



OVERVIEW

Primary	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	"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36).	"The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works" (Ps. 145:9).	"Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy" (Ps. 86:5).	"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21).	"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5).
Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sailboat Race Where's Jonah? Splash! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gulp! Upside Down Thankfulness Pour-n-Pass Bay Balloon Catch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seashell Toss Life Preserver Ring Toss Slippery Fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crab Walk Relay Fish out of Water Flying Fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighthouse Relay Swiftest Sailors Pass It Along
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 Jonah's Shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graham Cracker Good News Celery Boats Mercy for You and Me Cookies Mercy Meltaways
Crafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sail Your Own Ship Nautical Anchor Whale Stick Puppet Floating Sea Turtle Fun Sailboat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonah and the Big Fish Wyatt the Whale Otter in a Bag Friend Colorful Sea Turtle Good News Bracelet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dolphin Sand Art Keychain Happy Crabbie Headband Hermit Crab Life Preserver Plaque Wally the Walrus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ship Ahoy Spyglass Ceramic Shark Bank Mae the Walrus Keepsakes in a Can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day in the Bay Photo Frame 3-D Tall Ship Sea Snail Magnet Sailing on a Stick Lighthouse on a Beach

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PRIMARY

TEACHER BOOK



Welcome

Welcome to Big Fish Bay	2
A Day at Big Fish Bay	3

Things You Should Know

About Me: Primary (Grades 1 & 2)	6
Learning That Lasts	7
Teaching Tips	8
Motivating Desirable Behavior	10
Leading a Student to the Savior	11
Sharing the Salvation Message	12
Operation Safe Harbor (Missions Project)	14
Decorating Your Classroom	15
Clip Art	18

Bible Lessons

Overboard: Jonah Runs from God	23
In the Sea: Jonah Thanks God	33
On the Lifeboat: Nineveh Receives God's Mercy	41
Against the Wind: Jonah Is Angry at God	49
From the Lighthouse: Jesus Shows God's Mercy	57

