



OVERVIEW

2s & 3s	Dock 1	Dock 2	Dock 3	Dock 4	Dock 5
Title	Overboard: Jonah Runs from God	In the Sea: Jonah Thanks God	On the Lifeboat: Nineveh Receives God's Mercy	Against the Wind: Jonah Is Angry at God	From the Lighthouse: Jesus Shows God's Mercy
References	Jonah 1:1–16	Jonah 1:17—2:10	Jonah 3:1–10	Jonah 4:1–11	Luke 23:33–46; 24:1–12
Focus	God's leading is always best for us.	God's rescuing work is the answer to our greatest needs.	God's compassion and mercy are worth sharing.	God's desires should be our desires.	God offers us His mercy through Jesus' death and resurrection
Bible Verse	"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy" (Ps. 103:8).				
Snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple-n-Cheese Boats • "O" Is for Obedience • Jonah Overboard! • Stormy Waves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Fish Banana • God's Love and Mercy Cookies • In the Sea Cups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonah on the Beach • Hit the Trail, Jonah! • Fruit Folks • Pretzel Fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crab Croissants • Cookie Clams and Pearls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celery Boats • Mercy for You and Me Cookies • Mercy Meltaways

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Joshua Mason, Creative Manager • King James Version

2s & 3s

TEACHER BOOK



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OVERBOARD JONAH RUNS FROM GOD

Jonah 1:1–16

DOCK
1

TOPIC

Following God's direction

THEME

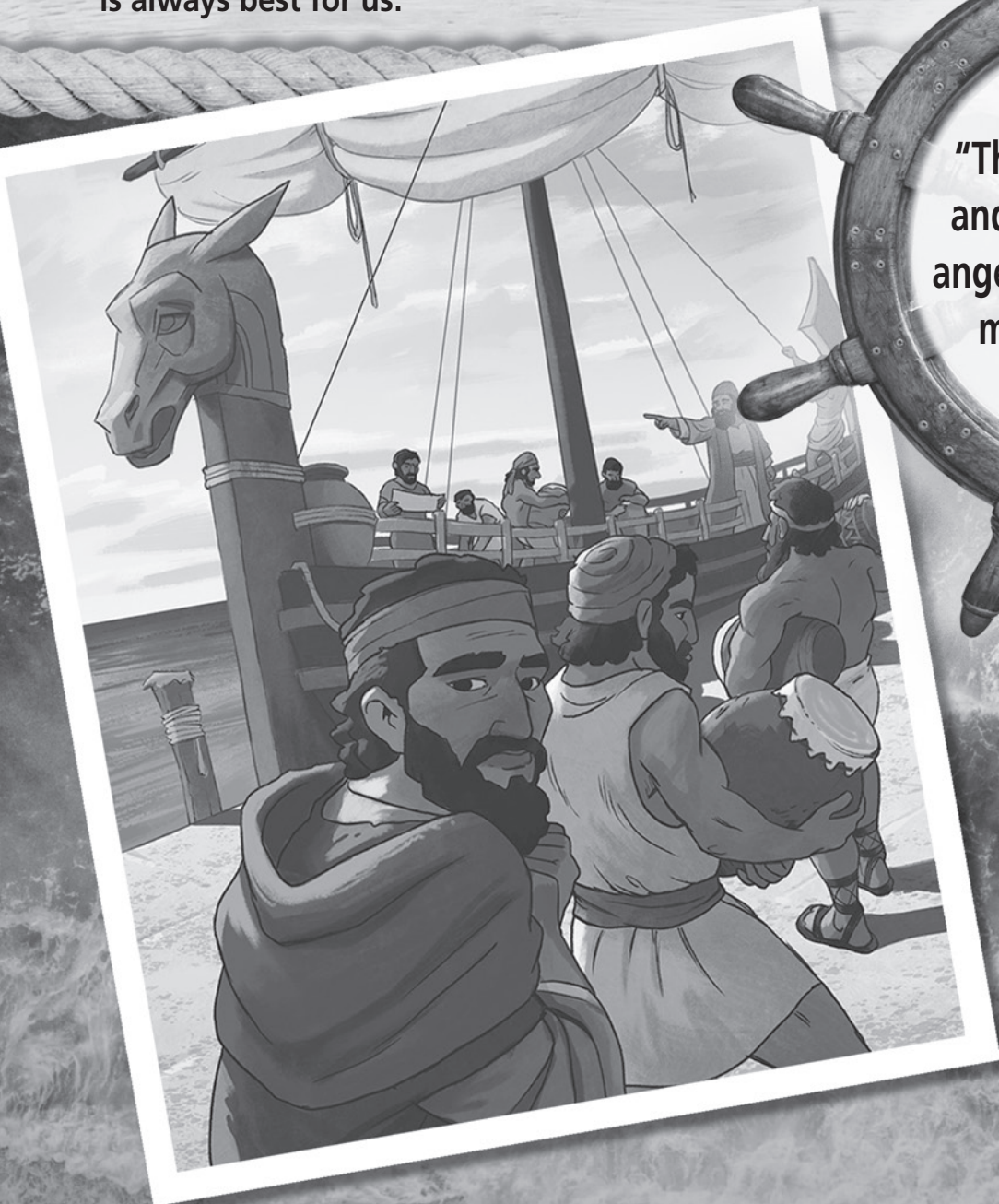
God's leading is always best for us.

