

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Jonah Obeys

Last week we learned that Jonah was God's messenger. God wanted Jonah to tell Nineveh to repent. The Ninevites were the enemies of Israel. Jonah did not want to preach to them, so Jonah disobeyed God. He got on a ship going in the opposite direction. God sent a storm to get Jonah's attention.

Jonah 3

Read the Bible

READ: Jonah 3:1-9 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse

Here is what it means to love God. It means that we obey His commands. And His commands are not hard to obey.
(1 John 5:3 NVI)

Begin With Prayer

You may remember that Jonah was thrown off the ship that was going to Tarshish. Next, God sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. (Jonah 1:17) Can you imagine how Jonah felt? He was inside a fish!

What do you do when you are really scared? What do you do when you know you have done something wrong? The Bible says, "From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God." (Jonah 2:1 NIV)

Goals

1. Understand that Jonah was inside a fish for three days and nights.
2. Recognize that God made the fish spit Jonah onto dry land.
3. Learn that Jonah obeyed God.
4. Understand that the people of Nineveh stopped doing wrong.

God wants us to obey Him, but when we don't God still wants us to go to Him and ask for His forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

The Lord gave the fish a command, and it spit Jonah up onto dry land. (Jonah 2:10) Can you imagine what Jonah looked and smelled like? He had been inside a fish for three days and nights!

Guess where Jonah landed? He was very close to Nineveh. It was the place God told Jonah to go. Again, God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh. How many times do your parents ask you to do something? When should you obey? How many times does God have to ask you to do something? When should you obey?

God wanted Jonah to obey immediately. He wants us to do the same, obey immediately. The Bible says, "Here is what it means to love God. It means that we obey His commands. And His commands are not hard to obey." (1 John 5:3 NIV) Obedience is the way to show God that we love Him.

Jonah Obeys — Bible Facts

1. Jonah was inside a fish.
2. Jonah prayed to God.
3. God commanded the fish to spit Jonah onto dry land.
4. Jonah preached to Nineveh.

Well, this time, Jonah obeyed God. He went to the people of Nineveh. Jonah told them that God would destroy them in 40 days if they did not change their ways and follow God. Jonah said, "In forty days Nineveh will be smashed." (Jonah 3:4 NIV)

The people became so upset that they put on rough clothes and did not even eat food for several days. "The people of Nineveh listened and trusted God. They proclaimed a citywide fast and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did it—rich and poor, famous and obscure, leaders and followers." (Jonah 3:5 NIV)

Even the king of Nineveh dressed in burlap and sat in the dirt. He told the people of Nineveh not to drink or eat. The king told the people to stop doing bad things. The king said, "Who knows? Maybe God will turn around and change His mind about us, quit being angry with us and let us live!" (Jonah 3:6-9 NIV)

The king of Nineveh was hoping that God would be merciful. We know that God is merciful. If we repent (stop doing wrong), confess our sins (tell God what we did), and ask Him for forgiveness (tell God we are sorry), God will forgive our sins. (1 John 1:9)

Review

1. **Where was Jonah?** (Jonah was inside a fish.)
2. **What did Jonah do?** (Jonah prayed to God.)
3. **What did God do?** (God commanded the fish to spit Jonah onto dry land.)
4. **Then, what did Jonah do?** (Jonah preached to Nineveh.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us. Jesus died for our sin. (John 3:16) If we believe in Him we can know God and live with Him in heaven. First we have to invite Jesus to be a part of our lives. (Romans 10:9-10) If you would like to know more about inviting Jesus into your heart, talk to your teacher.

Prayer Time

1. **Take a moment to listen to God.**
2. **Thank God for sending Jesus to die for us.**
3. **Ask God to help you obey Him.**
4. **Pray for friends and family members who need to obey God.**

Application

Jonah was inside a fish for three days and nights. Jonah prayed. God made the fish spit Jonah onto dry land. Jonah was near Nineveh. God told him to preach to the people of Nineveh. Jonah obeyed God. When the people of Nineveh heard Jonah preach they stopped doing wrong. The Bible says, "Here is what it means to love God. It means that we obey His commands. And His commands are not hard to obey. (1 John 5:3 NIV)

Planning for Next Week

Nineveh Restored — Jonah 3-4

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Jonah 3:1-9 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Decorate a large box like a fish. Let the children climb into the belly of the “fish.” Put the box on blue tarp or a blue plastic to represent the water.

