

# Lesson 10

## Jonah and the Big Fish

**Bible Lesson:** Jonah 1:1 – 3:10

**Memory Verse:** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? *Psalm 27:1*

### TEACHER PREPARATION

#### Prepare to Teach:

- ◆ that God knows where we are at all times
- ◆ that God saved Jonah from the big fish
- ◆ that God takes care of His people

#### Prepare Materials:

- ◆ sea captain's outfit (optional)
- ◆ ship decorations

- ◆ tape of recorded waves and other sea sounds
- ◆ scarves and bandanas – 1 each per child
- ◆ variety of swimming equipment
- ◆ variety of sea pictures
- ◆ variety of fish pictures
- ◆ map of the ancient Babylonian Empire
- ◆ Bible verse written on large piece of paper
- ◆ pictures of Jonah and the Big Fish

### BIBLE BACKGROUND

To be added.

### BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

#### Welcome with Love

If you have the resources, dress as a sea captain. Use a seaman's voice as you greet the children. As much as possible, decorate the room to look like a ship (e.g. ropes, anchor, a captain's wheel, sails, waves, life jacket, life donut, compass, spy glass). If available, play a tape with recorded waves and sea and other sounds. Greet each child as they enter the room. Tell the children that they are now aboard the Great Ship, Blue Whale. Ask each child if they have ever been on a ship before and if so what it was like. As you talk to the children, tie a scarf around their waists and a bandana on their heads. The children are now crew members of the Blue Whale. Have a variety of swimming equipment on the table, a variety of ship pictures, and a variety of fish pictures. Let the children observe the items and pictures. Let them quietly discuss the items among themselves. If they start talking about their swimming, fish, and/or ship

adventures, ask them to wait for a few minutes to continue their stories. Tell the children that they are going on a sea adventure today.

#### Use a Learning Center

##### REVIEW CENTER

**ASK** some of the following questions for review. Use the objects and pictures in the room for visual references.

- ◆ Who created the heavens and the earth? (GOD)
- ◆ In whose image were we created? (GOD'S)
- ◆ Who was the first man? Woman? (ADAM AND EVE)
- ◆ Why did they have to leave the Garden of Eden? (THEY DISOBEYED GOD. THEY SINNED.)
- ◆ Recite the Bible verse from Lessons 1, 2 and 3. Genesis 1:1

- ◆ Who was Noah? (HE WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN WHO FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD.)
- ◆ Why did God tell Noah to build an ark? (GOD WAS GOING TO SEND A GREAT FLOOD BECAUSE OF THE SINFULNESS OF MAN. GOD WANTED NOAH, HIS FAMILY, AND THE ANIMALS TO BE SAFE DURING THE FLOOD.)
- ◆ Why is there a rainbow in the sky after it rains? (GOD PUT IT IN THE SKY AS A REMINDER THAT HE WILL NEVER SEND SUCH A GREAT FLOOD AGAIN.)
- ◆ Who was Moses? (THE MAN GOD HAD LEAD THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT.)
- ◆ What did God do at the Red Sea? (HE PARTED THE RED SEA SO THE PEOPLE COULD CROSS ON DRY LAND.)
- ◆ What happened to the Egyptians? (GOD CAUSED THE WATER TO FALL ON THEM AND THE WHOLE ARMY WAS DESTROYED.)
- ◆ What happened at Jericho? (GOD CAUSED THE WALLS TO FALL DOWN.)
- ◆ Why did the walls fall down? (THE PEOPLE OBEYED GOD AND DID WHAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD TO DO. THEY WALKED AROUND THE WALLS AND SHOUTED.)
- ◆ Who was Joshua? (HE WAS THE LEADER OF GOD'S PEOPLE AFTER MOSES.)
- ◆ Recite the Bible verse from Lessons 4, 5 and 6. Exodus 14:13
- ◆ Who did David fight? (A GIANT, GOLIATH)
- ◆ What did David use to fight Goliath? (A SLING AND STONES)
- ◆ Who was Elijah? (HE WAS A MAN OF GOD NOT LIKED BY THE KING OF ISRAEL.)
- ◆ What fed Elijah while he was by the Brook of Cherith? (A RAVEN)
- ◆ Where did God tell Elijah to go after the Brook of Cherith dried up? (TO THE CITY OF ZAREPHATH - THERE HE WOULD MEET A WIDOW WHO WOULD GIVE HIM FOOD.)
- ◆ Did the Widow of Zarephath have much food? (NO. SHE ONLY HAD ENOUGH OIL AND FLOUR TO MAKE ONE MORE LOAF OF BREAD.)

