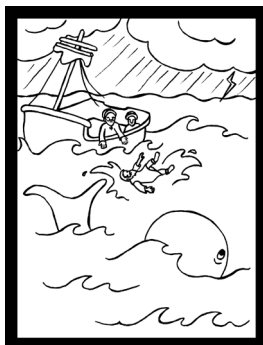


Lesson B2.7 - God Turns Us Around



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Jonah 1:1-2:3, 7-10

- Bible Characters: Jonah, God, sailors, big fish

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and warn the people there to change their ways. But Jonah was afraid and ran the other direction. When he got on a boat, sailors tossed him overboard to calm the stormy sea. Jonah was swallowed by a big fish and spat out on shore. From there, he went to Nineveh!

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Prophets

A prophet is a person chosen to speak the direct Word of God. Over the years, God sent many prophets to speak his Word and warn of coming dangers. But God also promised that he would never forsake his people, but would restore the nation in faith.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune "A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea." Feel free to clap along!

**God welcomes you today, day, day
to listen, learn and play, play, play.**

**So hear me when I say, say, say
it's time to start! Let's pray, pray, pray:**

All lift hands and say: **Please bless us, Lord. Amen!**

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Sometimes, we make choices that are not wise. But did you know that God can even work with our failures and mistakes? Yes! When we get off track, **God turns us around**. Say that with me: **God turns us around**.

Raise your hand if you've ever made a mistake. Look around the class — you're not alone in that.

Can you think of a time where God helped you learn from a failure or mistake? [*Choose volunteers*]

In today's story we hear about a man named Jonah, who made a bad decision because he was scared. But that wasn't the end of the story! God turned Jonah around. And when we need it, **God turns us around** too.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: The people in a place called Nineveh were doing very bad things. God wanted them to change their ways. So God called a man named Jonah and told him to travel there.

Read the caption: God wanted Jonah to warn people to stop doing bad things. But Jonah was scared. He ran the other way, and went to the sea!

- *Look at Jonah's face in this picture. What is he feeling? [He's upset. He doesn't like the idea of going to a bad city. How will the people there treat him?]*
- *What do you think Jonah will do? [Choose volunteers to answer.]*

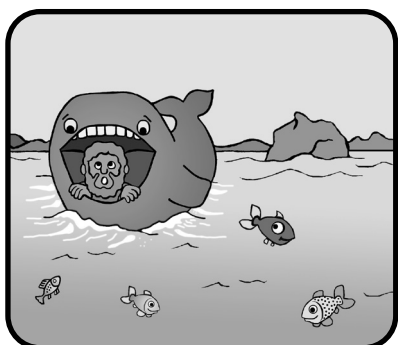


Picture 2

Tell the children: Jonah ran until he saw a boat, then he hopped on it. God didn't like that Jonah had disobeyed. So he sent a big storm that made the sea wild and rocked the boat. The other sailors were frightened. They blamed Jonah for the bad weather.

Read the caption: When the sailors heard that Jonah had run away from God, they were scared. So they threw Jonah off their boat, into the water!

- *Why do you think the sailors were scared? [They didn't want to displease God.]*
- *What do you see swimming in the background? [A big fish or a whale.]*

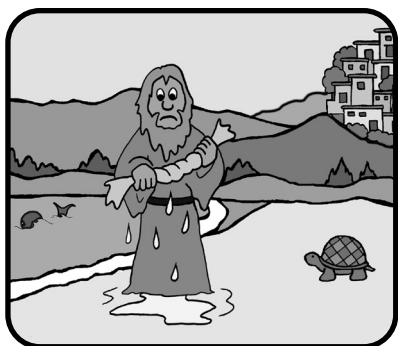


Picture 3

Tell the children: When Jonah fell into the water, the sea calmed down. Then God sent a big fish — big like a whale. It swam all around Jonah as he struggled to swim and stay afloat.

Read the caption: Jonah got swallowed by a big fish. For three whole days, Jonah was in the fish's belly. He prayed to God for help.

- *What might it have been like inside the big fish? [Dark, smelly, scary, etc.]*
- *Do you think the fish is going to hurt or help Jonah? Why? [Ultimately, the fish is going to save him. God sometimes uses unusual things to help us.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Imagine what it must have been like to be in the belly of a big fish like that! Jonah must have been scared and shocked. But God was watching over him the whole time. The fish was actually swimming to shore with Jonah inside it.

Read the caption: Finally, the fish spat Jonah out on dry land. He was so happy! He went to the city and warned people, just as God had wanted.

- *What is Jonah doing in this picture? [Wringing water out of his wet clothes.]*
- *How did God use what seemed like a bad thing (being swallowed by a fish) for good? [He used the fish to save Jonah, and also to get Jonah to warn the city.]*

Remember today's message: **God turns us around!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

Scared ran Jonah from the Lord.

He found a ship and got on board.

He didn't want to heed God's call.

He didn't want to preach at all.

Then God sent a storm and wind.

The sailors feared they were done in.

They found that Jonah was to blame

and threw him in, the sea to tame.

Then God sent a great big fish

to swallow Jonah with a swish.

When Jonah was spit out half dead,

he finally did what God had said.

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Craft: Jonah's Bookmark

Materials:

- Card stock (cut in 1 1/2" strips)
- White copy paper
- Colored markers
- Glue sticks, scissors, hole punch, yarn
- Clear contact paper (optional)

Instructions:

Give everyone a strip of card stock, a half sheet of copy paper, scissors, markers, and a glue stick. Invite students to carefully write the words FACE FEARS WITH GOD on the copy paper. Cut out each word, and glue them on the bookmark. (See illustration above.)

Next, invite kids to draw a small boat in a wavy sea (or a big fish) on the remaining copy paper. Color this with markers, then cut it out and glue it at the bottom of the bookmark.

If you have clear contact paper, cover the front and back of the bookmark with it at this point. Trim away any excess contact paper.

Finally, using a hole punch, make a hole at the top of each bookmark. Cut three pieces of yarn about a foot long for every student. Have them thread the yarn through the hole and tie it in a knot at the top of the bookmark to give a decorative look.



h. Song (optional)

This classic children's song has suggested hand motions that can be found on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children's music sites.

My God is So Great

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There's nothing my God cannot do! (clap, clap)

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There's nothing my God cannot do! (clap, clap)

**The mountains are his, the rivers are his,
the stars are his handiwork too.**

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There's nothing my God cannot do! (For you!)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: God told Jonah to go to a city where people were doing bad things, in order to warn them. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God, we thank you for this day,

And as we go along our way,

We ask your blessing, and your care,

On friends and family everywhere.

Please bless our church, and teachers too,

And help us always follow you. Amen.