

Unit 14, Session 1

Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh

Jonah

Story Point: God loves all people and showed mercy to the Ninevites.

God told Jonah, "Go to the great city of Nineveh. Tell them to stop doing evil things." Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. He got on a boat heading the other way! God sent a terrible storm, and the sailors were afraid. The sailors asked Jonah, "Who are you? What are you doing here?"

Jonah replied, "I worship the one true God who made everything." The sailors did not know what to do, so Jonah told them to throw him into the sea. When they did, the storm stopped.

God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah prayed and thanked God for sending the fish to save him. Then the fish vomited Jonah onto dry land.

God told Jonah, "Go to Nineveh and preach My message." So Jonah went into the city shouting: "In 40 days, Nineveh will be destroyed!" The people turned from their evil ways. The king repented. God decided not to destroy Nineveh.

"I knew it!" Jonah said. "You are a gracious God. I knew You would decide to not destroy Nineveh. I am so mad!"

"Is it right for you to be angry?" God asked.

"Yes!" Jonah said.

God said, "Nineveh is a big city with thousands of people. I created them and care about them."

Christ Connection: God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. Later, God sent Jesus to His enemies to call us to repentance. Jesus willingly obeyed. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.



The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

• Unscramble these key words from today's Bible story:

NHOJA	CERMY
HISF	PRETEN
HEEVNNI	GRANY

• What does this story teach us about God?

• How is Jesus greater than Jonah?

## **CHRIST CONNECTION**

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• Why did Jonah try to run away from God?

• Why can it be hard to love people who are unkind or unloving to us? How does that help you understand what Jesus did for us?

• Is there anyone too sinful for God to forgive?

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• Find 2 Peter 3:9 in your Bible and write the words below.

• Write a prayer to God, thanking God for making the way for us to turn from our sin and turn to Him through Jesus.

## **READ THE WORD**

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

Psalm 145:8

□ James 2:12-13

Romans 12:14

Proverbs 14:21

□ 1 John 1:9

Luke 5:31-32