

LESSON 7

JONAH IS SENT TO NINEVEH

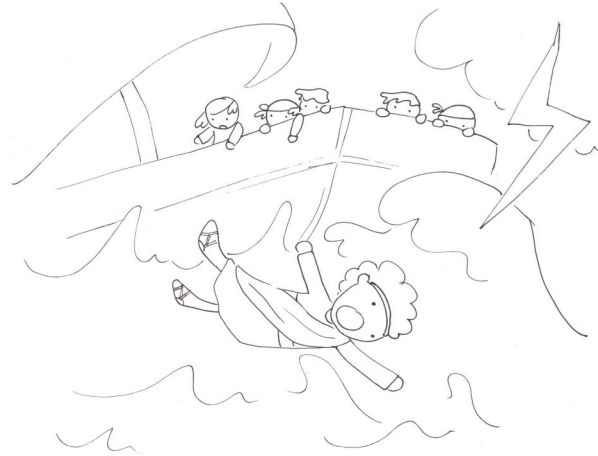
Worksheets

- Bible Discovery Worksheet, Pages 1, 2, and 3: Jonah Is Sent to Nineveh
- Life Application Worksheet #1: Running Towards God
- Life Application Worksheet #2, Pages 1 and 2: Sharing God's Love
- Homework

JONAH IS SENT TO NINEVEH

Part A: Running from God

We probably have encountered times when we really wanted to run away and hide from our problems. It's natural to want to hide when we are stuck in situations that are embarrassing or hurtful, and it's natural to want to run when we are ashamed, lonely, or scared. During these times, we need to remember that, while we may want to just run away and hide, God is the one person to whom we should be turning for help, guidance, and strength.



Read the following verses and then write down who was in trouble, what kind of problems they were facing, and the actions they took to solve it.

Verse	Who was in trouble?	What was the problem?	What actions were taken?
1 Samuel 1:5-11			
1 Samuel 26:1-4, 7-12, 23-25			
Luke 22:39-46			



Part B: The Sign of the Prophet Jonah

Jonah, despite his disobedience, was a very important prophet of God. This is because his actions prophesied something that would occur far into the future, in the New Testament.

Open your Bible to Matthew 12:39-40 (NKJV), and fill in the blanks below.

"But He answered and said to them, 'An _____ and _____ generation seeks after a _____, and no sign will be given to it except the _____ of the _____. For as Jonah was _____ days and _____ nights in the _____ of the great _____, so will the _____ of _____ be three days and three nights in the _____ of the _____.'

1. Who is the Son of Man?
2. What does the Bible mean when it says that He will be in the "heart of the earth"?

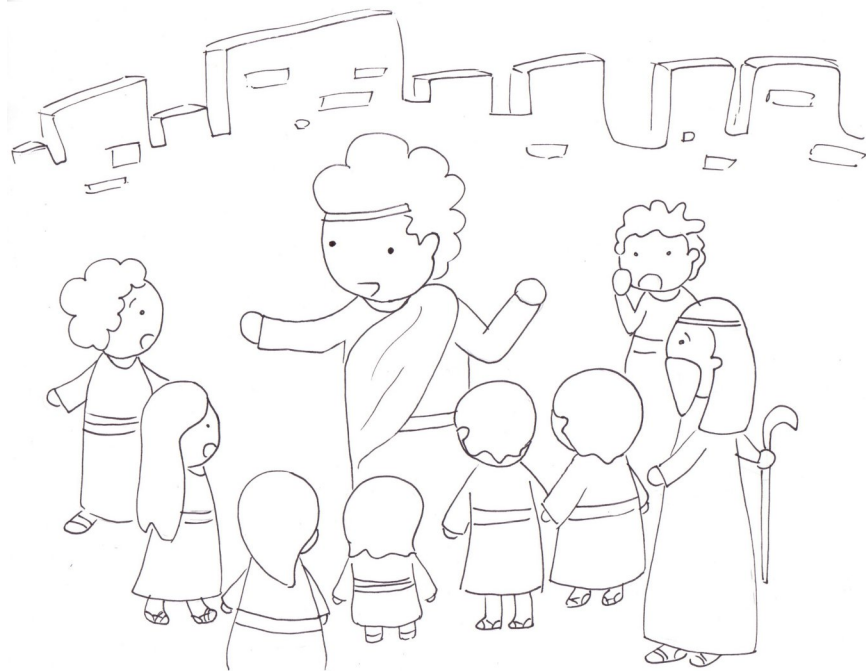
Part C: God’s Mercy Is for Everyone

The fact that the Ninevites—Gentiles from a foreign nation—were willing to repent was a miracle that should have been celebrated. But Jonah’s reaction was quite the opposite! Let’s read Jonah 4:2. Jonah didn’t want the Ninevites to be saved! Why do you think this was?

Consider the differences between God’s compassion and human prejudice. Then, think of real-life scenarios that show each of the following:

God’s Compassion	Human Prejudice
<p>“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.” (Lam 3:22)</p> <p>“But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath.” (Ps 78:38)</p> <p>“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy.” (Ps 145:8)</p> <p>“And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.” (Mk 6:34)</p> <p>“Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.” (Mt 18:27)</p>	<p>“Then Jesus answered and said: ‘A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.’” (Lk 10:30-32)</p> <p>“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.” (Mt 18:28-30)</p>

Scenario _____	Scenario _____
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RUNNING TOWARDS GOD

Jonah's first reaction to God's instruction was to run away. But why did he think that running away would allow him to escape from God? Although he was a prophet of God, Jonah forgot one very important thing: God's **presence**, or His **omnipresence**.

