



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!



God is love.



God shows
us grace.



God shows
me grace.

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](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources)

Lesson ROADMAP

1

BELONG

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

SEA SENSORY

SUPPLIES: Bin, blue tissue paper, pipe cleaners (1 per kid), tongs

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (15 MINUTES)

JONAH (JONAH 1-4)

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible story cards

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

MEMORY VERSE ROW

SUPPLIES: Memory Verse Song, music player, parachute

4

BECOME

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

GOD GIVES GRACE

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, dot markers (1 per kid), fish stickers (4 per kid)



SEA SENSORY

SUPPLIES:

Bin, blue tissue paper, pipe cleaners (1 per kid), tongs

PREP:

Tear the tissue paper into smaller pieces and place into the bin. Fold the pipe cleaners in half and twist to make a fish shape. Place the fish pipe cleaners into the bin.

LEADER TIP: Provide other ocean animal shapes in the sensory bin.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome everyone! My name is _____. *Greet each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will learn about a man named Jonah who ended up in the sea. Even though he did not follow what God said to do, God showed Jonah love and grace.
2. **Say:** Let's use the tongs to search through the tissue paper and try to find all the fish in the bin.
3. *Lead kids to search through the sensory bin and discover the different colored fish. As kids search, ask them to name other animals that live in the ocean.*
4. **Ask:** Why do you think Jonah ended up in the sea?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

God called Jonah to do something, but Jonah didn't obey. Let's find out how God still showed him grace and if Jonah ended up doing what God said to do.

JONAH

(JONAH 1-4)

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

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!"

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

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

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



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.

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!



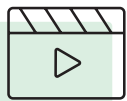
God is love.



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)

**MONTHLY****Memory Verse**

*Great is the LORD, and
greatly to be praised.*

(PSALM 145:3)



MEMORY VERSE ROW

SUPPLIES:

Memory Verse Song, music player,
parachute

PREP:

Lay out the parachute on the ground.

LEADER TIP: If you don't have a parachute, use a bedsheet instead.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned God is love. God showed grace, and many people believed in Him.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Our memory verse teaches us about how great God is and how we should praise Him. Let's all gather together and sit on the parachute. We will pretend the parachute is like a big boat!
2. **Say:** Let's pretend to row the "boat" as we listen to the Memory Verse Song.
3. *Play the Memory Verse Song.*
4. *Lead kids to pretend to row to the beat of the song by wiggling their hands back and forth while holding the parachute.*
5. *Repeat the song and encourage kids to row and sing along.*
6. **Ask:** Is anything greater than God?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

God is greater than everything! We can praise God and learn more about His greatness!



GOD GIVES GRACE

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, dot markers (1 per kid), fish stickers (4 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page on cardstock (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: For a less-messy option, use dot stickers instead.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** God called Jonah to share His message to Nineveh. But Jonah did not do this. God showed grace to Jonah and all the people of Nineveh even though they did not deserve it.
2. **Say:** We can remember the Bible story of Jonah and how God gives grace.
3. **Say:** Let's make a craft to help us remember the amazing grace and kindness that God gives.
4. *Pass out a printable page and a dot marker to each kid.*
5. *Show kids how to use the dot marker to fill in all empty dots on their page. Then pass out fish stickers for kids to finish decorating their picture with.*
6. **Say:** God shows us grace when we mess up, when we yell at our siblings, when we are mean to others or when we do something else that is wrong. God loves us and wants us to know His grace is enough.
7. **Ask:** How can we show others grace?
8. *Write each kid's name on their paper and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did God tell Jonah to do?
- What did Jonah do in the fish?
- Why was Jonah upset?
- How did God show Jonah grace?

**PRAY TOGETHER:**

Dear God, thank You for Your grace. Thank You for Your kindness. Help us to trust in You each day. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3–4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Boat Play:** Provide toy boats for kids to play with as they retell the Bible story.
- **Building Blocks:** Lead kids to build a big city. Share how Jonah was called to tell the people of Nineveh about God.
- **Scarves:** Provide scarves for kids to dance and praise God with. Share that God is greater than anything.

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time, or while waiting for parents.

Say: Jonah tried to run away from God, so he got on a boat. A big storm came, and Jonah was thrown into the sea. But God gave Jonah grace and sent a big fish to keep him safe. Jonah prayed inside the fish, and God heard him. The fish spit out Jonah. Then Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh. God showed grace to the people and to Jonah.



BIG QUESTION

Who is greater than everything? God!