

Get Ready!

Celebrating the Good News

By: Betsy Moore

Text

Jonah 1-3

Key Quest Verse

“Be strong and courageous. Be careful to obey” (Joshua 1:7).

Bible Background

The story of Jonah begins within a few years of Elisha. Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II, the King of Israel from 793-753 BC (2 Kings 14:25). Also, prophesying at that time were Hosea, Amos, Micah, and Isaiah under God’s direction. They preached and prophesied about the worldwide significance of God’s work as they told of the future . . . concerning even the Savior and coming Kingdom. The prophet Jonah was chosen by God to take a mission trip to Nineveh. Nineveh was a powerful and wicked city (the rising world power in that day). Nahum 1:9 tells us that Nineveh even plotted evil against God. The Assyrian people were known for their cruelty and were the largest known city in the world at that time. The king went into surrounding cities and killed men, women, and children and beheaded them and built pyramids from their skulls and placed them at the city gate, to show his power. Nineveh was a city with a circumference of twelve miles and 120,000 people. Probably by this time, Jonah was an older man and knew the sins of Nineveh and disliked them so much, he did not want them to hear of God’s word. He may have thought they were unworthy or even feared they would repent and turn to God. His displeasure of the idea of helping the “Assyrians” (people of Nineveh) was more than he could stand. He decided to run away rather than obey God. We know that Nineveh was to the east and Tarshish was to the west. Jonah wanted to run as far away as he could, so he got on a ship to Tarshish. Running got Jonah into trouble and endangered the lives of many other people. The travelers on the ship to Tarshish were not the only lives at stake. Jonah’s actions affected the travelers, the people of Nineveh, and even our lives today. We have a great responsibility to obey God. We never know how many lives we are touching and influencing.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:**Know:** God loves everyone no matter what race he or she is or where he lives.**Feel:** Sorry for others who are hungry and don't know of God's love.**Do:** Give to a foreign mission project.**Leader's Devotion**

What mission does God have in mind for you? Run and hide or stand and teach? Sometimes it seems easier to run away than to do the things in life that we know God expects of us. Is it easier to wait until the last moment for lesson preparation and just “wing it” or is it better to start early in the week in preparation for spreading the “Good News” to our children on Sunday. Under which scenario, do you feel more confident? What do you think God wants you to do? Stand up for what you know is right. After Jonah disobeyed God and ran, God gave him another chance. The same happens with us today. God is willing to give us another chance to do what is right in serving Him. Teaching God's children is one of the most blessed missions in life. Your influence on these children will make a lasting impression on them that could mean eternal life for them. Your mission is just as important as Jonah's and may have lasting influence on thousands.

*Get Set!***Option A****SHOW AND TELL**

Materials: The children will provide the objects, (this should be pre-arranged) Resource Page

Procedure: Well, when I was in school, I think my favorite thing was “Show and Tell.” I always looked forward to the days when we had “Show and Tell,” because it gave me the chance to show and tell others about something that was really important to me. I asked several of you to bring something this morning to show to the other children and tell them something about it. Who would like to go first? Allow children to “Show and Tell.” I want to thank those who shared with us in “Show and Tell” time. I really enjoyed seeing what you had to show us, and I learned a lot from what you told us. It is really fun to show and tell others about something that is really important to you, isn't it? I have a “Show and Tell” this morning that I would like to share with you. These two pages of pictures show some very important people. Show two African mission picture pages from the Resource Pages. Why do you think these people are important? Some people from the church of God went to Africa to help teach them about God! These are church families in Africa that worship and love God just like we do. Look at the church in Africa. How is it different from our church? These people made their own bricks from mud to build their church. Is there enough room in the church to hold all the people? Can you find the picture of the lady handing out Bible's to the people? Discuss the pictures as time allows. How are these people different from us? Do you have a better home than these Africans? Who do you think God loves more? Just because we have more, does not mean that God loves us any more than anyone else. God wants to show His love to everyone and wants everyone to know of His Word. It is important for you and me to show and tell others about Jesus, too. We can show others about Jesus by doing the things that Jesus taught us to do; like loving one another and being helpful and kind. Then, people will see that we know Jesus and that will give us a chance to tell them about Him. Each day we should show and tell others about Jesus!

