



# 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.

## 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 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."

## TEACHER'S TIP

**Get Up and Obey Right Away!** Help the children connect today's lesson aim with their every day lives. play time to today's lesson by encouraging them to obey right away and discussing the things they do that would please God.



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Welcome</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of feet
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Jonah Obeys God	Coloring pages of Jonah on land or in Nineveh, crayons
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> Obey, Right Away	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		<b>Block Center:</b> Road Through Nineveh	Blocks
	<b>Activity Center:</b> Get Up and Go	Toy fishing playset	
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <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" "I Am with You" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<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: Picture of the Bible story
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Jonah in Ninevah	Sturdy white paper, happy face stickers, tape, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Race to Ninevah	Sign with the word "Nineveh" and a picture of a city, tape
		<b>Game:</b> I Say, "Obey, Right Away"	None
		<b>Snack:</b> Quick Like a Fish Snack	Fish-shaped crackers
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 40
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> Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about actively obeying God

**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 feet. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of feet help you remember to get up and go obey God.**

**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 OBEYS GOD

### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring pages of Jonah on land or in Nineveh, crayons

### **DO**

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

### **TALK ABOUT**

**Today, we finish the Bible story about Jonah. What do you remember about Jonah?** (Children respond.) Allow the children to tell the story. **When God first told Jonah to go to Nineveh, he didn't want to. Instead, he ran away. But, today we will hear how Jonah obeys God and goes to Nineveh.**

## PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: OBEY, RIGHT AWAY

### **SUPPLIES**

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

### **DO**

Children play with the play-dough while talking about obedience to God. Encourage children to make a happy face with the play-dough.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**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. Do you think God is happy when we obey Him?** (Yes.) **Can you show me a happy face?** Children respond by smiling. **Show me the biggest smile you can. Can you make a happy face with the play-dough?**

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## **BLOCK CENTER: ROAD THROUGH NINEVEH**

### **SUPPLIES**

Blocks

### **DO**

Children build the road through Nineveh.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**In today's story, God gives Jonah a second chance to go to Nineveh. Jonah got up and obeyed right away. The city of Nineveh was a very big city. It took three days to walk through it. Can you build the road through Nineveh with the blocks? (Children respond.) Let's see how long we can make the road.**

## **ACTIVITY CENTER: GET UP AND GO**

### **SUPPLIES**

Toy fishing playset

### **DO**

Children take turns catching fish with the playset.

### **TALK ABOUT**

While the children are taking turns with the fishing playset, introduce today's story. **After 3 days in the belly of a big fish, God told the fish to spit Jonah onto dry land. The fish spit him out right away. Do you think Jonah was happy to be out? (Children respond.) If you were Jonah, what would be the first thing you would do? (Children respond.) God told Jonah to get up and go to Nineveh and Jonah obeyed. Do you think Jonah made the right choice? (Yes.) Yes, we should always obey God.**

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## **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](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

<b>"The Lord</b>	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>is faithful to</b>	(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.
<b>all His promises."</b>	(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.
<b>Psalms 145:13b</b>	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.



**Today, we will hear more about Jonah and how he obeyed when God gave him a second chance. Sometimes we do wrong things, but God will forgive us if we are sorry. Let's thank Him for being faithful.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we are sorry when we make wrong choices. Thank You for loving us so much and for giving us second chances. Amen.**



**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: "I Will Always Obey Your Law."

**One way we can obey God is to give offering to His church. Let's do that now.** Sing: "Blessed Are Those" 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 obey Him. If we do, He will be faithful to give us the strength and courage we need to do what He has asked.** Sing Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Lord Is Faithful."



**God will always care for us and He will always keep His promises. Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together.** Practice a few times with the 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.



Jonah obeyed right away

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Jonah 3:2, picture of the Bible story

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

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	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.

**Hello, boys and girls! Let's play a game. Watch me and follow every move I make.** Make a variety of simple motions for the children to follow, such as clapping, touching your nose, patting a friend on the back, patting your head, rubbing your stomach, etc.

**Great job! You obeyed my instructions very well. Sometimes, obeying is easy. Other times, it means doing something we don't want to do. Your mom or dad may ask you to make your bed when you would rather be playing. Or, a teacher may tell you to take turns with a special toy when you would rather play with it by yourself. Even when we don't want to, it is important that we obey right away. Jonah found that out the hard way but when he obeyed God, good things happened. Let's listen to our story.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Jonah 3:2.



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

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.

- **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.) **Did he obey the first time?** (No.) **What should Jonah do?** (Get up and go to Nineveh.)



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 with several windows large enough for the happy face stickers 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:**

- **Do you remember what happened when Jonah disobeyed God?** (Jonah ran away.)
- **Where was Jonah when he prayed?** (Inside the belly of the big fish.)
- **How did Jonah get out of the big fish?** (The fish 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.)
- **Next time you are told to obey, you can get up and go obey right away, too!**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: RACE TO NINEVEH**

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

**Supplies:** Sign with the word "Nineveh" and a picture of a city, tape

**Prepare:** Tape the sign to the wall at one end of the play area.

**After the big fish spit Jonah onto the beach, God told him to go to Nineveh.** Point to the Nineveh sign. **Jonah obeyed right away. Let's see how quickly you can obey my directions. When I call your name, get up and go to Nineveh right away!**

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit or lay down on the floor on the opposite end of the play area from the Nineveh sign.
2. Silently choose one of the children. Say, "Child's name, **go to Nineveh!**"
3. The child you called jumps up and runs to Nineveh.
4. Repeat steps 1-2 for each child.
5. After children are called, have them sit near the Nineveh sign and pretend to be the Ninevites.

## **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, "**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 to obey. Many of them can be found in the Bible. 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 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.
  - **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!**
  - **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.)



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.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>"The Lord</b>          | (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.  |
| <b>is faithful to</b>     | (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. |
| <b>all His promises."</b> | (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.   |
| <b>Psalm 145:13b</b>      | 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 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 leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **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,"** (Point far away.)
- **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." 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 about actively obeying God.

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

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

**PONDER!** Jonah prayed inside the fish God sent to save him. After three days, the fish spit Jonah out onto dry land. God gave him a second chance to obey (Jonah 3:1-10). What did God ask Jonah to do? Did he obey this time?

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

**PLAY!** "Get up and Go." Choose a wall or another room to be Nineveh. One person is the caller. The others pretend to be Jonah and kneel in prayer. When the caller says, "God says, 'Get up and go,'" everyone races to Nineveh.

#### **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.