You may remember that Jonah was thrown off the ship that was going to Tarshish. Next, God sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Can you imagine how Jonah felt. He was inside a fish.

What do you do when you are really scared? What do you do when you know you have done something wrong? The Bible says, “From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.”

God wants us to obey Him, but when we don’t God still wants us to go to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

The Lord gave the fish a command, and it spit Jonah up onto dry land. Can you imagine what Jonah looked and smelled like? He had been inside a fish for three days and nights!

Guess where Jonah landed? He was very close to Nineveh. It was the place God told Jonah to go. Again, God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh. How many times do your parents ask you to do something? When should you obey? How many times does God have to ask you to do something? When should you obey?

God wanted Jonah to obey immediately. He wants us to do the same, obey immediately. The Bible says, “Here is what it means to love God. It means that we obey His commands. And His commands are not hard to obey.” (1 John 5:3 NIV) Obedience is the way to show God that we love Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for us.
3. Ask God to help you obey Him.

Memory verse for younger children

To love God... means that we obey his commands. 1 John 5:3

Learning Activities

- Memory verse activity** — Bring a coloring page of a fish. Write the Bible verse at the bottom. Bring a stuffed toy fish. Toss the fish like a ball. Each child who catches the fish should say the next word in the verse.
- Test your memory** — Use pictures to make a mobile of the events in the story. Put the mobile together as you tell the story.
- Taste activity** — Bring cheese crackers in the shape of fish.
- Think about it** — The king of Nineveh felt that if they turned from their sins, God might forgive them. We know that God is a God of mercy and grace. When we confess and turn from our sins, God forgives us. Talk about God’s forgiveness, His mercy and His grace.

Jonah obeyed God after being disobedient. Talk about obedience to God.

- Touch activity** — Decorate a large box like a fish. Let the children climb into the belly of the “fish.” Put the box on blue tarp or a blue plastic to represent the water.

Make a shadow box that has a fish spitting Jonah onto the land. Use a shoe box. Cut out a window out of the box top. Cover the window with plastic wrap. Color the bottom inside of the box to look like water or cover with blue paper. Cut out a fish and glue it to the water. Color one inside part of the box to look like sand. You may use sand paper. Use a toy to represent Jonah and put him on the sand. Cover the box with the box top.

Watch “Jonah, A Veggie Tales Movie.”

- Run and play** — Jonah landed near Nineveh. He had to walk to the city. Have the children walk around in circles three times. Next divide them into three groups. Have the inside and outside group walk in one direction. Have the middle group walk in the opposite direction. Next ask them to run in the direction they were walking.
- Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to obey.
- Sing** — Sing, “Obedience,” “Trust and Obey,” or another song related to the story.
- Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the fish with the verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

Here is what it
means to love God.

It means that we
obey His
commands.

And His commands
are not hard
to obey.

