



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### JONAH WARNED OF GOD'S JUDGMENT



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of the Book of Jonah from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

If you were a Jewish man in the 900 B.C., the last place on earth you wanted to visit was the city of Nineveh! Nineveh was full of Assyrians—a group of wicked and violent people who did not follow God. Going to Nineveh to tell them about God was a dangerous—and possibly a deadly mission. No wonder Jonah didn't want to go!

The real reason Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh was because he felt like these wicked people didn't deserve God's forgiveness. They were wicked and cruel, so how could God show them mercy? What Jonah didn't understand is that God cared for the people of Nineveh as much as He cared for the rest of the world.

God wanted to see the Ninevites turn away from sin and trust in Him. So much so, that God used a big fish to get Jonah back to Nineveh when he tried to run away. Finally, Jonah reluctantly preached the message God had given and warned the people about God's judgment. The people repented and God spared their lives.

The Bible tells us that God shows mercy on whomever He wants to show mercy. Jonah didn't think the Ninevites deserved God's mercy, but the truth is that none of us deserve His mercy. But God loved the world so much that He shows us His mercy through Jesus. Unlike Jonah, Jesus was willing to accept the mission God gave Him. Jesus came to save the sinners who God cared so much about.

**God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. Later, God sent Jesus to His enemies to call us to repentance. Jesus willingly obeyed. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.**

***Pray:** God, thank You for showing mercy that we do not deserve. Thank You for sending Jesus to make Your mercy available to those who believe in Him. Help us to remember that Your mercy is great and extends to all who repent and believe.*



## Family Worship Experience

— LEARN SCRIPTURE —

*The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.*



## Family Worship Experience

— SING SCRIPTURE —

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Ask God to help you see people the way He sees them. Instead of judging them for their wrong behaviors, ask God to help you see them as loved by Him and in need of a relationship with Him. How does seeing people this way show us the greatness of God's mercy?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for the ways He has shown His patience, mercy, and loving kindness to your family. Thank Him for the ultimate display of mercy when Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sin. How has God shown His mercy to you? How does God's mercy compel you to show mercy to others?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Take your family fishing or simulate fishing using sticks, string, magnets, and paper clips. See who can catch the biggest fish. If you catch any fish, release them back to the water to lead into a discussion on mercy. Ask kids to retell what they remember from the story of Jonah. Discuss how Jonah did not want God to show mercy to the people of Nineveh, but God's mercy is greater than anything we can imagine. Talk as a family about ways God has shown mercy to you.

### **To Serve**

Host a meal or dessert party for your neighbors. Give each family member a job to help make the night a wonderful experience for others. After the party, talk about the hard work, sacrifice, and time it took to love others. Emphasize how it was worth it because of the relationships you made or deepened. Remind kids that God often calls us into hard things, but serving God is always worth it.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### NAHUM WARNED OF GOD'S JUDGMENT



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of the Book of Nahum from the Bible.





## Family Worship Experience

TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

In 1962, Marvel Comics introduced the character of Dr. Robert Bruce Banner, but you probably better know him as The Incredible Hulk! Dr. Banner was a shy, quiet physicist who transforms into a raging muscular green giant every time he gets angry. You definitely didn't want to make Hulk angry because the comic always said, "The madder Hulk gets, the stronger Hulk gets."

When we read how the prophet Nahum describes God as jealous, avenging, and wrathful, it can make us think God is like The Incredible Hulk—a guy who just gets angry and destroys things. That's not how God is at all! Nahum also describes God as "slow to anger and great in power." While God must punish sin, He is patient and desires to show mercy to all who will trust in Him.

God is jealous for our worship because He alone deserves it. He doesn't want to share His glory with anything else, and He rightly gets angry when He sees people worship anything other than Him. The prophet Nahum reminded God's people that He will punish sin, but He will bring peace and protection to those who love and worship Him.

**Nahum brought a message of comfort to God's people, reminding them that God loves His people and will protect them from their enemies. Jesus also brought a message of comfort, salvation, and peace to His people. All of the enemies of God and His children were defeated at the cross. One day, God will finally judge all evil.**

***Pray:*** *God, You deserve all our worship, and You will not allow Your glory to be shared with anything else. Help us to remember that You are right to punish sin, but You are patient and want to show mercy to those who trust in You.*



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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Pray for those who may misunderstand God's character. Ask God to show them His love and mercy to help them believe in Him. Why does God want people to worship only Him? How can God's character be jealous and loving at the same time?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for showing us His character through the Bible. Make a list of the attributes or the stories that teach us who God is and what He is like. How can we know God better? How does knowing more of God's attributes help us to trust Him?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Play a game of Hungry Hungry Hippos® together as a family. Play the board game or research online how to play a real-life version of the game. Remind kids that the point of the game is to get as much food for your hippo as possible. After the game, talk about how God desires all our worship for Himself. While God will one day punish those who choose to worship anything other than Him, He is patient and wants to see all people come to know Him.

