



## OVERVIEW

Junior	Dock 1	Dock 2	Dock 3	Dock 4	Dock 5
<b>Title</b>	<b>Overboard: Jonah Runs from God</b>	<b>In the Sea: Jonah Thanks God</b>	<b>On the Lifeboat: Nineveh Receives God's Mercy</b>	<b>Against the Wind: Jonah Is Angry at God</b>	<b>From the Lighthouse: Jesus Shows God's Mercy</b>
<b>References</b>	Jonah 1:1–16	Jonah 1:17—2:10	Jonah 3:1–10	Jonah 4:1–11	Luke 23:33–46; 24:1–12
<b>Focus</b>	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.
<b>Bible Verse</b>	"Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36).	"The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You" (Ps. 145:9, 10).	"You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You" (Ps. 86:5).	"Do not be overcome by 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).
<b>Games</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where's Jonah?</li> <li>Splash!</li> <li>Jonah Overboard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gulp!</li> <li>Upside Down Thankfulness</li> <li>Pour-n-Pass</li> <li>Bay Balloon Catch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seashell Toss</li> <li>Life Preserver Ring Toss</li> <li>Slippery Fish</li> <li>Rocks and Ships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish out of Water</li> <li>Flying Fish</li> <li>Beach Ball Baseball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lighthouse Relay</li> <li>Swiftest Sailors</li> <li>Pass It Along</li> <li>Good News Soccer</li> <li>Following in His Footsteps</li> </ul>
<b>Snacks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apple-n-Cheese Boats</li> <li>"O" Is for Obedience</li> <li>Jonah Overboard!</li> <li>Stormy Waves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Fish Banana</li> <li>God's Love and Mercy Cookies</li> <li>In the Sea Cups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jonah on the Beach</li> <li>Hit the Trail, Jonah!</li> <li>Fruit Folks</li> <li>Pretzel Fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crab Croissants</li> <li>Cookie Clams and Pearls</li> <li>Jonah's Shelter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graham Cracker Good News</li> <li>Celery Boats</li> <li>Mercy for You and Me Cookies</li> <li>Mercy Meltaways</li> </ul>
<b>Crafts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sail Your Own Ship</li> <li>Nautical Anchor</li> <li>Floating Sea Turtle</li> <li>Fun Sailboat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wyatt the Whale</li> <li>Otter in a Bag Friend</li> <li>Colorful Sea Turtle</li> <li>Happy Whale</li> <li>Good News Bracelet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dolphin Sand Art Keychain</li> <li>Hermit Crab</li> <li>Life Preserver Plaque</li> <li>Wally the Walrus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ceramic Shark Bank</li> <li>Crab Pet</li> <li>Keepsakes in a Can</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day in the Bay Photo Frame</li> <li>Sandy Beach Lighthouse</li> <li>3-D Tall Ship</li> <li>Sea Snail Magnet</li> <li>Lighthouse on a Beach</li> </ul>

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# JUNIOR TEACHER BOOK



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# OVERBOARD JONAH RUNS FROM GOD