OVERBOARD JONAH RUNS FROM GOD

Jonah 1:1–16

DOCK
1

TOPIC

Following God's direction

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

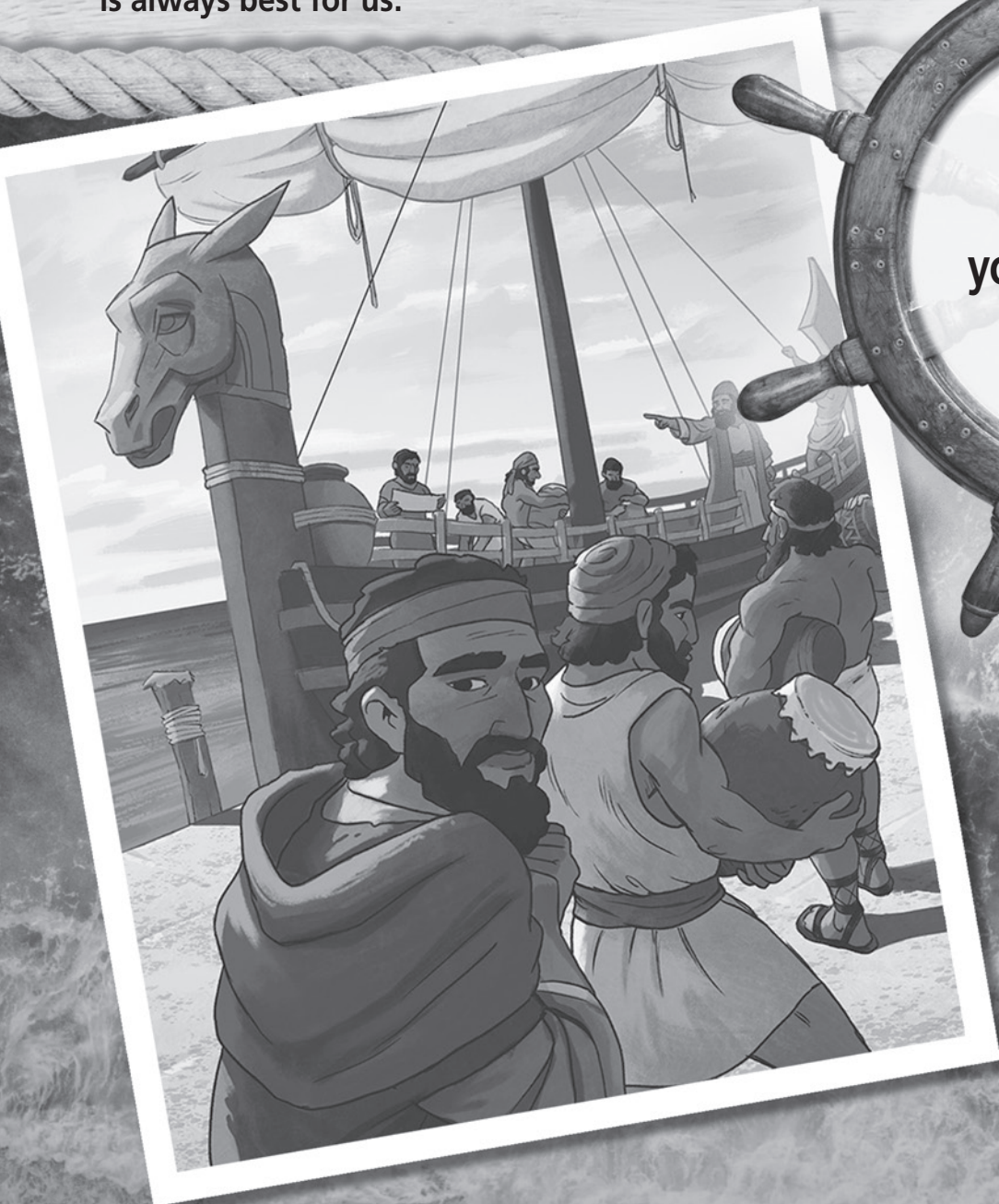
Students will realize that God's direction is best, so they need to follow Him.

THEME

God's leading is always best for us.

BIBLE VERSE

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36).



- Greet students with enthusiasm. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (32433) and Big Fish Bay Passes (32434).
- Open the class time with prayer.



Option 1: Ship in a Storm

Materials

- Large plastic container; water; small plastic container; variety of small items.

Before class: Fill the large container half full of water. Float the small container on the water. Experiment with your chosen items to be sure that none of them makes the “boat” sink too quickly. Remove the boat and cargo from the “lake.”

Welcome to Big Fish Bay. Early morning at Big Fish Bay is a great time to go sailing. Watch the weather reports though. We don’t want to get caught in a storm!

Tall sailing ships used to carry cargo from one place to another. Sometimes the ship would get caught in a storm.

ACTIVITY: Help volunteers launch the small plastic-container boat in the larger lake plastic container. Load the day’s supplies into the small “boat.” Tip and tilt the large plastic container to simulate a storm. **ASK:** What happens to your ship? What happens to the cargo? (*Its weight makes the boat float lower, and the cargo moves around, making the boat less stable.*)

You’re aboard a sailing ship in a really big storm. Your sailors have made sure the cargo is tied in place. But in the storm, the ship’s movement can loosen the ropes, and the cargo can start to slide around. The cargo’s weight is making your ship float lower in the water, so the waves rise above your ship and fall onto your ship.

ASK: You do not want the ship to sink. What would be the smart thing to do with the cargo? (*Throw the cargo overboard.*)

The sailors in our true story get caught in a really big storm.

Option 2: Tell a Message

ACTIVITY: Divide students into small groups. Helpers stand at the far side of the room (one helper per group). Each group chooses a messenger. The messengers each run to the team’s helper, who gives the team a message. The messengers run back and give the messages to their teams. Each message should be a fun instruction, like jump three times or clap three times. The first team to carry out its instruction is the winner.