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Option B****BREAKFAST**

Materials: Pitcher of water with 3 tablespoons of cocoa added, cups, ear corn on the cob (purchase from Lowes or from a farmer), chocolate milk, donuts, a baby doll and blanket for each child (borrow for children that don't have dolls)

Advanced Preparation: Call students the night before and request they eat no breakfast, because you have a special breakfast planned for them. Also, request that each child bring a baby doll and blanket

Procedure: How many of you have eaten breakfast? I'm so glad you all remembered not to eat, because I have a special breakfast planned for you! We're going to pretend we're in Africa and do as they do. First of all, how many of you brought a baby and blanket? Good! In Africa, the kids have to help their moms do the work and one of the things they can do is help with the babies. So, you are going to care for the babies just like the kids in Africa do. Place the baby on the child's back above their waist; wrap a receiving blanket or towel around the baby and child and tie in front. **With babies on your backs, your hands are free to do other work, and the baby won't get hurt or wander off. You know exactly where the baby is, right? Now that we all have our babies to care for, let's begin the day. We must go to the river and get the water for the family.** Walk around the room with babies on back and go to the prepared pitcher of water. **Good, we've got our water. Who would like to carry it? Make sure you don't drop your baby off your back! I thought I should let you know, there are no diapers in Africa, so you know what that means . . . Now we must go back to our hut and get ready for breakfast. Who would like to prepare the breakfast with me? Good.** Give each child, an ear of corn and let them shell it out. **This is what the African people eat for every meal. They pull the corn off the cob and grind it and mix it into a mush and cook it and eat it. Doesn't that sound yummy? It's taking a long time to get our corn ready, so why don't we just have a drink of our water.** Pour water into clear glasses for students; be prepared for students to complain. **What's the matter? We're having a very special breakfast with plenty of corn! What are you complaining about? This is like Africa, but . . . wait a minute . . . No, it's not. There's plenty of corn here and there's not plenty to eat in Africa. Would you like to live in Africa? Are you ready to eat their food? I really do have a surprise breakfast for you!** Share chocolate milk and donuts. **While you eat your extra special breakfast, I'll tell you a little more of the people in Africa where we have a church. One 100 pound bag of maize or corn just like we have here, feeds a family of 5 two meals a day for one month. Most people usually only have one set of clothes to wear. The only way they have to get places is to walk. Most of them are really thin, because they don't eat as much as we do. Their houses are made of mud bricks or tall grass, and their roofs are made of grass (or tin). When it rains, if their roof is grass, they get wet even inside, but not as much as if they were outside. They have to rebuild their walls every few years, because the rain "melts" them down into mud. The floors are usually dirt. They don't have kitchens like ours. Before they cook, they have to scrounge around for firewood for every meal. Most people just build their cook-fire outside. Even if it's pouring down rain, the women have to cook outside, because they don't have anywhere else to cook. They don't have electricity, so they usually go to bed when it gets dark. They also don't have running water, so they have to get their water from a well, or from the river. Water is heavy. Women carry it in big pots on top of their heads. Babies that are teething chew on a small twig or branch from a tree. . . Our church families in Africa are very happy to learn about God and Jesus. What can we do for church families in Africa and other parts of the world?**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Materials: Refrigerator box made into a boat, card table covered with opened black trash bag to resemble the big fish, poster board, tape, fishing line, green crepe paper, box fan, toothpicks, markers, white paper plates

Advanced Procedure: Place eyes on either side made from white paper plates. Leave a slit opening in the front for the mouth to enter. Make fins from poster board and place on either side. Tape fishing line from the underneath side of the card table and hang fish cut outs on line inside the belly of the big fish. (Yes, your students must take turns inside the fishes belly; 3 minutes each and talk about how Jonah must have felt being alone for 3 days in there.) Tape green crepe paper streamers to a box fan to represent seaweed. For casting lots: toothpicks with ends clipped off and only 1 marked on the end with a colored marker