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Students will realize that God's direction is best, so they need to follow Him.

BIBLE VERSE

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy" (Ps. 103:8).



- Smile, greet, and get to know each student. Kneel and make eye contact when you speak with a student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (32433).
- Help each child record attendance on the attendance chart (32432).

Teacher Tip ►

Be sure never to leave children unsupervised near water, and to empty out the tote immediately after use.

Teacher Tip ►

Clip art can be used for several activities during this lesson and in other lessons. Laminate if desired to make it more durable.



Option 1: Science Center—What Floats?

Materials

- Clear, shallow tote, such as an under-the-bed tote; towel; water; various toys and objects for testing whether they will sink or float; aluminum foil; clip art from the decorating CD of the Director Resource CD set (32402); scissors.

Before class: Print several full-color images of boats from the decorating CD. Place a towel on a table in front of the room. Place the tote on the table and fill the bottom with water. Cut approximately 12" of aluminum foil and form it into a boat shape. Make sure to have an indentation in the middle.

DISPLAY: Show pictures of boats. **SAY:** Boats come in all shapes and sizes. They help us get from one side of water to the other side. Boats float on top of the water. What other things float on the water? **ACTIVITY:** Have kids stand around the table and take turns experimenting to find out which items float and which items sink to the bottom.

Option 2: Boat Rides

Materials

- Totes, laundry baskets, or cardboard boxes.

Before class: Gather laundry baskets, totes, or cardboard boxes. Be sure they are large and sturdy enough for little ones to sit in and that you have one for each child.

It's a wonderful day for a boat ride! Let's pretend we are going to sail on the sea today!

ACTIVITY: Encourage children to pretend that they are sailors, sailing their boats out on the ocean. As children play, ask them to pretend to see fish in the water, a dolphin jumping in the waves, and seagulls flying in the sky.

Option 3: Find the Boats

Materials

- Clip art from the decorating CD of the Director Resource CD set (32402); scissors.

Before class: Print various full-color animals and three seagulls from the clip art. Hide the creatures around the room so that little ones can find them easily.

ACTIVITY: Say the following rhyme with the children.

God made the animals, playing by the sea, *(Move arms as if playing.)*
 Red, blue, yellow, green, *(Hold a finger up for each color.)*
 So many to see! *(Place hand above your eyes and look around.)*

God made the seagulls, flying over the sea. *(Place arms out to the side as if flying.)*

Let's find them and count them, *(Stand up.)*

One, two, three! *(Clap as you say the numbers.)*

ACTIVITY: Have kids search around the room to find the hidden creatures. Once they have been found, count them out loud, and encourage the kids to repeat the numbers after you.