Jonah 1:1–16

*Extra Credit Verses:* Ps. 18:30; Prov. 3:3, 5, 6; Col. 3:12, 13

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## TOPIC

Following God's direction

## DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

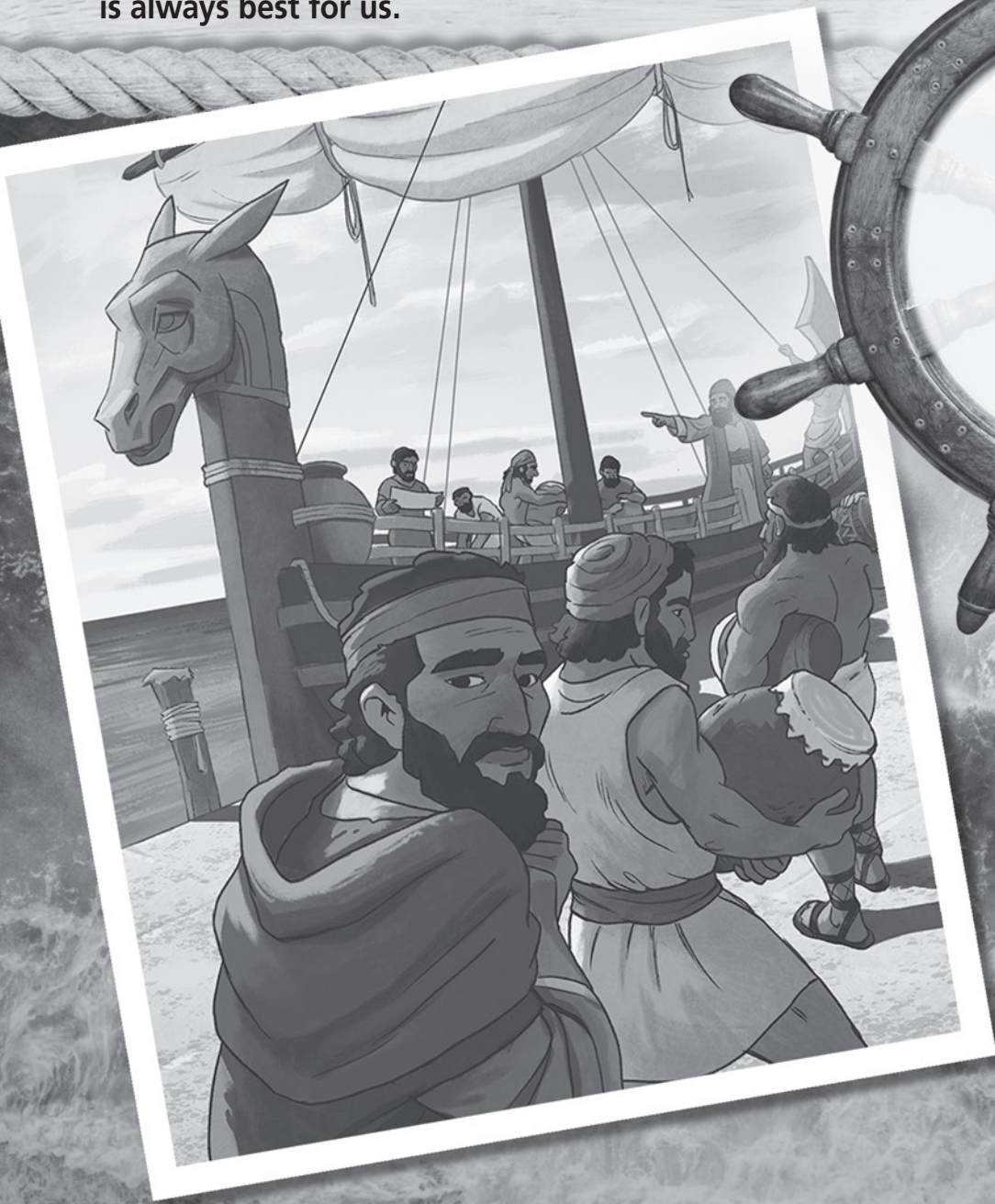
Students will realize that God's direction is best, so they need to follow Him.

## THEME

God's leading is always best for us.

## BIBLE VERSE

"Be merciful,  
just 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: True Direction

### Materials

- Small, clear glass dishes; sewing needles; small pieces of paper towel. (Provide one set of supplies for each group of 6–10 students.)

*Before class:* Ask classroom helpers to assist in this activity, one per group of 6–10 students. Set up stations with one of each item above and a helper at each station. Fill the dishes half full of water.

Sailors used a simple compass to guide them. A compass points north and helps people head in the right direction.

**ACTIVITY:** Students form groups at each station. The classroom helper will gently place the paper on the water with no side-to-side motion, and then the needle on top of the paper without breaking the surface tension. After about one minute, the paper will absorb the water and sink. The needle should stay on top of the water and end up pointing north. Explain that this is due to the needle's natural magnetization. The needle acts like a compass.

Have you ever been lost? The Bible tells us about someone who was not lost but who went in the wrong direction on purpose. That did not turn out well for him!

## Option 2: Opposite Match

### Materials

- Sticky notes.

*Before class:* Write opposites on sticky notes; a word on one sticky note and its opposite on another sticky note. Use opposites connected to the theme (e.g., stern/bow, land/water, float/sink, mercy/justice).

**ACTIVITY:** Place a sticky note on the forehead of each player. Players should not see their own words. Ensure that for each player, another player has the sticky note with the opposite word. Players must first guess their own words by asking yes–no questions; then each finds the player that has the opposite word. Invite players to share their opposites.

Have you ever done the opposite of what you were asked to do? The Bible tells of a man who completely did the opposite of what God wanted. That wasn't very smart!



## INTRODUCTION

**ACTIVITY:** Play a game similar to Simon Says, but with a twist. Instead of following your directions when you say, “Simon says,” players do the opposite of what they are told. For example, when you say, “Simon says, ‘smile,’” they should frown. If you direct them to “sit,” they stand. If you say to “move right,” they should go left. And unlike traditional Simon Says, if you do not preface an instruction with “Simon says,” students are free to do an action of their own, even if it has nothing to do with the instruction you gave.

Have you ever done the opposite of what you were told? Like our activity showed, sometimes things get crazy and chaotic when we do the opposite thing or our own thing! That’s especially true when it comes to the directions God gives us. The Bible tells about a man who did the exact opposite of what God had told him to do. How do you think that ended for him? Let’s find out.



