



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;
 He sent a fish to save Jonah from that storm.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises." 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; 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."

TEACHER'S TIP

Craft Time: Young children learn through their senses: seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, and touching. Don't worry if what they create isn't perfect or exactly what was intended. Allowing them to create their own craft gives them a chance to experience the lesson in a whole new way.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of two eyes
		Coloring Center: Jonah and the Big Fish	Coloring pages of Jonah and the big fish, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: How Big Was That Fish?	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block Center: On the Water	Sheet (blue, if available), toy boats or blocks
	Activity Center: Goin' Fishin'	Toy fishing playset	
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments 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" "I Am with You" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		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 Visuals: Picture of today's story, swim ring or life preserver
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Catching Jonah	Sturdy blue and white paper, paper cup, yarn or heavy string, eye stickers, glue or tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Watching Over Jonah	None
		Game: Hide and Seek	Toy fish or laminated cutout of a fish
	Snack: Fishy Snack	Fish-shaped crackers	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 38
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: Memory Verse Echo	None
	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 God who is faithful

THE WELCOME

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.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: JONAH AND THE BIG FISH

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jonah and the big fish, crayons

DO

Children color the picture while talking about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Give children the coloring page. **Today, we will hear a story you have probably heard before. Can you guess what the story is?** (Jonah and the big fish.) **Who can tell me the story of Jonah and the big fish?** Allow children to take turns telling the story.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: HOW BIG WAS THAT FISH?

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about today's story. Encourage children to make fish with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

How big was the biggest fish you have ever seen? (Children respond.) **Where did you see the fish?** (Children respond.) **In our story today, God sends a big fish to swallow Jonah when he was in the water. That must have been a really big fish! What do you think it would be like to be in the belly of a big fish?** (Children respond.) **God watched over Jonah and rescued him from the water. God promises to watch over us, too!**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK CENTER: ON THE WATER

SUPPLIES

Sheet (blue, if available), toy boats or blocks

DO

Lay the sheet on the floor for water. Children move toy boats or blocks on the water.

TALK ABOUT

Have you ever been on a boat? (Children respond.) **What did you do when you were on the boat?** (Children respond.)

In our story today, Jonah takes a ride on a big boat. Take one of the toy boats (or blocks) and pretend this sheet is the water. When Jonah started his trip, the water was calm. Can you move your boat on the calm water? Children move their boats as if they were on calm water. **Later in Jonah's trip, God sent a big storm with wind and giant waves. How would your boat move if it was on a stormy sea?** Children move their boats as if they were on a stormy sea.

ACTIVITY CENTER: GOIN' FISHIN'

SUPPLIES

Toy fishing playset

DO

Children take turns catching fish with the playset.

TALK ABOUT

Where do we find fish? (In the water.) **Who made the fish?** (God.) **Do fish make a sound?** (Children respond.) **Today, our story is Jonah and the Big Fish. We may not catch a fish as big as the fish God sent to save Jonah, but let's take turns fishing and see what we can catch.** While children are waiting their turn, ask them to name the colors of the fish or to count the fish.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

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

"The Lord	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
is faithful to	(faithful) Move the right index finger from the right side of the forehead downward. Change both hands to an "f" hand (thumb and pointer finger touching, other three fingers extended) and tap the right hand on top of the left hand twice.
all His promises."	(promises) Move the right index finger from the mouth. Open the same hand, face it forward, and place it on top of the left fist.
Psalms 145:13b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God who is faithful

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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.



Who is happy today? (Children respond.) **What does your face look like when you're happy?** (Children smile.) **God loves it when we are happy to praise Him. But, before we praise Him with our singing, let's praise Him in our prayer.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for Your promise to watch over us. We praise You for keeping all Your promises. Amen.**



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."

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: "Be Still and Know" 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.



The Lord promised to be with Jonah, and He was, even when Jonah disobeyed. Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. The Lord is faithful to keep all His promises. Our new Bible Memory Verse tells us about that. Let's learn it together.

"The Lord	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
is faithful to	(faithful) Move the right index finger from the right side of the forehead downward. Change both hands to an "f" hand (thumb and pointer finger touching, other three fingers extended) and tap the right hand on top of the left hand twice.
all His promises."	(promises) Move the right index finger from the mouth. Open the same hand, face it forward, and place it on top of the left fist.
Psalm 145:13b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing: "The Lord Is Faithful."