INTRODUCTION

Materials

- Clip art of a sailboat from the decorating CD of the Director Resource CD set (32402).

ACTIVITY: Have children complete the following action rhyme along with you before the lesson. Teach children the sign for “love” before beginning.

Let's go on a sailboat; *(Hold up a picture of a sailboat.)*

Let's ride the waves. *(Move your arm in front of you to make the motion of waves.)*

First we have to climb aboard. *(Have kids pretend to climb onto a boat.)*

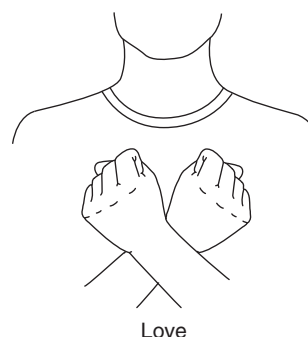
We did it. Hooray! *(Clap your hands.)*

Let's go on a sailboat; *(Hold up picture of a sailboat.)*

Let's go out to sea! *(Pretend to row a boat.)*

Let's learn about Jonah's life *(Hold hands open as if you were holding a book.)*

And how God loves you and me. *(Make the sign for “love.”)*



EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (32407) or visual book PowerPoint download (32407EB); blue blankets or sheets; brown blanket or sheet; small table fan; spray bottle filled with water.

Before class: Lay blue blankets in the middle of the story area of the classroom. Place a brown blanket in the center of the blue blankets. The blue blankets represent the “sea,” and the brown blanket represents the boat Jonah took to sail away from Nineveh. (Use as many blankets as necessary for the size of your group.)

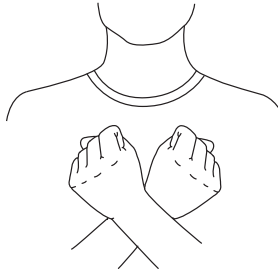
ACTIVITY: Open your Bible in front of you. **SAY:** Today's true story comes from the Bible, God's Word. **PRAY:** Briefly ask God to help children listen as you teach them from the Bible. **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1. Point to Jonah.

◀ Teacher Tip

Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.

Teacher Tip ►

If blue blankets are not available, you can also use one blanket for the boat and have kids pretend the floor is the sea.



Love



Lesson 1 Visual 1



Lesson 1 Visual 2

Jonah was a prophet. That means God chose Jonah to tell other people what God wanted them to do. One day, God told Jonah, “Jonah, go to Nineveh and tell them My very important message.”

God wanted Jonah to tell them His message because God loved the people of Nineveh. God made all things, and He made the people of Nineveh. God made you too, and God loves you! (*Have children make the sign for “love.”*)

But Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. (*Have children shake their heads no.*) He did not want to tell them God’s message. The people in Nineveh were not kind. They did not love God, and they did mean things to people. Did Jonah obey God? NO! Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah got on a boat.

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1. Point to Jonah.

ACTIVITY: Have children stand and move to the “sea.” Have them pretend to climb into a boat as they sit down on the brown blanket.

Jonah got on a boat that was going far, far, FAR away from Nineveh. (*Have children hold hands above their eyes.*) Poor Jonah! He would be on the boat for a long, long time. Jonah felt the boat move back and forth, back and forth.

ACTIVITY: Have children sway back and forth on their “boat.”

Soon Jonah grew sleepy, and Jonah fell fast asleep.

ACTIVITY: Have children yawn, put their heads on their hands, and pretend to fall asleep. **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2.

While Jonah was sleeping, God sent a powerful storm. God is the Creator. He made everything, and He is in charge of the sunshine, rain, and storms.

ACTIVITY: Have workers gently spray water and blow the fan.

The sailors tried to sail in the storm, but the waves were getting higher and higher. The sailors began to throw things overboard. They were trying to make the ship lighter so that it would not sink.

ACTIVITY: Have kids pretend to be the sailors. Guide them to pantomime throwing things overboard.

Soon Jonah felt one of the sailors shake him awake. “Jonah, Jonah, wake up!” he shouted. (*Have children shout, “Jonah, wake up!”*) The storm was terrible. The sailors were afraid!

