

## **Jr Church/Kids Club Lesson for 5/24 Week #13**

### **Jonah Is Swallowed by a Big Fish**

**Key Point:** We take responsibility for our actions.

**Bible Passage: Jonah 1:1-17**

### **God Calls and Jonah Runs**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord spoke his word to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup> "Get up, go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it. I see the evil things they do."

<sup>3</sup> But Jonah got up to run away from the Lord. He went to the city of Joppa. There he found a ship that was going to the city of Tarshish. Jonah paid for the trip and went aboard. He wanted to go to Tarshish to run away from the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> But the Lord sent a great wind on the sea. This wind made the sea very rough. So the ship was in danger of breaking apart. <sup>5</sup> The sailors were afraid. Each man cried to his own god. The men began throwing the cargo into the sea. This would make the ship lighter so it would not sink.

But Jonah had gone down into the ship to lie down. He fell fast asleep. <sup>6</sup> The captain of the ship came and said, "Why are you sleeping? Get up! Pray to your god! Maybe your god will pay attention to us. Maybe he will save us!"

<sup>7</sup> Then the men said to each other, "Let's throw lots to see who caused these troubles to happen to us."

So the men threw lots. The lot showed that the trouble had happened because of Jonah. <sup>8</sup> Then the men said to Jonah, "Tell us what you have done. Why has this terrible thing happened to us? What is your job? Where do you come from? What is your country? Who are your people?"

<sup>9</sup> Then Jonah said to them, "I am a Hebrew. I fear the Lord, the God of heaven. He is the God who made the sea and the land."

<sup>10</sup> Then the men were very afraid. They asked Jonah, "What terrible thing did you do?" They knew Jonah was running away from the Lord because Jonah had told them.

<sup>11</sup> The wind and the waves of the sea were becoming much stronger. So the men said to Jonah, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down?"

<sup>12</sup> Jonah said to them, "Pick me up, and throw me into the sea. Then it will calm down. I know it is my fault that this great storm has come on you."

<sup>13</sup> Instead, the men tried to row the ship back to the land. But they could not. The wind and the waves of the sea were becoming much stronger.

### **Jonah's Punishment**

<sup>14</sup> So the men cried to the Lord, "Lord, please don't let us die because of taking this man's life. Please don't think we are guilty of killing an innocent man. Lord, you have caused all this to happen. You wanted it this way." <sup>15</sup> Then the men picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea. So the sea became calm. <sup>16</sup> Then they began to fear the Lord very much. They offered a sacrifice to the Lord. They also made promises to him.

<sup>17</sup> And the Lord caused a very big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

### **Questions:**

1. When was a time that you took responsibility for something you'd done wrong?
2. How did taking responsibility help other people?

**Let's watch a song video on YouTube to see what this might have looked like:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIvuWMqAPTQ>

**Sing a Song: Here is a classic Jonah song sung by the Veggie Tales. Listen to the words and try to sing along- I bet it will be stuck in your head all day!!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSUN58K6vJE>

### **Play with Ideas: Runaway Game**

Use this game to help children re-member that even though Jonah ran away, God forgave him. Have family members form a circle and put their hands behind their backs. Choose someone to be "Jonah," and give Jonah an object

such as a plastic ball or small toy. Jonah will carry the object around the outside of the circle, while family members say, "Jonah, Jonah disobeyed. God forgave him anyway." At the end of the phrase, Jonah will put the object into another family member's hands, and that person will chase Jonah around the circle. If Jonah makes it back to the open spot in the circle without being tagged, the person holding the object will be Jonah.

### **Let's Pray**

Dear Lord, today we learned that Jonah was not doing what you told him to do. You want us to take responsibility for our actions. In Jonah's case, it meant admitting to the sailors that he was trying to hide from God and doing what he could to stop the storm. Help us to take responsibility for our actions- good and bad. Lord, here is our pledge, "I promise to take personal responsibility by trying to do the right thing, admitting when I do wrong, and taking steps to make my wrongs right". Thank you for loving us and always giving us second chances. Thank you for your grace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**Fairfield Community School Students:** Missing Kids 4 Christ Bible Classes at school? You can find your lessons on YouTube. Check them out at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kS1v154C83A&list=PLYxKO5HxDR7z79sBDJzYs6xak7B2dpeht&index=2&t=0s>