

JONAH

BIBLE PASSAGE ***(JONAH 1–4)***

Summary: God called the prophet Jonah to warn Nineveh, but Jonah disobeyed and sailed in the opposite direction. A huge storm came, and the sailors threw Jonah into the sea. God sent a big fish to swallow him. Inside the fish, Jonah prayed and admitted he was wrong. The fish spit him out, and this time Jonah went to Nineveh. He warned the people, and they responded by believing in God. Jonah was upset that God showed grace, and God used a vine to remind him to show grace to others.

Today's Brite Idea is: God gives grace.

MONTHLY Memory Verse

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

(PSALM 145:3)

BIG QUESTION

Who is greater than everything? God!

HE — God is love.

WE — God shows us grace.

ME — God shows me grace.

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LEADER TRAINING: FOCUS ON RHYTHM AND ROUTINE

Preschoolers thrive when they know what comes next. Consistent routines reduce frustration by preventing misbehavior and giving kids a sense of safety.

- **Keep daily patterns predictable.** Use songs, claps or visual cues to signal transitions so kids know what's coming next. A cheerful clean-up song or a rhythmic countdown can turn potential chaos into order.
- **Give gentle warnings before transitions.** "Five more minutes of play, then clean-up time!" helps kids prepare emotionally and physically to shift from one activity to another.
- **Celebrate routine success.** Notice when kids follow the routine well and say things like "You listened so well when it was time to line up!" Recognition reinforces healthy habits and builds confidence.
- **Connect to God's order.** Just as God created the world with rhythm (day and night, work and rest), routines bring peace and structure that reflect His good design!

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: GUILT

One study revealed that as many as 40 percent of believers struggle with guilt because they are afraid that they are displeasing God.* Guilt is a normal human emotion that the Holy Spirit often uses to show us the sins we have committed. Even a preschooler can feel guilt from sinning. A preschooler may express this emotion as feeling yucky or sad. The feeling of guilt is designed to bring us back to God, not to produce fear or anxiety. Some kids, even at a young age, struggle with guilt, especially kids who have experienced trauma. In today's lesson, kids will learn about the grace God shows us when we mess up. Help kids learn that guilt can guide us away from sin and back toward God. When we turn back to God, we can receive His grace just as Jonah did.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Grace: God's kindness that we don't deserve

Prophet: a person who gives God's messages to His people

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

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Use the Bible story cards to teach the Bible story or read the script to the kids.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Grace: God's kindness that we don't deserve

Prophet: a person who gives God's messages to His people

Say: Jonah was a man who told people God's truth. One day, God told Jonah to go to a faraway city called Nineveh and tell the people to stop doing bad things. But Jonah didn't like those people and didn't want to go. He got on a boat going the other way, but God sent a big storm that made the ship rock back and forth until it was about to break! Lean from side to side!

Say: But Jonah was asleep. The other sailors woke him and told him to pray. Put your hands together like you're praying. Jonah knew the storm was his fault, so he told the sailors to throw him into the sea. When they did, the storm stopped! Then God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah.

Say: Jonah stayed inside the fish for three days and nights. He prayed, "God, I was in trouble, and You saved me!"

Say: Then God made the big fish spit out Jonah onto dry land.

Say: God gave Jonah another chance and said again, "Go to Nineveh and tell them My message." Jonah obeyed! He went to Nineveh and told the people God's message. The people listened and were very sorry for doing bad things. They believed in God. God forgave them for doing bad things and showed them His great love. Let's all say, "Hooray!"



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God loves everyone all the time! And that includes you and me. Just like God rescued Jonah in the sea by sending a big fish to swallow him, God rescues people by sending His Son, Jesus.

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WRAP-UP:

BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll? 1, 2, 3.. drumroll!

Show the Big Question and Answer Teaching Image.

Say: Who is greater than everything? God!



God is love.

God shows us grace.

God shows me grace.

VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Motion Video after the verse is read.

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- Great *(make a V with your arms)*
- is the LORD, *(point to the sky)*
- and greatly *(bring arms in and extend out to one side)*
- to be praised. *(bring arms in and extend out to the other side)*
- Psalm 145:3 *(open hands like a book)*

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