The waves crashed against the boat. (*Have children clap hands together.*) The boat moved up and down, up and down in the storm. (*Have kids rock back and forth.*)

“What is causing this storm?” the sailors asked. Jonah knew that he had disobeyed God. Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah was running far away.

We disobey God, too, when we don’t obey our moms or dads, or we throw a fit, or we don’t share our toys. Those bad things that we do have a name. Their name is sin. The Bible tells us about sin.

Jonah knew that he had sinned when he disobeyed God.

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3. Point to Jonah.

Jonah told the sailors, "God sent the storm because I did not obey Him." (*Have children shake their heads.*) The sailors asked, "What can we do to stop the storm?" (*Have children repeat the question.*) "Throw me into the water," Jonah shouted. "Then the storm will stop."

"NO!" cried the sailors. "You will die if we throw you into the stormy seas." The sailors tried hard to row back to the land, but there was nothing they could do. They knew Jonah was right. They picked up Jonah, and they threw him into the stormy waters.

ACTIVITY: Have children stand and pretend to throw Jonah over the side of the boat. **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4. Point to Jonah.

Suddenly the storm stopped. The boat moved slowly back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. (*Have children sway back and forth gently.*) The sailors were safe. "Thank You, God!" they shouted! (*Have children say, "Thank You, God!"*)

But what about Jonah? (*Point to Jonah in the picture.*) Jonah fell deep, deep, deep into the sea. What would happen to him? Make sure you come back to our next VBS time to learn how God rescued Jonah!



Our powerful God stopped the storm. He loved Jonah and the sailors. God loves you too! He loved Jonah, even when Jonah did bad things, like disobeying God. God loves you and me too, even when we do wrong things, like disobeying a grown-up.

God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to take the punishment for all the wrong things that we do. Jesus died on a cross for our sins, or the bad things that we do. But Jesus didn't stay dead: one, two, three days later, Jesus came alive again! Now Jesus lives in Heaven with God.

I am so glad that God loves you and me. Let's sing a song about God's great big love for us.

SING: "Jesus Loves Me" or another song about God's love.



What's in My Basket?

Materials

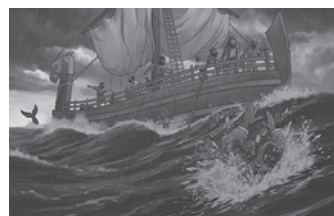
- Lesson 1 visual packet and CD (32407) or visual book PowerPoint download (32407EB); basket; toy boat; bottle of water; small pillow; small box.

Before class: Place the items listed above in the basket.

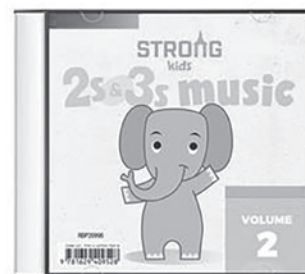
Choose a child who is sitting quietly to pick an item from the basket and hold the item up for everyone to see.



Lesson 1 Visual 3



Lesson 1 Visual 4



◀ Teacher Tip

"Jesus Loves Me" is Track 23 of Strong Kids 2s & 3s Music, Vol. 2 (20996).

Use the following text to help review the lesson with the children.

DISPLAY: Show visual 1 or PowerPoint visual 1. **SAY:** This boat reminds me of the boat that Jonah sailed in. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but he disobeyed and got on a boat that sailed far, far away.

DISPLAY: Show visual 2 or PowerPoint visual 2. **SAY:** This pillow reminds me that Jonah fell asleep in the boat during the storm.

DISPLAY: Show visual 2 or PowerPoint visual 2. **SAY:** This box reminds me that the sailors tried to make the ship lighter. They threw everything on the ship into the water so the ship would not sink.

DISPLAY: Show visual 4 or PowerPoint visual 4. **SAY:** This water bottle reminds me that the sailors threw Jonah overboard into the water. God stopped the storm and saved the sailors' lives!