When we encounter tribulations in school or at home, it always seems easier to run away. Sometimes, we don't even want to bother thinking of a solution, much less face the problem head-on. It would be much easier to do as Jonah did, and try to escape to a far-off place. However, as God's chosen, we have a very unique advantage that we may forget at times: God is always present! This means that no matter what trial or tribulation we are facing, God is always standing there with us with the power to help us overcome our problem. We only need to remember to **run towards God, not away from Him**.

Verse	How to Act
Psalm 119:105	
Philippians 4:6	
Joshua 1:9	
Romans 12:2	
2 Timothy 1:7	

Finally, read the following passage and discuss the following questions as a group.

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." (Jas 1:2-5)

1. Is it wrong to ask God to just take the problem away?
2. Sometimes, it feels like praying doesn't seem to do anything.
Does this mean that God isn't listening?



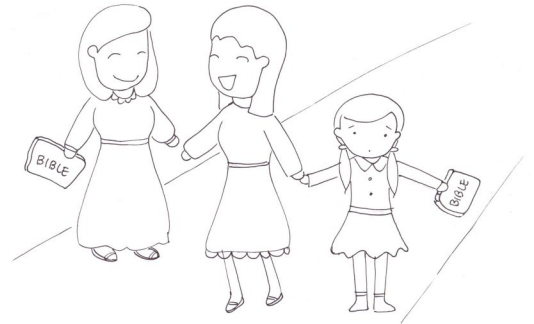
SHARING GOD'S LOVE

God has showered us with many blessings in our lives because He loves us. Instead of keeping these blessings to ourselves, we should take every opportunity to share it with others.

Read the scenarios below, and answer the questions that follow.

Scenario 1

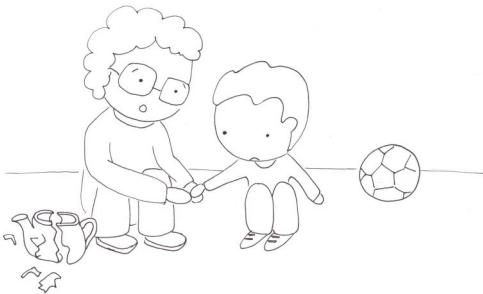
Vanessa's mom had met some nice friends from church at the local supermarket. They had invited Vanessa's mom to come with her family to one of their Sabbath services. As they parked in the church parking lot, Vanessa was feeling a bit scared. She didn't know how the other kids would look at her or treat her because she was new. She was afraid that they might ignore her, or worse, make fun of her. This Holy Spirit that her mom's friends talked about intrigued her, but she was unsure whether she would like to be around a group of strangers. Her mom's church friends were warm and thoughtful, but what if the kids her age were not as welcoming?



Visitors often come to our church or Bible studies to learn more about God. They might also come looking for God's love and presence through His body, the church and its members. **What is one reason that makes you afraid to reach out to someone outside of your own group? What does the Bible say about making an effort to share God's blessing with others? (Acts 10:37; 2 Cor 5:14-15)**

Scenario 2

Manuel knew he was in trouble. He had broken Grandma's favorite teapot when he was kicking the ball around the house, even after she had told him to play outside. He tried to put the pieces back together, cutting himself in the process. Grandma walked in, saw what had happened, and rushed to his side. Expecting to be yelled at and punished, he started apologizing. Without a second look at the teapot, Grandma gently held his bloody hand and took him to the bathroom to clean and cover the cuts on his hands. As she cared for his wounds, she explained that she had warned him to play with his ball outside, not because she was afraid he'd break her things, but because she didn't want to see him accidentally hurt. He knew that he deserved to be punished for his disobedience, and was moved that his grandmother had been compassionate and forgiving.

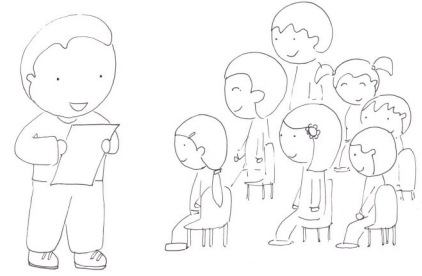


In the Bible, we have many examples of how God was merciful to a variety of people. In our world today, we continue to see these examples in our families and in our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. **Name a time when God showed you compassion when you didn't deserve or expect it. What does the word of God teach us about being compassionate? (2 Cor 1:3-4; 2 Sam 22:26; Mt 5:7; Lk 6:36)**

Scenario 3

Breathe and smile, breathe and smile. Noah was nervous seeing all the many pairs of eyes looking at him as he stood at the front of the class ready to share his testimony. His hands were sweaty and he felt his face flushing. Then he remembered the plan his dad had suggested to help him get through his presentation. Any time he felt unsure, was still trying to remember a line, or was getting distracted by someone's look, he just had to breathe and smile. By planning ahead and remembering to breathe and smile, he was able to share his testimony with his fellow students. (Prov 16:9)

By thinking about what to do beforehand, it can be easier for us to react well when we encounter a situation. Think from a visitor's perspective: what would they like us to do for them? List two ways that you can actively reach out to people you don't know and share God's love and compassion with them.



E2 Year 2 Book 3 Lesson 7—Jonah Is Sent to Nineveh

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Matthew 14:14**)

Short Answer

1. What did Jonah do upon receiving God's instructions?

2. How was Jonah saved from the storm after being flung overboard?

3. What was the Ninevites' reaction to Jonah's warning?

4. If God had not shown compassion to you or your family, name one way your life might be different today.