

Jonah

A Study in Obedience and Attitude

Lesson 5



Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum - Summer 2008

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

Lesson 5

Second Chances

Scripture References

Jonah 3:1-10

Lesson Goals

Understand that God hates sin.
Understand that God is merciful, not always giving us what we deserve.
Understand that we have a choice.

Memory Verse

So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help.
Hebrews 4:16 (CEV)

What do you remember from our last look at Jonah? Jonah was swallowed by a big fish, right? Why? He had disobeyed God. What did Jonah do inside the fish? He prayed. Do you remember that the big fish was in just the right part of the sea at just the right time? God sent the fish right where He wanted it and then, the Lord spoke to the fish and it spit Jonah up onto dry land.

Then an amazing thing happened, more amazing than being swallowed by a big fish, more amazing than staying alive for three days inside that fish, and more amazing than being spit up onto dry land! What could be so amazing? God spoke to Jonah again! God gave Jonah a second chance! Jonah wasn't destroyed, the way he should have been.

God's message was the same, "Go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce to its people the message I give you." (Jonah 3:2 NIV) This time, Jonah obeyed God. He went to Nineveh. Nineveh was a very important city. It was a very big city, too. In fact, to see it all took about three days! What else do you remember about Nineveh? Nineveh was the new capital of Assyria. King Sargon II was its ruler. Nineveh was also a very rich city. (Nahum 2:8-9) Nineveh was also a city full of murderers and liars. (Nahum 3:1-7)

But Jonah obeyed and he shared God's message with the people of Nineveh. God's message: "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed."

Jonah walked through the city announcing God's message and the people of Nineveh believed God's message. They believed God would do exactly what He said He would do, from the people in the street to the king in his palace! The king even ordered, "Don't let any person or animal eat or drink anything. Everyone call out to God, the Creator of the Universe - the one true God. Call out to God with all your hearts and stop doing what is wrong. Who knows? Maybe God will take pity on us and not destroy us."

Well, that's exactly what God did! God, the one true God, the Creator of the Universe saw what Nineveh did. He saw that they stopped doing the evil things they had been doing. And God took pity on Nine-

Application

So, what do you think about second chances?

Did you know that all of us are like Jonah and the people of Nineveh? The Bible is very clear, "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory." (Romans 3:23 NIV) The Bible also says, "When you sin, the pay you get is death. . ." (Romans 6:23 NIV) That's bad news because that means all of us. The pay you get for sinning is death. The pay I get for sinning is death.

Maybe you're thinking, "But Jonah got a second chance! Even Nineveh got a second chance! What about me?"

You, too, can have a second chance. Romans 6:23 says more, "When you sin, the pay you get is death. **But** God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." Will you accept that gift today? Will you also tell others about God's amazing gift?



veh. Nineveh, the city that should have been destroyed because of its great sin, was spared. Does that remind you of anything or anyone? Jonah had deserved death in the belly of a big fish. But He cried out to God and God took pity on him, as well. Jonah wasn't the only one to receive a second chance from God!

Review Questions:

- How long was Jonah inside the big fish? (Three days, three nights)
- Did Jonah die in the fish? (No!)
- What happened to Jonah? (The fish spit Jonah onto the beach.)
- What did Jonah do? (He obeyed God and went to Nineveh.)
- What happened in Nineveh? (The people believed God's warning and stopped doing evil things.)
- What did God do? (He took pity on Nineveh and gave them a second chance.)

Preparing for Lesson 6

Jonah's Anger
Jonah 4:1-5

Learning Activities

- Make pictures with seashells and remember Jonah being spit up onto the beach. If seashells aren't available, use pasta and craft sand.
- Make Sun Catchers. Cut designs out of black construction paper. Back the openings with various colors of tissue paper. Display in a window.
- Make plaster molds in buckets of sand. This can be done in the imprints left by handprints, footprints, sea animals, or shell shapes.
- Create a "Mercy Acrostic." Write the word "mercy" vertically in large letters. Think of one word for each letter of "m-e-r-c-y" that helps explain what mercy is.
- Encourage your students to tell the story of Jonah concisely with hand and body movements.
- Illustrate the story of Jonah. If possible, use large, smooth shells as your canvas.
- Cut-out footprint shapes from cardstock. Tape them to the floor in your Bible Study area, from the door and throughout the room. Talk about walking in obedience to what God calls us to do.

Memory Verse



So whenever we are in need,
we should come bravely
before the throne
of our merciful God.

There we will be treated
with undeserved kindness,
and we will find help.

Hebrews 4:16

Word Fun

Think of one word for each letter of “m-e-r-c-y” that helps explain what mercy is.

M-

E-

R-

C-

Y-

Second Chances

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

Fill in the spaces below to complete the memory verse. Find the underlined words in the word search above.

So _____ we are in _____, we should _____
before the _____ of our _____.
There we will be treated with _____,
and we will _____.

Hebrews 4:16

