



The Fab Five

Jonah and the Giant Fish

BIG IDEA: God is patient, so we can go to Him for a second chance.

BIBLE BASIS: Jonah 1-3

KEY VERSE: “[The Lord] is patient with you. He doesn’t want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins.” 2 Peter 3:9b (NIRV)

SCHEDULE

ESTIMATES

WELCOME KIDS AND FREETIME

6:15 PM

SMALL GROUP CONNECT

6:30 PM

WORSHIP

6:45 PM

JTS SHOW & DISCUSSION

7:00 PM

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

7:30 PM

GYM TIME?

7:45 PM

PICK UP TIME AND FREETIME

7:55 PM

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

I don't know about you, but I don't like to be told what to do. I make the same mistakes over and over again. I like to call myself "strong-willed," but that is putting it too nobly. The fact is, I am in desperate need of a patient God. I'm guessing you are, too. If you've ever doubted that God could forgive us or is patient with our many mistakes, let this verse bring you peace:

"Instead, he is patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins." 2 Peter 3:9 (NirV)

God is rooting for us to succeed in our walk with Him! He is pulling for us and doesn't want us to suffer the effects of our stubbornness and sin.

As you prepare to lead the kids this week, let God speak into your heart and show you an area of stubbornness and sin. Thank Him for His patience with you as you strive to lead a life that honors Him.

Rebecca Crews
GO! Team Member





SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Praying With a Kid to Become a Christian

There are few things as amazing as praying with a kid to become a Christian, but for some people, the thought of it is terrifying. Questions might swirl through your head. How do I do it? What should I avoid? Is it possible I could mess this thing up? It's understandable that some people might feel nervous about walking a kid through such a huge spiritual milestone, but fear not! By the grace of God, *you can do it!* Here are a few suggestions to help you along the way:

Avoid coercion. Most kids have the desire to please adults. Avoid language that might pressure a kid into a disingenuous decision to follow Jesus. It's okay to present opportunities by asking questions like, "Do you ever think about asking Jesus to be your Savior?" but allow them to reach a conclusion on their own. In other words, lead them towards a decision; don't push them towards one.

Use the ABCs. If a kid has already heard the Gospel and has expressed a desire to become a Christian, explain to them the ABCs of prayer. "A" — Admit you have sinned and ask God for forgiveness. "B" — Believe that God has sent His son, Jesus, to die for your sins. "C" — Choose to follow Jesus and make Him the leader of your life.

Prompt the child in prayer. It's important that the salvation prayer comes from the heart of the child. Instead of having a kid repeat the prayer after you, provide prompts and let them do the praying. For example, begin by opening the prayer, but then prompt the kid to "admit" he's sinned and ask God for forgiveness. Pause for the kid to say his own prayer and then prompt him through "believe" and "choose."

Celebrate! This is the greatest decision anyone could ever make and it's worth celebrating! Let him know that all of heaven is rejoicing over his decision. If the kid doesn't have a Bible yet, you might consider buying one for him as a celebration gift. Be sure to share the news with the leaders in your room or any other people who are important in the life of the child.

3.3 WN Small Group Lesson | Elementary



SMALL GROUP CONNECT

Remind kids about being respectful.

1. **Respect God** - Worship, listen, use kind words
2. **Respect People** - Be kind, share, follow leaders
3. **Respect the Building** - Take care of the space & supplies

Question: If you were going to spend 3 days in the belly of a giant fish, what is one thing you would want to bring with you?

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY — THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

Lil Climbers Will Join Us

Open with worship.

Lil Climbers Leave

Leah will introduce the series.

Watch Journey Today Show – There are 3 sections that will pause a couple times for reading and discussion.

1ST VIDEO PAUSE:

Read Jonah 1:1-17

THE BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

Directions: After reading, answer the following questions:

For Younger Kids:

1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
2. Why do you think God was so patient with Jonah and with Nineveh?

For Older Kids:

1. What does this story teach you about God?
2. Why do you think God gave Jonah a second chance instead of finding someone else to go to Nineveh?

2ND VIDEO PAUSE:

Ask: Why do you think God is so patient with you? Also, do you give people a second chance when they sin against you?



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

THE BIG WHALE FAIL (Application Activity)

Say: We all miss the mark sometimes — that’s called sin. In our story for today, Jonah and the people of Nineveh both missed the mark *big time*! But God was patient and gave them a second chance to turn away from sin. We’re going to do an activity right now that will help us see how hard it is to stay on the right path when we’re focused on sin.

Directions: Give each kid a “Jonah’s Giant Fish (Whale Fail)” outline drawing along with a marker. Tell them to study the picture for a moment. The object is for the kids to trace the outline of the fish without messing up or coloring off of the line. But as with all good fish stories — there’s a catch! The kids will have to do it without looking. When ready, have them place their marker somewhere on the outline of the fish. Hold up the sign that says, “Sin.” Tell the kids that they have to keep their eyes on the “Sin” sign while tracing the outline of the fish. Kids may *not* look where they are drawing. When they think they’re finished, allow them to look down and show each other how they did. No one will be able to trace the outline without messing up. Next, tell the kids that you have good news — they get a second chance. Allow the kids to do it again, but this time they can turn away from the “Sin” sign and keep their eyes on the drawing while they trace it. When finished, ask the kids how they did the second time.

Say: When you were focused on the “Sin” sign, it was impossible for you to trace the drawing perfectly. But then I gave you a second chance. And when you turned away from the “Sin” sign, you were able to focus on the drawing and stay on the lines.

Question: How is that kind of like following God?

Say: God gives us a path to follow — He tells us what is right and wrong. But when we’re focused on sin, it’s impossible to stay on His path. Fortunately, when we mess up, God gives us a second chance. And when we turn away from sin, like Jonah and the people of Nineveh did, we’re able to follow God and stay on the right path.

Question: When is a time that God gave you a second chance to do the right thing?

Question: In the story, God did *big* things through Jonah when he turned away from sin. What kind of *big* things do you think God might want to do through you if you keep your eyes on Him?