.
4. To make a Jonah finger puppet, children place Jonah on an index finger so you can tape the tabs together.
5. Show children how to move their finger puppets toward the scene of Nineveh so Jonah “gets up and goes to Nineveh.”

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **What did Jonah do the first time God asked him to go to Nineveh?** (He ran away.)
- **Where was Jonah when he prayed?** (Inside the belly of the big fish.)
- **How did Jonah get out of the big fish?** (God told the fish to spit Jonah out onto dry land.)
- **Did God give Jonah a second chance to obey Him?** (Yes.)
- **What did God tell Jonah to do?** (Go to Nineveh and give them God’s message.)
- **Did Jonah get up and go obey God right away?** (Yes.)
- **That’s like our Whisper Verse! Let’s say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **Next time you are told to obey, you can get up and go obey right away!**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: RACE TO NINEVEH**

**Purpose:** Children will pretend they are Jonah and race to obey God.

**Supplies:** White or tan blanket, sheet, or banner paper; water or sand toy; timer

**Prepare:** Lay blanket and toy on one side of the play area for the beach.

**Jonah was on the beach when God told him to go to Nineveh. Let's see how quickly our Jonah can obey God!**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child as Jonah. Jonah plays with the toy on the beach.
2. The other children are Ninevites and sit in "Nineveh" on the opposite side of the play area.
3. Say to Jonah, "**Jonah, God says, 'Go to Nineveh!'**"
4. Start the timer. On your signal, Jonah jumps up and runs to Nineveh.
5. Stop the timer. Tell Jonah the length of time it took for him to reach Nineveh.
6. Allow all the children to have a turn as Jonah.

**Teacher Tip:** If you have time to let children take a second turn, challenge them to improve their times.

## **GAME: I SAY, "OBEY, RIGHT AWAY"**

**Purpose:** Children will play a version of Simon Says to practice obeying.

**Supplies:** None

**How quickly can you obey what I say? If I say, "Now get up and go," then obey my directions right away. Do not obey my directions unless I first say, "Now get up and go."**

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit on the floor.
2. Give the children a command such as jump, flap your arms, run in place, or touch your nose.
  - Before some commands, say and sign, "**Now get up and go** insert directions" such as "**Now get up and go jump.**" The children should follow your command.
  - Give other directions without saying, "Now get up and go." For example, "**Run in place.**" The children should remain in place and not move.

**In our game, we obeyed silly directions. God gives us important directions. Many of them can be found in the Bible. We need to obey God's directions. Should we obey God slowly? (No.) How quickly should we obey God? (Right away.)**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: QUICK LIKE A FISH SNACK**

**Purpose:** Children will understand they can obey God right away.

**Snack Suggestion:** Fish-shaped crackers

**Do you remember what swallowed Jonah? (A big fish.) Let's swallow a fish snack!**

### **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 can show me how fast fish swim?** Choose a child to move around the room quickly like a fish. **You should obey God as quickly as a fast fish can swim!**
  - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "Now get up and go."
  - **When should you obey God?** (Now.)
  - **How quickly should you obey God?** (As quickly as you can.)
  - **Jonah did not obey God the first time. God gave Jonah a second chance. Did Jonah obey the second time?** (Yes.)



## **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 "Jonah in Nineveh" craft. Tell someone God gave Jonah a second chance to obey Him.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about why the best time to obey is right away.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Jonah Obey's 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 3:1-10

**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.

- **God said, "Go to Nineveh."** (Point far away.)
- **Jonah disobeyed.** (Shake head no.)
- **Jonah prayed inside the fish;** (Fold hands in prayer.)
- **The fish spit him out right away.** (Point to the opposite side of the play area.)
  
- **"Now get up and go to Nineveh,"** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **God said and Jonah obeyed.** (Walk in place.)
- **God said, "Warn the people there"** (Raise index finger.)
- **That they must change their ways."** (Shake head no.)
  
- **The people there believed God,** (Point to heaven.)
- **So, they were very sad.** (Wipe imaginary tears.)
- **They stopped doing evil.** (Hold palms straight out for stop.)
- **God saw this and He was glad!** (Raise thumbs up.)



### 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 about actively obeying God.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 8, Lesson 40: Jonah Part Three: Jonah Obeys God

**PONDER!** At first, Jonah disobeyed God. God sent a fish to save him from the storm and after three days, it spit Jonah out onto dry land. Read Jonah 3:1-3 with your family. God gave Jonah a second chance to obey Him. After the fish spit out Jonah, what did God ask him to do? Did he obey this time?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for giving us a second chance to obey You. Help us to always obey You right away. Amen."

**PLAY!** "Now Get Up and Go!" One person is the Caller. The others play the part of Jonah and lie down. Choose a wall or another room to be Nineveh. When the Caller says, "God says, 'Now get up and go,'" everyone races to be the first to Nineveh. After you play a few times, talk about some of God's commands, like the Ten Commandments. Should you wait to obey God or should you obey right away?

### **Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse:**

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