

NVC 2-4's | W4

Bible Story: Jonah • Jonah 1-3:3

PRESCHOOL TIMETABLE

FREE PLAY (10 Minutes)

Set out simple toys and puzzles. Welcome kids as they arrive.

MOVE ACTIVITY (5 Minutes)

Do a short, fun movement activity.

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 Minutes)

Lead kids in singing. Encourage them to join in.

BIBLE STORY (15 Minutes)

Tell the Bible story clearly and simply.

MEMORY VERSE (5 Minutes)

Say the verse together and practice the motions. Repeat a few times to help kids remember.

CREATE ACTIVITY (5 Minutes)

Help kids complete a simple craft that connects to the Bible Story.

SNACK TIME (5 Minutes)

Pray before eating. Watch for allergies.

HOME TIME (5 Minutes)

Help kids take their craft. Please make sure the child's tag matches the parent's tag before dismissal.



Bible Story

Jonah • Jonah 1-3:3

Key Question

Who is always with you?

Bottom Line

God is always with me.

Memory Verse

"God is with you wherever you go." • Joshua 1:9
NLT

5 min

Move Activity

5 min

Big Fish, Little Fish

What You Need

 "Big Fish, Little Fish" Activity Page Several

 Blue plastic tablecloths Several

Providing time for fun interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

Print "Big Fish, Little Fish" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group. Spread the two tablecloths/sheets/towels on the floor across from the room from each other. Place the small fish cutouts on one tablecloth/sheet/towel and the big fish on the other tablecloth/sheet/towel.

During the Activity:

Encourage children to go to the small fish "water" and pick a fish. Ask them to run over to the big fish "water" and find its match. Once a match is made, ask children to stack their little fish on top of their big fish. Continue until all the little fish are matched to the big fish.

After the Activity:

Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

"Come on over, friends! Today, I want us to play a fish matching game."

During the Activity:

"In our story today, we'll hear how God sent a BIG fish to help a man named Jonah. Look at all the big fish in our water! (Point to the big fish.) Now look over here! (Point to the little fish.) This water is full of little fish! Your job is to take one little fish, carry it over, and find its big fish match. [Child's name], you picked a little [color] fish! Go find the big [color] fish. (Allow time to look and find the match.) Hooray! You found the match! Stack the little fish on top and run back and pick a new fish to match. (Continue until all the fish are matched.) Yay! We matched all the fish!"

After the Activity:

"You found a match for every single fish! That was amazing! Today, in our true story from the Bible, we are going to hear about a REALLY BIG fish! Let's go hear all about it!"

5 min

Worship

LEADER: "Hi, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm so happy to see you! Today we're going on a great adventure! Everyone, let's get in our pretend boat!"

(Hold imaginary sides of a boat.)

"Let's row together... row, row, row!"
(Pretend to row)

"Oh no... the wind is blowing!"
(Make soft wind sounds)

5 min

Amazing Music

What You Need

No supplies needed

15 min

Bible Story

10 min

Wonder Bible Story (Video)

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Let's rock our boat side to side..."\
(Sway gently)

"Uh-oh! The storm is getting bigger! Hold on tight!"\
(Sway a little bigger)

"And... stop! The water is calm again."

"Today we'll hear a true story about a big storm, a boat, and a man named Jonah, and we'll learn that we can always talk to God because God is always with us!"

"Before the story, let's worship our God with all our heart!"

AMAZING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADER: "Let's serve the Lord and sing this song out together!"

Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

What You Say:

PRAYER

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You that we can talk to You anytime—when we're happy, when we're sad, and even when we're scared. Help us remember that You always hear us. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

What You Say:

"Great singing, friends! Now let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!"

(Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, and on Pinterest.)

"'God (point up) is with you (point to self) wherever you go' (march in place). Joshua 1:9 (open hands like a book).

"Can you do that with me?

(Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.)

"Great job, friends! God is with us everywhere we go! Let's continue to worship together!

SONG: "Come and Go with Me" Preschool Video is available on APlay with Amazing Music.

"Thanks for celebrating God with me!"

(To extend your worship time, we have provided additional songs by Yancy: "Coat of Many Colors," "I Will Pray," and "The B-I-B-L-E.")