1 John 5:3

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

commanded

the fish

Word Search

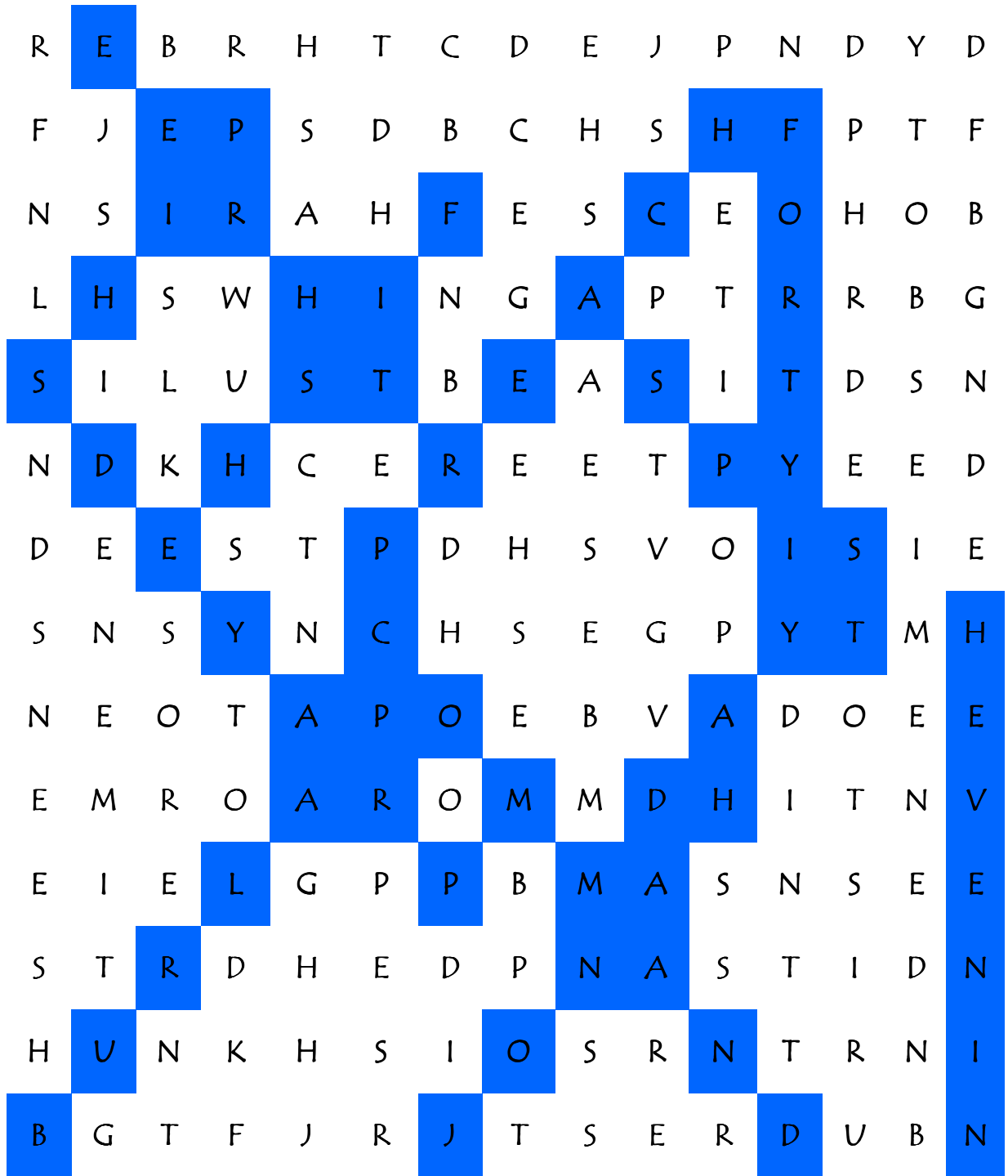
R E B R H T C D E J P N D Y D
F J E P S D B C H S H F P T F
N S I R A H F E S C E O H O B
L H S W H I N G A P T R R B G
S I L U S T B E A S I T D S N
N D K H C E R E E T P Y E E D
D E E S T P D H S V O I S I E
S N S Y N C H S E G P Y T M H
N E O T A P O E B V A D O E E
E M R O A R O M M D H I T N V
E I E L G P P B M A S N S E E
S T R D H E D P N A S T I D N
H U N K H S I O S R N T R N I
B G T F J R J T S E R D U B N

SHIP
JONAH
FISH
PREACH

THREE
PRAYED
SPIT
FORTY

DAYS
COMMAND
NINEVEH
BURLAP

Word Search



SHIP
 JONAH
 FISH
 PREACH

THREE
 PRAYED
 SPIT
 FORTY

DAYS
 COMMAND
 NINEVEH
 BURLAP

Word Search

F N B T E L L R G B T F R
C M P K D L B S F G C R C
C S K S R M F M P S K F B
F L S D M C N K B C N M G
B R M T H R E E G R S B D
G S F D A Y S P F M S D H
P B F C R L P N F M D S N
B F S F I S H V P K M D G
D P G S P I T B T D F S R
S R K C D T M G F P G R D
D N F C O M M A N D M F S
C M P P R A Y E D F G M S

THREE

DAYS

FISH

PRAYED

COMMAND

SPIT

Word Search

F N B T E L L R G B T F R
C M P K D L B S F G C R C
C S K S R M F M P S K F B
F L S D M C N K B C N M G
B R M T H R E E G R S B D
G S F D A Y S P F M S D H
P B F C R L P N F M D S N
B F S F I S H V P K M D G
D P G S P I T B T D F S R
S R K C D T M G F P G R D
D N F C O M M A N D M F S
C M P P R A Y E D F G M S

THREE

DAYS

FISH

PRAYED

COMMAND

SPIT

Anagram

NSAME

VOEL

GDO

YEOB

IHS

NAOMMSCD

TON

RADH

NOHJ

Anagram

MEANS

LOVE

GOD

OBEY

HIS

COMMANDS

NOT

HARD

JOHN