### **To Serve**

Write a letter or send an email to a missionary family your church supports, or connect with a missionary at [IMB.org](http://IMB.org). Use the letter to encourage them as they share God's message of hope to people. Make a card or piece of artwork to include with the letter that references the words of Nahum 1:7.





## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### GOD'S PEOPLE WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [2 Chronicles 36](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Time and time again, the kings of Judah chose to disobey God. And even though God loved His children like a father, the people did not listen to His warnings, and they forgot about their God. God judged the people of Judah for their sin. They were attacked by the armies of Babylon and lived as slaves in a foreign land.

The northern kingdom of Israel was attacked and conquered by the Assyrians. The southern kingdom of Judah was attacked and conquered by the Babylonians. Because they had disobeyed, God's people were slaves in other countries for centuries. But what about God's promise to Abraham to bless all nations through his descendants? What about the promise to David that his descendants would sit on the throne forever? Had God forgotten about these promises?

Isaiah 40:8 says, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." These words remind us that every promise God has spoken is true, and He will always keep His promises. When God poured out His judgment on the people for their sin, the kingdom of Judah was no more. But even then, God was working out His plan to send a greater king to save His people. God would send His own Son, Jesus—who was from the family of Abraham and David—to bring forgiveness and peace to all who trust in Him.

**God was right to punish His people for their sin, but He kept His promise to provide a king through David's family. Ultimately, God punished our sin through His Son, Jesus, and made Him our King forever.**

***Pray:** God, we know that You always keep Your promises. Help us to trust in You even when we don't see how You're working. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross and to save all who believe in Him.*



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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Pray for the leaders of your city, state, and country. Ask God to give them knowledge to do their work and wisdom to obey Him. How did the sins of Judah's kings affect the people? Why is it important for us to pray for our leaders?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for His promises and His faithfulness to always keep those promises. Make a list of the promises you can remember from the Bible. Make note of the promises God has already. How do these fulfilled promises help us to trust in His ability to keep all His promises?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Play "Simon Says" as a family; however, when "Simon" says to do something, everyone should do the opposite. Make the motions easy for younger kids but work up to harder actions as the game progresses. Talk about how the Israelites faced consequences when they didn't listen to God. End the discussion by reminding kids that Jesus took our punishment and provided us a way to be brought back to God's presence.

### **To Serve**

Lead family members to take turns serving the rest of the family at dinnertime. The chosen servant should prepare the table, serve the food, take drink orders, refill cups when needed, and clean up after the meal. Discuss the sacrifices the chosen family member had to make to serve the family. Take time to talk about the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus to serve us and save us from sin.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### EVERY PERSON MATTERS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Psalm 139](#) from the Bible.





## Family Worship Experience

TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Moms have eyes in the back of their head”? The saying is meant to remind kids that Mom sees all and knows all! Of course, they don’t really have eyes back there, but a mom knows her child well enough to know when something bad might happen to them or when they might be doing something bad!

The reason a mom knows so much of what’s going on is because she loves her child, pays special attention to her child, and she wants what is best for her child. This is just a glimpse of how much God loves His children! David’s psalm reminds us that God knows when we sit down, stand up, and everything we think or do. He sees all and knows all because He loves His children and wants what is best for them.

It is amazing to think how much God loves us, and He wants us to show that same love to others. When a person loves their neighbor, a parent loves their child, or a brother shows love to his sister, the world sees a glimpse of the love God has for them. We want to keep loving others so they can see how much God loves them and wants to save them through Jesus.

**Every person matters. God created us and cares for us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. As we love and follow God, He calls us to love others and show respect to everyone.**

***Pray:** Lord, You know everything about us. You love us and care for us all the days of our lives. You created us in a wonderful way for a wonderful purpose, so please help us to know You and to walk in the plan You have for us.*



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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Ask God to show you who needs love and encouragement today. Be on the lookout for people you encounter and how you can show God's love to them. How does showing love to others help them know God? How does loving them remind you of how much God loves you?

### **Evenings**

Praise God for the wonderful way He created you. He knew you before you were born and made plans for your life. Ask Him to help you fulfill the purpose He has for you. How does it feel to know that God made you just the way He wanted you to be? How does this change the way you look at yourself and others?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Look at photos of each family member when they were babies or young kids. Talk about how they've changed or how some features might still be similar, like hair color or dimples. Read Psalm 139 together. Remind kids of how God has created them in a wonderful way. Tell your child that God has a purpose for their life and wants to have a relationship with them.

### **To Serve**

Parents, start a love challenge for your family next week. Give heart cutouts to kids each time you catch them showing love to others. After they receive a heart, encourage kids to be looking for others showing love and pass the heart on to them. Keep passing out hearts until the challenge is over.