

Lesson 10

Jonah—a Prophet to Nineveh

Theme: Obedience — Punishment and repentance

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Measure What You Know!

Memory Verse: Use the text on pages 75-76 to copy the Memory Verse on paper, one for each student. Cut apart the words of each verse and put the pieces in a Ziploc® bag. Give each student a bag of words to put together correctly at his or her desk. Briefly talk about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study. Return the word pieces to the Ziploc® bags.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson


1. For non-reading students, read Jonah 1-4. Have reading students find and mark Jonah 1 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting with a map that shows Nineveh, the capital of Assyria; the Mediterranean Sea; Joppa; Tarshish. In the course of the lesson, show that when God called Jonah he went west when God told him to go east.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics and other props using the "God's Rule Scale" as described on page 10 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Measuring by God's Rule Lesson Graphics* and other props.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - God told Jonah to go to Nineveh in Assyria and preach to the Ninevites, warning them to repent of their sins.
 - Not wanting to go to Nineveh because of his prejudice against the Ninevites, Jonah got on a ship to Tarshish.



- God sent a storm in the Mediterranean Sea, so the sailors threw Jonah into the sea.
- God immediately stopped the storm and sent a great fish to swallow Jonah.
- Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and nights, where he prayed for God's help.
- God had the fish spit Jonah out on dry land.
- Jonah went to Nineveh and preached God's message throughout the city.
- The Ninevites repented, so God did not destroy them.
- Jonah pouted about this, and God reminded him that God has love and concern for all people.
- Though we don't have prophets such as Jonah, we do have God's Word to tell us what God wants us to do.

Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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8. Introduce to the students the writing prophets. We have the writings of 16 prophets included in our Old Testament. Four of them are often called the major prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel. Twelve are referred to as the minor prophets—Hosea through Malachi. Each of these prophets was sent by God and had an important message. They are called major and minor because of the length of their books, not because some were more important than others. Prophets were men sent by God to speak His word to the people. They were the preachers of their day, trying to turn people to God. God sent prophets many times to His people, but His people often times did not listen to Him. *The Shaping Hearts for God Fully Illustrated Bible Timeline*, shows the prophets in relation to the Kings of Israel and Judah.
9. Read Jonah 1-4. This is a good time to read an entire book of the Bible to the students. You may want to use the *New International Readers Version* — a translation prepared especially for children. Reveal the *Measuring by God's Rule Lesson Graphics* at the appropriate times in the reading. Emphasize God's love for all people, including the Assyrians. Act out the story, with one student being Jonah and four or more students joining hands to be the great fish to "swallow" Jonah and "spit" him out on dry land.
10. Discuss "prejudice." Help younger students understand that Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh because the people there were not Israelites and had often been mean to the Israelites. For older students, discuss the term "prejudice." Ask them to tell you examples of prejudice that they know about or have learned in school. This is a great time to discuss with students that God made and loves everybody (see John 3:16). Lead students to talk about how we must love all people because God does.
-  11. If you have access to the Manna Bible Maps software and a laptop, there is a wonderful map with animation showing the paths of Jonah, from running away to finally going to Nineveh to preach. For lesson reinforcement, it is worth the brief time it takes to let each student "show" the animated map.

Lesson 10

Jonah—a Prophet to Nineveh

Theme: Obedience — Punishment and repentance

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Measure What You Know!

Memory Verse: Using the words and Ziploc® bag from the Sunday morning lesson, give each student a bag of words to put together correctly at his or her desk. Talk about Who? What? When? and Why? Briefly talk about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study. Return the word pieces to the Ziploc® bags.

Prayer

Starter

Julie was the class president and had planned the end-of-school party with every detail. It was going to be great! Two days before the party Julie ended up in the hospital and was very sick. Julie passed all her plans along to her classmates. Her classmates decided to have a party their own way, but they didn't have the time to get it together. The party was a disaster.

God had His plans and a message for His people. He sent prophets to tell the people what He expected of them so they could benefit from being His people, but they wanted to do it all their way. Their lives ended up a disaster. God was not happy and they were not happy.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** *Review the story of Jonah.*

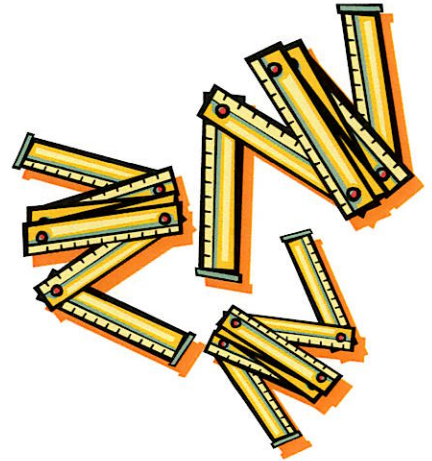
Ask students to tell you the story of Jonah. Correct or supplement as needed. Remember to talk about God's love for everyone.



2. **Objective:** *Remember and review several prophets studied thus far.*

Have a basket with descriptions of different prophets of God. Have the students read the description and guess what prophet it was.

- This prophet told Ahab and Jezebel that it would not rain for seven years because of their great sins.



- This prophet challenged the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.
- This prophet received Elijah's cloak and had double the spiritual strength as Elijah
- This prophets helped the Shunammite woman and her son.
- This prophet was sent by God to Nineveh but he went the opposite way until a big fish swallowed him.
- This prophet led the Israelites out of Egypt and spoke God's law to the people after receiving it on Mount Sinai.
- This prophet lived in the tabernacle with Eli when he was young. As a prophet, he anointed Saul and David as God's kings.



3. *Objective: Understanding grace.*

Explain that you will ask Bible questions. If someone misses one, they have to drop out. When a student misses, offer to give him mercy if he asks for it and let him continue. Ask hard questions when necessary so that everyone misses, so you can show grace to every student. Explain that God was giving mercy to Ninevah, and make application to His giving mercy to us.

4. *Objective: Understanding that everyone needs God's grace.*

Show the students pictures of people of various races and cultures, and engaging in activities — some good, some worldly, some mean. Ask the students which person they would invite to Bible class and worship and why. Discuss how the “worst” person really needs God no more or less than others.

5. The order of the Old Testament prophets is usually one of our weakest areas in reciting the books of the Bible. Use the opportunity of the next four lessons, in which we are studying the Old Testament prophets, for your students to practice saying them.

Measuring Kings: Measure Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-7)

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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