Today’s lesson is about a prophet. What is a prophet? In Bible times, sometimes God gave a message to someone and that person was to give God’s message to the people. The person God sent to give His message to people was called a prophet. In our lesson, God gives a message to a man and tells him to go to a big city to deliver God’s message.

INTRODUCTION

Materials

- Poster board; *optional*: captain's hat (32571).

Before class: Make four poster board signs: “Bow—front of the ship”; “Stern—back of the ship”; “Starboard—right side of the ship”; “Port—left side of the ship.” Place the signs on the appropriate classroom walls.

Welcome aboard! If you're sailing on my ship, you need to know the right names for the parts of a ship.

ACTIVITY: Invite students to stand. Point to and read aloud each sign. Students turn to face that direction. Repeat, calling out the ship parts faster and faster.

You might already know that the floor is called the deck. The main person in our true story today is below the deck, sleeping.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (32407) or visual book PowerPoint download (32407EB); masking tape; empty cartons; *optional*: storm sound effects; fan; mister bottle.

Before class: Use masking tape to mark the shape of a ship on the floor. Tape closed empty cartons and place them nearby to be loaded as cargo. *Optional:* Search online for a recording of storm sounds. Using storm sound effects, a fan to simulate wind, and a mister bottle would enhance the storm drama. Arrange for a helper to turn on the sound effects and fan and to spray the mister into the air at the right time.

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1.

A man hurried through the streets of Joppa, heading for the harbor. He needed a ship that was leaving right away—and going somewhere far away. He didn't really care where the ship was going as long as it was far away. So he found a ship going as far to the west as he could go. Quickly he paid his fare and got on board. The sailors were very busy getting the ship ready to sail.

ASK: Raise your hand if you have taken a boat trip. Was it fun? **ASK:** What would sailors have to do before the ship sailed if they knew they'd be gone for a long time? (*Put food and water on the ship for the crew and any passengers. Pack the cargo in the ship.*)



◀ **Teacher Tip**
Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.



Lesson 1 Visual 1

I could use a little help. (*Spoken rapidly, breathlessly.*) First, we have to carry all the cargo on board. If we don't get the cargo safely to where it's going, we won't make any money for this trip. We have to hoist the anchor. Then we have to pull the ropes to raise the sails.

PANTOMIME: Invite a couple of volunteers to help you carry the cargo (the empty cartons) on board. All students pantomime carrying cargo. Lead the students to act out pulling in the anchor and pulling the ropes to hoist the sails.

The ship rocked gently back and forth as it moved through the waves. (*Spoken faster.*) Back and forth. Back and forth. The ship was now far from shore. Oh no! I think there's a storm coming. All of a sudden the wind was blowing really hard.

This was no ordinary storm. What a wind! The waves were so big! The sailors were beginning to get scared. The wind blew so hard that they were afraid the ship would break apart and sink. Not good. Not good at all! Everyone was super busy again. Trim the sails! Throw the cargo overboard! Hurry! Hurry!

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2. **PANTOMIME:** Lead the students to pantomime pulling the ropes to lower the sails and throwing cargo overboard. Rock sideways as if on a ship in a big storm. Turn on the storm sound effects and fan; leave them on until indicated near the end of the Bible lesson. Spray the mister into the air.

The waves got higher and higher. The wind blew harder and harder. The sailors got more and more afraid. Those sailors did not know the one true God. The sailors prayed to different gods. They worshiped fake gods that people had made up. Still, the sailors knew they needed help, and they began to pray. But the waves just got higher, and the wind just blew harder!

Wait! What about that passenger—where is he? We need him to pray to his God too. Where is the guy? Below deck? Sleeping! Get him up here. Get him praying.

The captain quickly went to where the man was sleeping. "What are you doing?" the captain cried. "Get up. Pray to your God. Maybe your God can help us so we don't all die in this storm."

The passenger climbed up on deck. The wind was blowing. The waves were crashing over the deck of the ship. Sailors were throwing cargo overboard. What a storm!

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3.

The sailors thought the gods must be angry at one of them and had sent this awful storm. But who had made the gods so mad? The Bible says the sailors cast lots to find out who was at fault.