Jonah disobeyed God

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jonah 1:3, picture of the Bible story, swim ring or life preserver

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.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Hold the swim ring or life preserver on your lap. **How many of you know how to swim?** (Children respond.) **Have you ever used a swim ring (or life preserver) like this one? When we are learning to swim or if we are in deep water, it can be a little scary. Holding onto something like this that floats can help us feel safer.**

Our story today is about someone who landed in deep water that didn't have anything to hold onto. God sent a big fish to keep him safe. Can you guess who our story is about? (Jonah.) **Let's listen to the story of Jonah and the big fish.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Jonah 1:3.



WATCH THE WORD: JONAH 1:1-17

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **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? (No.) Even though Jonah disobeyed, the Lord still watched over him. Does the Lord God watch over you? (Yes.) Next time we are together, 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, eye stickers, glue or 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**

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. The suggested wiggle eyes have been removed for ages 2-3 as they are a potential choking hazard for young children.

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. Attach the fins and tail to the cup.
4. Color Jonah.
5. Attach 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.)
- **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.** Note: If the children are not able to "catch" Jonah, just have them pretend to have the fish swallow Jonah.

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. (Point up.)

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

With waves and wind. (Make waves motion.)

Who was watching over Jonah? (Shrug.)

The Lord watched over him. (Point up.)

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. (Point up.)

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. (Point up.)

Jonah was safe, (Hug self.)

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

Who watched over Jonah? (Shrug.)

The Lord watched over him. (Point up.)

GAME: HIDE AND SEEK

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

Supplies: Toy fish or laminated cutout of a fish

Have you ever played "Hide and Seek"? It's a fun game, isn't it? Jonah tried to hide from God, but God knew exactly where he was. God even sent a big fish to keep Jonah safe when he fell in the water. Let's remember Jonah's story as we play hide and seek with this fish.

Directions:

1. Children close their eyes while the teacher hides the toy fish.
2. On your signal, the children open their eyes and search for the fish.
3. Play again allowing the child who finds the fish to be the one who hides the fish.
4. Play as many times as you like.

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 snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another 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. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Jonah disobeyed the Lord. Did the Lord keep watching over Jonah?** (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 watches over you because He loves you. Pray and ask God to help you obey next time you are tempted to not do the right thing.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| "The Lord | (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. |
| is faithful to | (faithful) Move the right index finger from the right side of the forehead downward. Change both hands to an "f" hand (thumb and pointer finger touching, other three fingers extended) and tap the right hand on top of the left hand twice. |
| all His promises." | (promises) Move the right index finger from the mouth. Open the same hand, face it forward, and place it on top of the left fist. |
| Psalm 145:13b | Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible. |

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



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 leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **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." 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. Encourage the children to sing as they play.
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, name of child."**
4. Lead all the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"The Lord is faithful to all His promises."**
5. Repeat steps 2-4 until each child has had at least one turn saying "God loves you" or for as long as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: MEMORY VERSE ECHO

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

Supplies: None

God chooses people like Jonah and Jeremiah to be God's messengers. Our Bible Memory Verse is a message from God telling people that He keeps His promises. We can be God's messengers and share our Bible Memory Verse with others. Let's practice with each other.

Directions:

1. Have the children stand in a circle.
2. Divide your class into two groups: the loud echo and the whisper echo.
3. Have them all crouch down until it is their turn to echo the verse.
4. Say the verse. Have the loud group stand and echo your words and then the whisper group.
5. Repeat a few times.
6. If you have time, reassign which group does which kind of echo and play again.
7. Optional: Add some variety to the echo. Do it faster each time or slower or have the children jump up and down, clap, or spin in a circle when it is their turn to echo.



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! God sent a storm to stop Jonah from running away, and then He sent a fish to save Jonah from that storm (Jonah 1:1-17). Was God watching over Jonah? (Yes.) Is He watching over us? (Yes.)

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

PLAY! We can show God we love Him by listening and obeying Him. Choose one person to play praise music. Everyone moves to the music while it is playing. Periodically, the person playing the music turns it off. Listen closely. When the music stops, everyone freezes.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord

(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

is faithful to

(faithful) Move the right index finger from the right side of the forehead downward. Change both hands to an "f" hand (thumb and pointer finger touching, other three fingers extended) and tap the right hand on top of the left hand twice.

all His promises."

(promises) Move the right index finger from the mouth. Open the same hand, face it forward, and place it on top of the left fist.

Psalm 145:13b

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.