- ◆ Did the flour run out or the jar of oil the Widow had go empty? (NO. GOD DID NOT LET THEM RUN OUT UNTIL HE SENT RAIN ON THE EARTH.)
- ◆ What happened to the Widow's son? (HE BECAME SICK AND DIED.)
- ◆ Did he stay dead? (NO. ELIJAH PRAYED TO GOD, AND THE SON CAME BACK TO LIFE.)
- ◆ What did the Widow do when she saw her son was alive? (SHE BELIEVED IN THE LORD AND PRAISED HIM.)
- ◆ Recite the Bible verse from Lessons 7, 8 & 9. Isaiah 41:13

### **SEA CENTER**

Have the sea music playing in the background and pretend that the class is on a ship at sea. Have a sea discussion. Let the children look at the various items and ship pictures around the room and on the table. Talk about the different items and what they are used for. If possible, demonstrate how some of the items were/are used.

Have the children find the items used for swimming. Let the children tell their swimming stories. Ask them if they know how to swim. Ask them if they think they could swim across the big ocean.

Look at the fish pictures. Discuss the different looks, colors, and sizes of the fish. Ask the children if they have ever been fishing. Let the children tell their fishing adventures.

Tell the children that if they were on a ship they would be in the ocean. Explain that the ocean is very, very big and very, very deep. Tell them that very large fish, such as whales live in the ocean. Tell them that these fish are much bigger than they are. Ask if any of the children have seen in big fish in real life, like at a zoo, water show, or a large aquarium. Ask the children if any of them have fish at home and if it is a whale.

Ask the children what would happen if a big storm came up around the ship. Discuss what would happen to the ship (could be destroyed) and to those aboard the ship (could be drowned). Talk about what it would be like to be on a ship in a sea storm: the crashing waves, the tossing and tipping, the splashing water. Ask the children if they would want to be on a ship during a storm. Ask the children

what would happen if the ship was shipwrecked.

Tell the children that in their lesson today, they will be on a ship during a storm. The crew on the ship knew they would be

shipwrecked. What were they going to do? Tell them that there was one man on board who in today's lesson would get to know a big fish very well. Ask them if they are ready to go on this adventure.

## TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

### Sing the Message

**SING** "*Amazing Grace*" p.578 Ambassador Hymnal. Tell the story behind the writing of this hymn and the person who wrote it. John Newton (1725-1807) is the writer of this hymn. He left school when he was eleven to become a seaman. Eventually he became part of the slave trade. (You may want to explain the slave trade briefly.) One day there was a great storm. John Newton was very scared and fearful of a shipwreck. During the storm, he started to read a book about God (*The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a'Kempis.) God used this book to lead John Newton to Jesus. He became a Christian and a pastor. He wrote many hymns. "*Amazing Grace*" tells how all men are sinners and are lost, separated from God, but God has provided a way of salvation through Jesus. Even though as sinners we all deserve death, God has been gracious to us. Grace is receiving something we do not deserve. As sinners we deserve death, but through faith in Jesus we receive the gift of grace – eternal life.

**SING** the hymn again.

### Pray the Message

- ◆ Thank God for His mercy and grace.
- ◆ Thank God for providing salvation through Jesus.
- ◆ Thank God for His Word and the lessons we learn from it.
- ◆ Thank God for His almighty power and for His ability to know all (omniscience).
- ◆ Pray for open hearts and minds to hear His word.

### Learn the New Words

You can either introduce these words before reading the Bible lesson and/or highlight them as the lesson is read. Ask and explain the meaning as you come to them in the lesson.

**Nineveh** an ancient city in Babylon during Bible times that was very wicked

**repent** to turn away from sin

### Introduce the Message

**OPEN** your Bible to the lesson text. It is important that the children know the lessons are true and they come from the Bible.

**SHOW** the children a map of the Ancient Babylonian Empire. Point out the cities of Nineveh and Joppa and the Mediterranean Sea.

**TELL** the children to get their sea legs ready because they are now heading out to sea from a city called Joppa. The ship is headed for the distant port of Tarshish. There is an Israelite aboard the ship whose name is Jonah. He is sleeping inside the ship. He doesn't know a storm is coming.

