

What Happened to Jonah?

Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning what happened to Jonah. Remember, he had been swallowed by a big fish. Well, after three days and three nights, Jonah realized that disobeying God wasn't worth it so he apologized to God and told him he would go to Nineveh. So, the big fish spit Jonah out and Jonah did exactly what God told him to do. He went to the city of Nineveh and warned the people that if they didn't stop their evil ways, God would destroy their city. Here's the crazy thing. The people actually listened to Jonah's message! The people told God they were sorry and they turned back to God! And that meant God wouldn't destroy their city. Kids, here's what we can learn from the story of Jonah. God gives second chances. He gave Jonah a second chance when he had the fish spit him out so he could go to Nineveh and he gave the Ninevites a second chance when they responded to Jonah's warning. And guess what? God gives us second chances, too. When we mess up, God will forgive us!

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Share a time you were given a second chance. (teacher let you redo an assignment or your parents let you off the hook and didn't ground you).** (Tip: Getting a second chance is a great thing! We all make mistakes so it's nice when we have a chance to correct it. God gives us second chances!)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because he loved Jonah and the people of Nineveh.** (Jonah was a prophet of God which means he spoke messages from God to the people. So it was sad when Jonah initially refused to do his job. But, God was gracious with Jonah and gave him another chance. God also loved the Ninevites and he wanted them to have a chance to repent and come back to him which is why he sent Jonah.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Why did Jonah get a second chance? Why did God care about what the Ninevites were doing? **4th-5th:** Why do you think the people of Nineveh listened to Jonah's message?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Isaiah 55:7. Forsake means to say sorry or run away from bad stuff. What does it mean to turn to Jesus? What will he do for us?** (Answer: When we mess up, we should come to Jesus and tell him that we're sorry for what we did wrong. And, Jesus promises to forgive those things every time. The verse says that he forgives generously which means he will never holds back his forgiveness!)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Big Idea

God gives everyone second chances.

Key Question

Why did God give Jonah another chance?

Memory Verse

Lamentations 3:23 "God's mercies begin new each morning."

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: JONAH AND THE FISH CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a paper plate (that's been pre cut) and a Jonah template (page 5).
- Have the kids color their plate and triangle blue. Have them tape the pointed end of the triangle to the left back side of the plate. This is the tale of the fish. Then have them draw an eye on their plate for their fish.
- Then have them tape the Statement and Memory verse somewhere on their plate.
- As they work, read the story of Jonah from Jonah 2- Jonah 3:1-5. Remind the kids that just like God gave Jonah and the Ninevites a second chance, he'll do the same for us!

Supplies needed: Paper plates (1 per kid, pre cut with a triangle cut out), Jonah template (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Crayons, Tape

OPTION 2: HIT THE TARGET LESSON REVIEW

Instructions:

- Before playing, tape two lines on the floor and place the Targets (page 6) on the floor at varying distances from the line.
- Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a bean bag. Have each team line up behind the lines. Ask a question below. First team to raise their hand gets a chance to answer. If correct, the first kid in line gets to throw their bean bag trying to hit one of the targets. Whichever one they land on (or near) are the points they get. Continue playing until all the questions have been asked. Team with the most points at the end wins.

Questions:

1. What swallowed up Jonah? (Big fish)
2. How long was Jonah in the fish? (3 days)
3. What did Jonah do in the fish? (Prayed and asked for forgiveness)
4. T or F: Jonah got a second chance. (T)

5. What city did Jonah go to? (Nineveh)
6. What was Jonah's message? (stop evil or be ruined)
7. T or F: This story is from the NT. (F)
8. What's the Big Idea today? (see board)
9. How did Nineveh respond to Jonah? (Repented)
10. Why does God give us second chances? (Loves us)

Supplies needed: Tape, 2 Bean Bags, Targets (pg. 6, pre cut, 1 set per class)

What Happened to Jonah?