Procedure: God told a man named Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people to be sorry or repent for doing all the bad things. Jonah didn't like these people and didn't want to go. What do you think Jonah should do? Read Jonah 1:3. Is that what God told Jonah to do? Tarshish was that way (point the opposite direction and then say) Nineveh was that way. Why do you think Jonah was running away? Let's pretend we're all in the boat with Jonah. Climb into the refrigerator box with students. Then God sent a great wind and huge waves started to break the boat apart. Hold onto sides of box and move it back and forth. Now the sailors didn't know what to do and they started throwing anything extra overboard. Pretend to throw things overboard. We don't need these clothes, we don't need this food, what else can we get rid of? How do you think the people on the boat felt? They couldn't believe it when they found Jonah asleep in the bottom of the boat. They yelled, "PLEASE PRAY TO YOUR GOD TO SAVE US!" They decided to cast lots or draw straws to see if someone on board might be causing this bad storm. Let's see how many children are here this morning. Count and make sure you have the same number of toothpicks including the marked one not showing the color. It was hard to know who was causing the trouble, so they cast lots. Who do you think did not listen to God? I'm going to have each one of you come up and draw a toothpick. Call children by name and let them choose one at a time. Now we've cast lots, who has the colored toothpick? (Name), you are going to be Jonah. How do you think Jonah felt? He was thrown overboard! Jonah must have been ready to drown, when all of a sudden a great BIG FISH swallowed him up. Let child go inside "fish" card table; you may need a flashlight in the belly. Now Jonah was inside the fish three whole days. What do you think it smelled like in there? What was Jonah thinking about? What did Jonah do? Jonah prayed! What do you do when you need help? Jonah knew that he did not listen to God and he was sorry. He asked God to forgive him. After three long days, the big fish spit Jonah up on a sandy beach. What do you think Jonah did? Jonah got right up and went to Nineveh. Do you think the people listened to him? Yes, they did. They were sorry for being bad and wanted to know more about God. What direction does God want us to go? God sends people today on missions, too. What do you think they tell people? Be sorry for being bad and OBEY GOD. Or, do what God tells you to! Our church General Conference sends missionaries to other countries, Africa, Mexico, India and Peru, to teach these people about God. Tracy Savage is in Russia. Can you pray that God will help them teach others?

*Go!***Jonah Puppet**

PUPPETS

Materials: Flat sucker, Jonah pattern, crayons, scotch tape

Quest Connection

Procedure:

Close

Go!**Baby Shoes**

SERVICE PROJECT

Materials: Mason jar, shallow bowl filled with colored (food coloring) water, votive candle, matches

Quest Connection

As long as we are obeying God and telling others about Him we are shining brightly, but as soon as we try to hide like Jonah did we begin to drown.

Procedure: Place the candle in the shallow bowl filled with water. Light the candle and sing “This Little Light of Mine” (1 verse). **Look how brightly the candle is shining. I better cover the fire so no one will get burned.** Place the mason jar over the candle and let it rest on the bottom of the shallow bowl. The candle will continue to burn for a few seconds. Air bubbles may come out of the jar and then the candle will burn out, the water in the jar should rise and cover the candle. **I wonder what happened?** Give students time to respond. **The candle was burning fine until we covered it up. It seems to me that we are the same way!**

Close

Should we hide what we know about God or should we obey Him and tell others the Good News? Who can you invite to church this week?

*Go!***Matching Game**

GAME

Materials: Resource Page, scissors

Quest Connection

God has blessed us with many things. Do you think God loves us more than He loves people in other countries that don't have as much as we do? What can we do to help them? For less than \$5, a Bible can be bought for children in Africa.

Procedure: Make two copies of the Resource Page on card stock. Cut pictures apart. Turn all cards face down. Give each child a chance to turn one card over at a time. As they turn the card over they must say what it represents; us, Africa or both. If they have a match when they turn the second card over, they can continue to try and make matches until they miss. The child with the most matching cards is the winner.

Close

What kind of things can we do to help the children of Africa? Let children respond.

Go!

Mud Pie**FOOD: Check for food allergies!****Materials:** 1 bag of Oreo cookies, 1 small box of instant vanilla pudding, 2 cups of milk, 1 small container of cool whip, 1 gallon Zip lock bag for smashing Oreo's, a Mason jar for shaking the pudding, bowl, cake pan, spoons and paper plates

Quest Connection

We are lucky to be able to eat yummy mud pie. In foreign countries many children go to bed hungry and only have muddy, dirty water to drink. We should thank God for all He's given us and pray for foreign missions.

Procedure: Place Oreo's in a gallon Zip lock bag and let children press on them to smash them. Place 2 cups of milk in a Mason jar with 1 box of instant vanilla pudding and shake. Place ½ of crushed Oreo's on the bottom of the cake pan. Save ½ for top. Place mixed pudding in a bowl and stir in cool whip. Pour over crushed Oreos. Pour remaining ½ crushed Oreo's on top. Serve and eat. Let children take turns doing all the mixing and pouring.

Close

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for all we have. Please be with the boys and girls in other countries and help the people who are teaching them! In Jesus' name. amen.

Go!

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Materials:

Quest Connection

Procedure:

Close

Go!

Materials:



Quest Connection

Procedure:



Close

**Resource Page—Show
and Tell**

**Resource Page—
Matching Game**

**Worksheet—Connect
the Dots**

**Worksheet—Coloring
Sheet**

**Worksheet—Learning
About . . .**

Worksheet—Jonah
Praying

Worksheet—Missions

Journal Page

God loves you and has blessed you with a warm house to live in. Draw a picture of your house.

“Be strong and courageous. Be careful to obey” (Joshua 1:7).