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

**“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy”
(Psalm 103:8).**

ACTIVITY: Introduce the verse with the following motions:

“The LORD	(Point to the sky.)
is merciful	(Sign “love.”)
and gracious,	(Make a happy face.)
slow	(Stretch out the word as you say it and move your pointer finger from one side of your body to the other.)
to anger,	(Make an angry face.)
and plenteous	(Stretch arms open wide.)
in mercy”	(Sign “love.”)
(Psalm 103:8).	(Form an open book with your hands.)

Option 1: Verse on the Sea

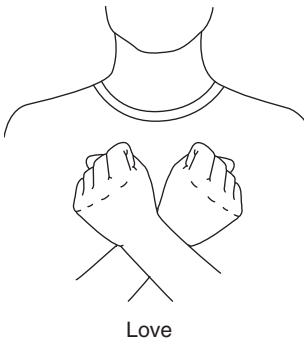
Materials

- Brown carpet squares or cardboard box; *optional*: utility scissors or knife.

Before class: Scatter brown carpet squares around the room. If you do not have brown carpet squares, use a utility knife or scissors to cut apart squares from cardboard boxes.

Jonah got on a big boat to go far away from Nineveh. Let's pretend we are on boats as we say our verse.

ACTIVITY: Have kids sit on the brown rugs or cardboard squares (“boats”) as you say your verse together.



Teacher Tip ►

Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.

Option 2: Stormy Seas Memory

Materials

- Fan; spray bottle; water.

Before class: Fill the spray bottle with water.

Jonah got on a big boat to go far away from Nineveh. There was a great big storm! Let's say our verse in the windy storm.

ACTIVITY: Have a worker turn on a fan and then lightly spray water in front of the fan to create a mist as the children say their verse.



Fun in the Sun Dress-Up

Materials

- Beach items such as flip-flops, summer hats, goggles, lightweight scarves, snorkels, sunglasses, beach towels, summer shirts and dresses, purses, laundry basket.

Before class: Gather the items listed above and place them in a laundry basket. Place the laundry basket in the Play and Learn area in the classroom.

Let's pretend you are on vacation near a sunny beach. Let's get dressed for a day in the sun!

ACTIVITY: Encourage children to play dress-up and pretend they are getting ready for a fun day at the beach. They can choose items from the dress-up basket. Ask workers to help tie scarves or button shirts. Encourage the children to share and be kind as they play. Praise them for sharing and for doing a good job.



Option 1: I Will Obey

Materials

- Laundry basket; clothes; dishes; toys; toy basket; plastic plates; plastic cups; plastic silverware; small table.

Before class: Gather the items listed above and place them in the laundry basket.

God wants us to obey our moms and dads, teachers, and babysitters. Let's choose to obey!



ACTIVITY: Sing the words below to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” Help children take turns role-playing the activities in each verse of the song.

Mom says, “Please pick up your room,
pick up your room, pick up your room.”

Mom says, “Please pick up your room.”

I will obey!

Dad says, “Please come set the table,
set the table, set the table.”

Dad says, “Please come set the table.”

I will obey!

Teacher says, “Please pick up your toys,
pick up your toys, pick up your toys.”

Teacher says, “Please pick up your toys.”

I will obey!

Option 2: I’ll Obey Right Away

SAY: (Leader’s names) are going to pretend. Let’s watch and see what happens. **ACTIVITY:** Have two workers act out the following scenes:

A child is playing with toys on the floor. Mom says, “Pick up your toys!” Child yells and stomps his or her feet and does not obey.

SAY: Oh, no! (leader’s name) didn’t obey! What happens when we don’t obey? (*Pause for children to respond.*) What should (leader’s name) do next time?

Let’s see what happens when they pretend again this time!

ACTIVITY: Have the same workers act out the following scene:

A child is playing with toys on the floor. Mom says, “Pick up your toys!” The child quickly says, “Okay!” and obeys right away with a good attitude.

SAY: Look! (leader’s name) chose to obey! You can choose to obey too! Let’s sing a song about obeying. **ACTIVITY:** Have children sing with you the chorus of “Trust and Obey” or another song about obedience.