Hey kids and parents! Fill in the blanks as you talk about this week's lesson together. Have fun!

Key Points

- Jonah _____ to God from inside the fish.
- God made the fish _____ Jonah out.
- Jonah ended up going _____ way after all.
- God gives everyone _____ chances.

Big Idea

God gives everyone second chances.

Key Question

Why did God give Jonah another chance?

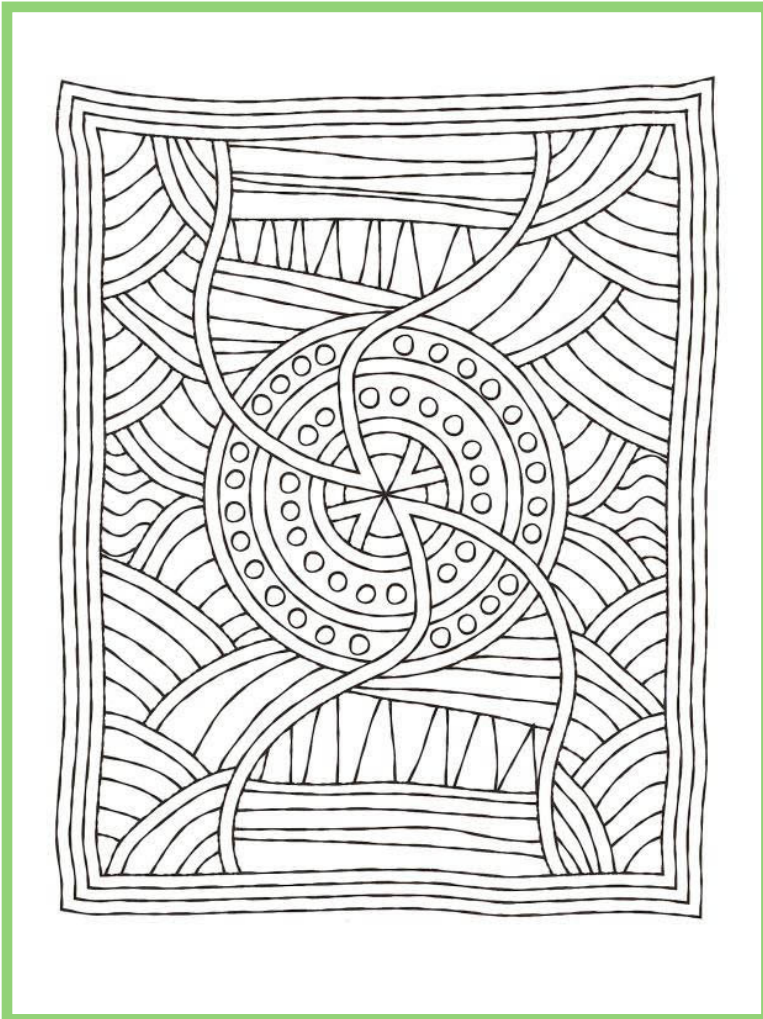
Memory Verse

Lamentations 3:23 "God's mercies begin new each morning."

Talk About It

1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
2. Share a time you were given a second chance. (teacher let you redo an assignment or your parents let you off the hook and didn't ground you).
3. How many days was Jonah in the fish? What did Jonah finally do?
4. What message did Jonah give to the city of Ninevah? What happened?
5. Read Isaiah 55:7. Forsake means to say sorry or run away from bad stuff. What does it mean to turn to Jesus? What will he do for us?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture and solve the puzzle.



Big Idea

Key Question

Memory Verse

*Lamentations 3:_____ "God's
 _____ begin _____
 each morning."*

IF YOU WERE STUCK SOMEWHERE FOR 3 DAYS, WHAT WOULD YOU BRING TO EAT?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



GOD GAVE JONAH AND THE CITY OF NINEVEH A SECOND CHANCE AND HE GIVES US SECOND CHANCES, TOO!

Lamentations 3:23

"God's mercies begin new each morning."