Sometimes people draw straws, and the person who gets the shortest straw is the chosen one. Long ago, people used stones. If there were ten people, they would use nine white stones and one black stone. The chosen person was the one who



Lesson 1 Visual 2



Lesson 1 Visual 3

got the black stone. The Bible does not tell us how these sailors cast lots, but we do know who was the chosen one: the passenger who had been sleeping.

God had sent the storm. And God controlled which man would be chosen by the lots.

“Who are you?” the sailors asked. “What country are you from? What awful thing have you done that caused this terrible storm?”

“My name is Jonah,” answered the man, “and I am from the country of Israel. I worship the God of Heaven, Who made the sea and the dry land. But I am running away from my God.”

You see, Jonah was a prophet of the one true God. Long ago, when God wanted to give a message to people, He told that message to a prophet and then the prophet told the people. God had a message for the people of Nineveh. He wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh and take that message to them. But instead Jonah got on the ship going in the opposite direction.

Why wouldn't Jonah want to take a message to the people of Nineveh? The people of Nineveh were enemies of Israel. And they were known for being really, really cruel. Jonah did not want to help the Ninevites. Jonah knew that God is good and slow to get angry—but Jonah wanted the people of Nineveh to be punished! He didn't want to give them an opportunity to repent, or to turn from their bad ways and be forgiven. So Jonah ran in the opposite direction. God said go this way (*point to your left, students' right*) and take My message. And Jonah went that way (*point to your right, students' left*).

The sailors were very, very afraid. “Why would you run away?” they cried. “What should we do so the sea will grow calm again and we don't all drown?”

Jonah said, “Pick me up and throw me overboard. Then the storm will stop. I know this storm is my fault.”

Throw Jonah into the sea? The sailors did not want to do that! Maybe they could row the boat to shore. Can you help again? Grab your oars and row. (*Urgently.*) Row! Row! Row as hard as you can! Row for your lives!

PANTOMIME: Urge students to row harder, harder! Finally give up and sit for a minute, panting from the exertion.

The harder they rowed, the harder the wind blew. The storm just got stronger and stronger. The waves got higher and higher. The wind blew harder and harder. They just couldn't do it! (*Pant! Pant!*)

They had no choice. If they didn't throw Jonah into the sea, they would *all* die. The sailors prayed. “O God, we beg You. Please don't blame us for what we are about to do. You have done just as You please.”

ACTIVITY: Lead the students to add to the storm and wind sound effects; practice stopping the sound effects by holding up a hand. Continue teaching the lesson over their sound effects. When Jonah is thrown overboard, signal for the students to stop their sound effects, and turn off the sound effects recording and fan.



Lesson 1 Visual 4

The wind was blowing! The waves were crashing onto the ship! The men picked up Jonah—and threw him into the sea!

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4.

Immediately the storm stopped. The wind stopped. The sea became calm. Then the sailors knew the truth. Jonah's God was indeed the God Who had made the sea and land. He could send a storm and make the storm end.



Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (32436).

God cared about the people of Nineveh and about Jonah. Even when they did wrong, God still cared about them. God cares about you too. He loves you.

The Bible says we have all done wrong things. The Bible's word for the wrong things we think, say, and do is "sin." God says sin must be punished. But God loves you so much (*teach sign language for "love"*) that He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to die on the cross for your sins. Jesus took the punishment that we deserve. He was buried and rose from the dead after three days.

ACTIVITY: Use the salvation poster to explain the gospel. Ask students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Invite any students who want to know how they can be forgiven and become God's children to look up at you. Assign workers to counsel and pray with responding students.

Have you already accepted God's free gift and become a part of God's family? If so, you can ask God to help you obey Him and live for Him. Jonah found out how important it is to obey God. We find out how to obey Him in His Word, the Bible.



