

Sunday School Family Sheet: Only the Best!

Sunday, May 16, 2021

This sheet is for an adult member of the home to use as a guide for discussing the Sunday School Bible lesson with children.

For this lesson:

You will need either:

- 1) a Bible, or
- 2) 365 Bible Stories and Prayers

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(Call the church office 9715-848-7286 for help getting one)

1. Read and Talk. Read aloud Jonah 1-4 or pp. 158-161 in 365 Bible Stories and Prayers.

Before reading aloud, share the following: “Today we hear about another prophet, Jonah. However, Jonah didn’t really want to do the work of being a prophet. Unlike Elisha, Jonah tried to run away from God’s work for him. Jonah tried to run, but God wouldn’t let him get away so easily. Jonah was swallowed by a big fish! In the belly of the fish Jonah came to realize how powerful God was and how important his work as a prophet was too. Through his preaching a whole city was saved from the judgment of God. Jonah still had a lot to learn, but God’s good work was done all the same!” Then ask the children to keep these questions in mind as you read. ***After reading, go over the answers and guide them towards the answers here:***

- a. Where did God want Jonah to go? Where did Jonah try going to?
(Jonah was to go to the wicked city of Nineveh. However, Jonah went in the exact opposite direction by trying to sail towards Spain.)
- b. How did the storm finally calm down? *(The storm calmed down once the sailors threw Jonah overboard – what Jonah wanted them to do!)*
- c. How did God rescue Jonah? *(He sent a big fish to swallow Jonah to save him from drowning in the sea.)*
- d. How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish? *(Jonah was stuck in the belly of the big fish for three days. After three days the fish spit him out!)*

2. Teach. After you’ve talked a bit, share these or similar thoughts: The story of Jonah can teach us many things. One is that God will accomplish His purposes with willing or unwilling servants, like Jonah. Another important point is that God wants all people to repent and become believers, even wicked people like the people of Nineveh. One final important point is how God can teach us many things, like how wonderful is His love and mercy, even if we don’t always understand why He is so loving and merciful. We see His love and mercy especially on display on the cross where Jesus died for our sin.

3. Pray. Have the children cross themselves and say, “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Also, lead them in this prayer: “Lord God, sometimes there are things you want us to do that we just don’t want to. Forgive us when we are so difficult. Like you did for Jonah, show us the better way. Help us to keep first things first since in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have already given us the best. Victorious over sin and death that first Easter morning, we too are victors with Jesus, your Son. Amen.”