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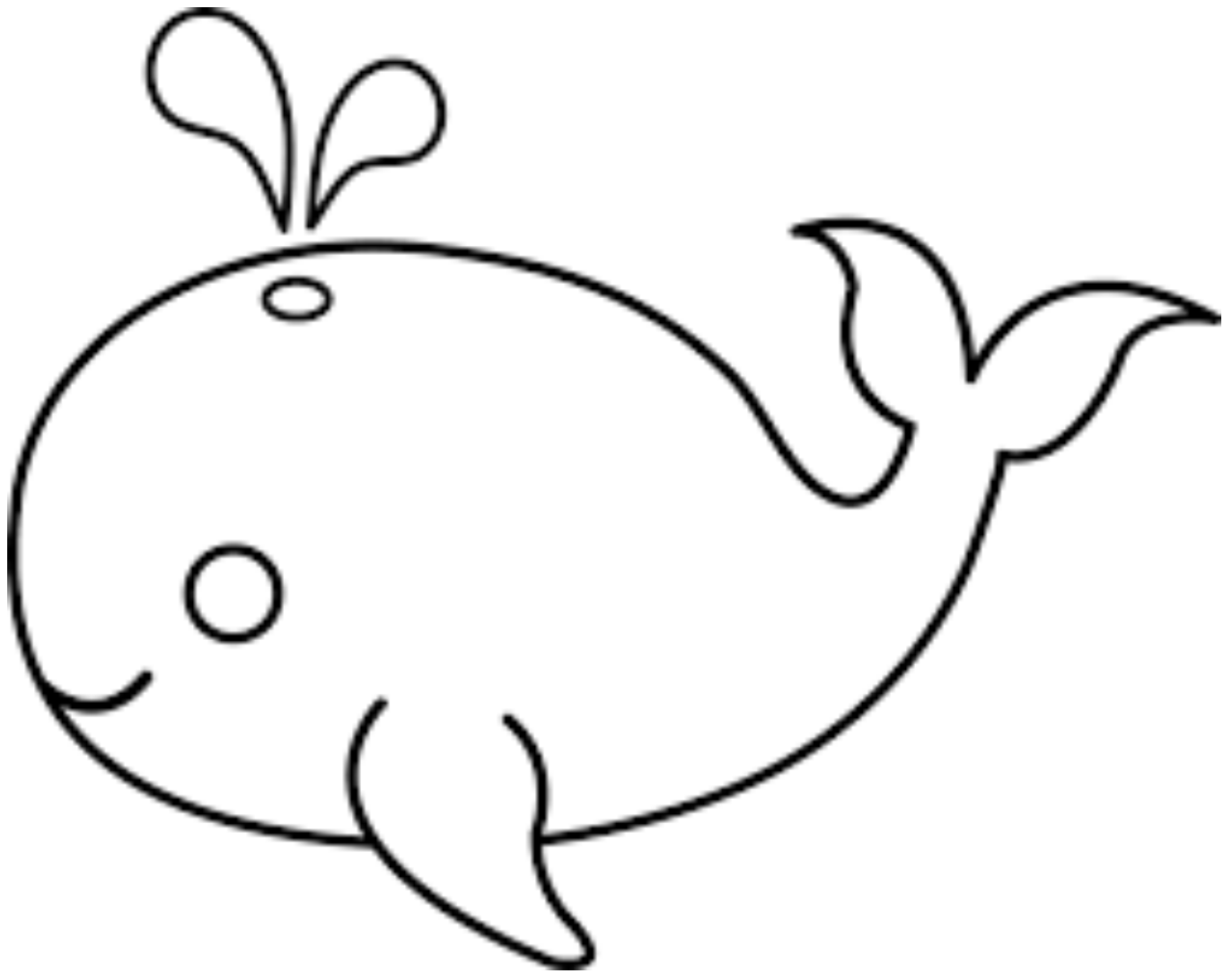
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