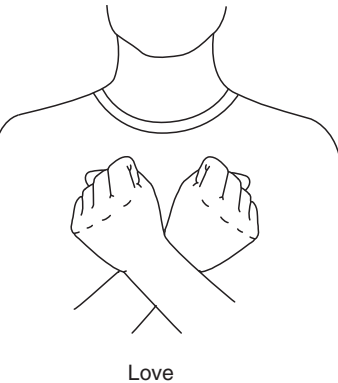
Option 1: Hide-and-Seek

Materials

- Many small nautical-theme items.

Before class: Hide small nautical-theme items around the classroom.

ACTIVITY: Students find the hidden objects.



Do you like to play hide-and-seek? What is your favorite thing about hide-and-seek—hiding or finding the people who are hiding? It's fun to see how long you can hide without being found. But would it be fun if every time you hid, the person looking for you knew right where you were?

Jonah thought he could hide from God. How did that work out for Jonah? God sees and knows everything.



Option 2: Sailor Interview

Materials

- Microphone or toy microphone.

You are local news reporters. Your assignment is to interview the sailors who just came into the harbor after the ship that they were on with Jonah was caught in a huge storm.

ACTIVITY: Encourage students to suggest questions they would ask the sailors from the ship Jonah was on. (Examples: Who was this man named Jonah? Why was he on your ship? What was it like being on the ship in such a terrible storm? What happened to Jonah—I'd like to interview him too.) **ACTIVITY:** Students take turns being the reporter interviewing the survivors of the terrible storm and being the survivors who answer questions.



“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

Our God is merciful. That means He is kind and loving even when we do wrong—even when we don't deserve His kindness. God wants us to be kind to other people too. He wants us to be kind even to people who are mean and unkind to us. The people of Nineveh were mean, but God still cared about them and wanted Jonah to care about them too.

DISPLAY: Show the PowerPoint of the verse from the Director Resources CD (32402). Instruct students to read it aloud together multiple times.

Option 1: Buddy Up

Swimming in Big Fish Bay sounds like a lot of fun on a hot day. It's always wise to take a buddy along when you go swimming. If one person gets in trouble, the other person is right there to help. Find a buddy or two and help each other learn today's verse. Remember to be kind.

◀ Teacher Tip

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

Option 2: Never Alone

Materials

- Bible; PowerPoint verse from the Director Resources CD (32402); inflated blue balloons.

Jonah was in big trouble. (*Bat a balloon up as you speak.*) What a storm! Wind! Huge waves! But Jonah was not alone. God was still in control.

ACTIVITY: Repeat the verse together several times. Divide students into groups of four to six. Each group works together to keep its balloon in the air until the group has recited the verse. If the balloon falls to the floor, the group must start over. Try adding another balloon each time a group repeats the verse.



Option 1: Forgiven

Materials

- Brown and red poster board; black construction paper; scissors; tape; adhesive putty.

Before class: Cut a large cross from brown poster board, a large heart from red poster board, and several small hearts from black construction paper. Use adhesive putty to display the cross at the front of the classroom.

Jonah did not do what God told him to do. That was wrong. But Jonah is not the only one who does wrong things. The Bible says we all sin. That means we all think, say, and do wrong things.

ASK: What are some wrong things we do? **ACTIVITY:** Each time students suggest something wrong that people their age do—lie, cheat, disobey parents, be mean—help that student tape a dark heart to the cross.

Jesus, God's Son, never sinned. He loves us so much that He chose to die on the cross to take the punishment for the wrong things we do.

ACTIVITY: Tape the large red heart so that it covers all the black hearts.

ASK: Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sin and make you God's child?

Even after we believe in Jesus and become God's child, we still do wrong things. God wants you to come to Him and admit what you have done and ask Him to forgive you—and He will!

Option 2: Where Will You Obey?

ASK: Where are some of the places you will go this week? (*Home, church, library, grocery store, a park.*)

You can obey God and follow Him in all those places. He is with you, watching over you, ready to help you obey. Let's name ways we can obey, no matter where we go.

ACTIVITY: March in place. Call out a student's name and ask, "Where are you going?" The student answers, "I'm going _____," and the class stops marching. That student then tells how he or she can obey at that place this week.