5 min

Create Activity

5 min

Jonah's Journey Move-Along

What You Need

	"Jonah's Journey Move-Along" Activity Page	1
	"Jonah Cutout" Activity Page	1
	Crayons or washable markers	Several
	Yarn	Several
	Hole punch	1
	Scissors	1
	Permanent marker	Several

Creating a safe place to connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Jonah's Journey Move-Along" on cardstock, one per child. Print "Jonah Cutout" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child. Punch a hole at the top left-hand side of each child's "Jonah's Journey Move-Along." Punch a hole at the top of each child's "Jonah Cutout." Cut yarn in 16-inch lengths, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their pictures, then help attach their Jonah to their paper. Demonstrate how to move Jonah around in the big picture.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come on over, friends! Our Bible story today is about Jonah and a very big adventure. We're going to help move Jonah to all the places he went in the story!"

During the Activity: "Let's start at the beginning. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah went the wrong way! Let's move Jonah to the boat. (Guide children to move Jonah to the boat.) Jonah got on a boat and sailed away from where God told him to go. Oh no! A big storm came! The wind was blowing and the waves were crashing! Jonah was sleeping. Can you help wake him up? Say, wake up, Jonah! (With children) Wake

Extra Move Activity

Jonah's Parachute Journey | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Parachute
-  Ball pit ball

1
1

up, Jonah! The storm kept getting worse, so Jonah was thrown into the water. Now let's move Jonah to the big fish. *(Guide children.)* God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah to keep him safe. Was God with Jonah? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes! While Jonah was inside the fish, he prayed and talked to God. We can talk to God anytime, too! After three days, the fish spit Jonah out. Then God told Jonah to go to Nineveh again. This time, Jonah obeyed! Let's move Jonah to Nineveh. *(Guide children.)* Jonah went where God told him to go. Was God with Jonah there too? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes!"

After the Activity: "You did such a great job helping Jonah on his journey! Jonah went on a boat, into a big fish, and all the way to Nineveh. And everywhere he went, God was with him. Jonah talked to God, and we can talk to God too. You can pray and talk to God wherever you go because God is always with you! **Who is always with you? [Bottom Line] God is always with me.**"

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Jonah's Parachute Journey" on label paper, one sticker per Small Group. Place one sticker on a ball pit ball. Spread out the parachute on the floor.

During the Activity: Use the parachute and ball pit ball to retell the story.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Grab the edge of the parachute and lift it high. Look, here's Jonah! *(Put the ball pit ball on the parachute.)* Let's rock the parachute back and forth. *(Pause.)* A big storm came! Rock, rock, rock! *(Gently rock the parachute back and forth.)* The storm was so big that Jonah told the men in the boat to throw him into the water. Let's throw Jonah out! When I say three, we'll bop him off the parachute. Ready? One, two, three ... BOP! *(Bop the ball off the parachute.)* Oh no! Where did he go? *(Point to the ball.)* There he is! But God was with Jonah and He sent a big fish to swallow Jonah up! Let's make our parachute the big fish! Stand up! We have to scoop Jonah up! Ready? One, two, three ... SCOOP! *(Scoop the ball up so it's under the parachute.)* Jonah was in the fish for three whole days! Let's count to three. One ... two ... three! Then the fish spit him out! Everyone, lift up the parachute! *(Lift the parachute high.)* There he is! Now Jonah was ready to do what God said. Jonah needed to go to Nineveh. Let's help him get there! *(Put the ball on top of the parachute.)* Let's shake the parachute and make Jonah travel all the way to Nineveh! *(Gently shake the parachute to move the ball to the other side.)* We did it!"

Prayer

After the Activity: "You helped Jonah get all the way to Nineveh! What a wild ride! Jonah was on a boat, in a storm, and even inside a fish! But no matter where he was, God was with him. God was always with Jonah everywhere he went, and God is always with us too. **Who is always with you? [Bottom Line] God is always with me.**"

"Dear God, thank You that we can always talk to You. Thank You that You hear us when we are playing, when we are eating, and when we are going to bed. Thank You for being with us wherever we go. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Supplies

Big Fish, Little Fish

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | "Big Fish, Little Fish" Activity Page | Several |
| 2. | Blue plastic tablecloths | Several |

Jonah's Journey Move-Along

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | "Jonah's Journey Move-Along" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. | "Jonah Cutout" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. | Crayons or washable markers | Several |
| 4. | Yarn | Several |
| 5. | Hole punch | 1 |
| 6. | Scissors | 1 |
| 7. | Permanent marker | Several |

Jonah's Parachute Journey | Made to Move

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1. | Parachute | 1 |
| 2. | Ball pit ball | 1 |