



# IDC KIDS

Mar 15, 2026

8:30am & 11:15am

## JONAH, PROPHET TO NINEVEH

JONAH

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jonah told the people of Nineveh to turn from their sins. God wants everyone to turn from their sins and trust in Him. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why do Christians continue to sin? Christians continue to sin because we still have hearts that want to sin.

### KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Deuteronomy 13:4

### STORY POINT:

God sent Jonah to Nineveh

### LEARN

GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON.

#### 1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

- Invite the children to join you on the rug for group time.

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| <b>SAY</b> | This fish is special because it is very big! In today's Bible story, we will learn that <b>God sent Jonah to Nineveh</b> , but Jonah disobeyed God and went the other way. On Jonah's journey, he encountered a big fish. Listen closely to hear what happened. |
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#### 2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

\*Volunteers with 2s in room 114: You will need to open the divider with 113 for bible story time.\*

\*Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to open the divider with 124 for bible story time.\*

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

*If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline on the next page.*



## IMAGO DEI KIDS

### TEACHING OUTLINE

LOW-TECH ALTERNATIVE TO VIDEO

#### GREET PRESCHOOLERS WITH A SMILE

As preschoolers arrive, sing a song with motions to engage and welcome them like Jesus, Loves Me or He's Got the Whole World in His Hands. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage preschoolers to join you. Help the preschoolers think through what it means to worship God.

#### STORY SCRIPT

### JONAH, PROPHET TO NINEVEH

**God told a man named Jonah to speak to the large city of Nineveh because their sin** against God **was very great. But Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh, so he ran away and got on a boat** going in the opposite direction.

**While Jonah was on the boat, God sent a big storm. Jonah** knew the storm was his fault, so he **told the sailors to throw him into the sea to make the storm stop. The sailors threw Jonah into the water, and the storm stopped right away.**

**God sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Then the fish spit out Jonah onto dry land. Again, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people God's message. This time, Jonah obeyed.**

**When Jonah got to Nineveh,** he told the people, "In forty days, your city will be destroyed!" **The people listened to Jonah. They stopped doing wrong things,** and even the king told everyone to turn away from their sins. **Because they changed, God decided not to destroy the city.**

Jonah was upset because he thought the people of Nineveh deserved to be punished. He left the city and sat down to see if God would change His mind. God made a plant grow to give Jonah shade, but the next day, the plant died. Jonah was very angry about the plant.

God said to Jonah, "You care so much about this plant, but shouldn't you care even more about all the people in Nineveh?"

**God cared about the people in Nineveh and was happy they turned away from their sins.**

#### *Story Telling Tips*

- **Sit in a boat:** Tell the kids the floor mat is a boat. Instruct the children to sit in the boat as you tell the story and to be careful they don't fall out. When the storm comes, have everyone rock back and forth like they are being tossed by the waves. Ask someone (maybe a volunteer if a kid doesn't want to) to be Jonah and throw them out.
- **Engage the senses:** Play ocean sounds in the background as you tell the story.

#### CHRIST CONNECTION

*Jonah told the people of Nineveh to turn from their sins. God wants everyone to turn from their sins and trust in Him. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.*



## IMAGO DEI KIDS

### 3. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY (OPTIONAL)

Ask the following review questions:

- a. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Did Jonah obey God? (No. Jonah did not obey God right away.)
- b. Why did God send a fish to swallow Jonah? (to save Jonah; God wanted to Jonah to go to Nineveh)
- c. Should we care about people who don't know about God? (Yes. We should tell others about God's love because He wants them to turn from their sins and trust in Him.)
- d. **Why do Christians continue to sin? Christians continue to sin because we still have hearts that want to sin.**

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| <b>SAY</b> | When <b>God told Jonah to go to Nineveh</b> , Jonah did not want to go—so he disobeyed God and ran away. Jonah ended up in the middle of a powerful storm, and was thrown into the water so God would make the storm stop. A big fish swallowed Jonah, and he was stuck in the fish for three days and three nights. After being in the fish, Jonah obeyed God. God sent Jonah to Nineveh to tell the people they had sinned. Sin is when we break God's rules. Sin can be things like telling a lie, disobeying our parents, or saying unkind words. The people listened and turned away from their sin, so God did not destroy their city. |
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### 4. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

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| <b>SAY</b> | The people in Nineveh were disobeying God. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah sinned and disobeyed God. <b>Why do Christians continue to sin? Christians continue to sin because we still have hearts that want to sin.</b> When Jonah finally went to Nineveh and told the people they were sinning, they turned from their sins, and their city was saved! God wants us to turn from our sins and trust in Him too. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins. |
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### 5. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Marker at **Deuteronomy 13:4**. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

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| <b>SAY</b> | Our key passage uses the word command. A command is a direction given that is meant to be followed right away. God wants us to follow Him and listen to His commands. God wants us to trust and obey Him. We can trust God because He is good. |
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**HINT:** You can play the [memory verse song](#) or replay the Verse Video on the TV under [Pre-K Discipleship](#) called **Follow the Lord**.

### 6. PRAY

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| <b>SAY</b> | God, thank You for loving us, even when we make wrong choices. We know that our hearts still want to sin and we need Your help to be rescued from sin. Please help us trust You and follow Your commands. Amen. |
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## IMAGO DEI KIDS

### ACTIVITIES

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH BELOW

#### 1. PLAY FOLLOW THE LEADER

Choose one child to be the leader. Instruct the leader to do a silly movement like jumping, twirling, clapping, marching, or skipping. Encourage the other preschoolers to follow the leader's movements. Switch leaders after two or three movements.

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| <b>SAY</b> | Great job following the movements of the leader! God sent Jonah to Nineveh to tell the people they were sinning, and they turned from their sins and followed God. We can trust in God and follow Him too. God wants everyone to turn from their sins and trust in Him. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners. |
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#### 2. COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

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### DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents. Check diapers and change if they are dirty then release children by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.