**ASK** the children if they are ready to hear about what happens to the ship and to the man named Jonah.

### Read/Tell the Message

#### *JONAH AND THE BIG FISH*

*See student leaflets.*

### Reinforce the Message

**ASK** some of the following questions:

- ◆ What did God tell Jonah to do? (JONAH WAS TO GO TO NINEVEH AND WARN THE PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN.)
- ◆ Did Jonah go to Nineveh? (NO)
- ◆ What did Jonah do? (HE TRIED TO RUN AWAY FROM GOD BY GETTING ON A BIG BOAT GOING AWAY FROM NINEVEH.)
- ◆ Did God know where Jonah was at? (YES)

- ◆ What did God send while Jonah was on the boat? (A TERRIBLE STORM)
- ◆ What did Jonah tell the sailors about the storm? (THE STORM WAS BECAUSE OF HIS DISOBEYING GOD. HE TOLD THE SAILORS TO THROW HIM INTO THE SEA.)
- ◆ What happened to the sea after the sailors threw Jonah into the sea? (THE STORM STOPPED.)
- ◆ Jonah prayed as he was in the sea. What did God do to save Jonah? (HE SENT A BIG FISH TO SWALLOW HIM.)
- ◆ How many days and nights was Jonah in the stomach of the fish? (THREE)
- ◆ What did Jonah do while in the fish's stomach? (HE PRAYED TO GOD.)
- ◆ How did Jonah get back on dry land? (GOD MADE THE FISH VOMIT JONAH UP!)
- ◆ What did God tell Jonah to do after he was saved from drowning? (GO TO NINEVEH.)
- ◆ Did Jonah go? (YES)
- ◆ Did the people of Nineveh listen? (YES. THEY REPENTED AND BELIEVED IN THE ONE TRUE GOD.)

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Memorize the Bible Verse

**WRITE** the Bible verse out on a large piece of paper and hang on the wall before class. Place pictures of Jonah and the Big Fish next to the Bible verse.

**SAY** the Bible verse for the children, pointing to each word on the paper. Have the children say the verse with you.

**ASK** the children who is the light and the salvation, and who is the defender of life. Ask the children what it means to be saved. Ask the children if they have anything to fear. Tell them that they don't because God promises to take care of them and protect them. Nothing done to them on this earth can separate them from God. If they are God's children, they will live with Him in eternity.

**RECITE** the verse. Ask the children whose life did God defend in today's story.

**RECITE** the verse.

### Do the Activities Together

#### *ACTIVITY 1 - LEAFLET – What Happened to Jonah?*

Talk about the four pictures that show the story of Jonah and discuss what is happening in each one. Ask the children which picture happened first and help them trace over the number "1." Then ask what happened next and continue through all four pictures. Ask one of the children to retell the story of Jonah using the four pictures.

#### *ACTIVITY 2 - A Whale of a Tale*

Draw the outline of a big fish on a large piece of paper for each child. Print the memory verse above the fish outline. Have each student draw Jonah inside the fish, kneeling in prayer to God. Ask the children why Jonah is in the belly of the big fish or whale and talk about what he doing (calling to God for help). Recite the memory verse together. Let the children color the picture.

## CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Teach and Sing

**SING** all three verses to the theme hymn.

**SING** the first stanza of "Amazing Grace." Ask the children who received God's grace, something not deserved, in today's story. Ask the children how God saved Jonah.

### Memory Verse Review

**RECITE** the memory verse one more time before the children leave. Point to the verse on the wall. Help them when it is needed. Ask the children whose life God defended in today's lesson.

**Pray Together**

**ASK** the children to each name a great thing God has done. Focus on the lessons from the quarter. Have the children get ready to pray. Thank God for His mighty power and for all the great things He has done. Thank God that He provides salvation for His people, and that

He is the defender of life. Thank God for His Word that helps us learn more about Him. Thank God for His creation and for creating each of the children in the classroom. Thank God for Jesus. Amen.

**SING** the first verse of “*God Is So Good*” p.57 Little Ones Sing Praise.

**PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK****Gather and Prepare Materials****Prepare Lesson 11**

*Begin your study and preparation with prayer.*

*Pray for each student daily by name.*

*Read the Bible text* (Daniel 3:1-30) and student lesson.

*Review the Bible verse:*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? *Psalms 27:1*

*Read the Teacher Manual.*

Highlight, underline, and add your own notes for teaching the class session.