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

### Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (32407) or visual book PowerPoint download; map from lesson visual poster set (32435) or map of the Mediterranean Sea region showing Joppa, Tarshish, and Nineveh; extra Bibles for students; *optional*: large floor fan; lightweight cardboard boxes; soft foam objects; several small stones.

*Before class:* Prepare an area for students to be “in a ship.” Place chairs in rows, in the general shape of a ship. If using the fan, place it nearby. Mark Romans 3:23 in your Bible. Write “MERCY” and its definition on the whiteboard: “Not giving someone a punishment they deserve, because you care about them.” Ask for volunteers to play the parts of Captain and Jonah. The rest of the students will be sailors. A few of the sailors can read the speaking parts for the group. *Optional*: around the perimeter of the chairs, place lightweight cardboard boxes and soft foam objects as “cargo.”

Deep in the dark and cramped ship’s hold, a man lay in the only corner he could find, trying to shut out the world. (*Jonah lies down in the corner of the classroom, shifting around as if trying to get comfortable.*) Almost every space around him was stuffed full of cargo. The air was damp and full of all kinds of smells—grain, cloth, some kind of strong spice. But Jonah didn’t care. Anything was better, he thought, than doing what he had been told to do. “Take a message to Nineveh!” he might have muttered to himself. “What if the people actually listen? What if God gives them mercy?”

The ship rolled gently on its way to faraway Tarshish, and soon Jonah was asleep. (*Jonah pretends to sleep.*) We’re going to be following his adventures as he learns about God’s mercy. But what does the word “mercy” mean?

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### ◀ Teacher Tip

Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.

**DISPLAY:** Show definition of mercy. **ASK:** What are opposites of mercy? (*Justice; meanness; unkindness.*) **ACTIVITY:** Invite students to read the definition together. Share an example of a time when someone showed you mercy. A lighthearted, funny illustration is fine. **ASK:** Would anyone like to share about a time when someone showed you mercy?

Jonah was a prophet of the one true God. Long ago, prophets were people who were chosen to speak for God. But even though he was a prophet, Jonah was having a hard time with what God wanted him to say and do.

**READ:** Read aloud Jonah 1:1, 2.

God's command hit Jonah hard. The year was somewhere between 793 and 753 BC. A lot was happening that could stress Jonah out. Nineveh was the main city of the Assyrian Empire. It would be like \_\_\_\_\_ (biggest and most important city your students know) today. And it was also an enemy of Israel, Jonah's country and God's Chosen People. Nineveh had a reputation for being violent and mean.

But God was saying, "Go to Nineveh." Why would God want Jonah to do that? God wanted Jonah to warn the people that punishment was coming. Later in Jonah's account we'll also find out something else: God wanted to give the people of Nineveh a chance to receive His mercy if they responded to Jonah's message.

Knowing Nineveh was the enemy of God's people, that Jonah would be bringing bad news, and that they might receive mercy if they responded, is it any wonder Jonah did not want to go?

**ACTIVITY:** Turn to a partner and tell that person what you think you would have done if you had been in Jonah's place. **SAY:** It's easy to be hard on Jonah, but most people would find it hard to warn their enemies. Jonah did not want to go—but God's ways are always best. **DISPLAY:** Show map of Jonah's journey. **ACTIVITY:** Have a student find Nineveh on the map and trace with a finger the route from Joppa to Nineveh. Help students make a connection by referring to a city approximately five hundred miles from your location.



Lesson 1 Visual 1

You can see on the map that Nineveh was nowhere near the sea. So then what was Jonah doing on that ship?

**READ:** Read aloud Jonah 1:3. **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 1 or Power-Point visual 1. **ACTIVITY:** Invite a volunteer to locate Tarshish on the map and trace the route from Joppa.

Jonah ran away from what God wanted. Jonah went to Joppa to get on a boat headed for Tarshish. This probably was a trip of over two thousand miles. (Help students make a connection by referring to a city that is approximately two thousand miles from your location.) Two thousand miles is a long trip! Jonah was going as far away from Nineveh as he could possibly go! It was wrong to go against God's command; it was a sin. Sin is wanting and choosing our own way

instead of God's way, like Jonah did. The Bible tells us that we are just like Jonah. We have all sinned, or done wrong things.

**READ:** Read aloud Romans 3:23.

As the ship sailed on its way to Tarshish, the sky suddenly darkened. The wind howled through the ropes and sails, while waves violently tossed the ship. God had sent a fierce storm. The ship acted like it would soon break apart and sink!

**ACTIVITY:** Have designated volunteers take their places. Ask a student volunteer to operate the fan. **ROLE PLAY:** Students will act out the passage with some speaking parts. **ACTIVITY:** A volunteer turns on the fan if desired. Students pretend to be blown around by the storm.

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2.

The sailors had to make the ship lighter. *(If using foam and box cargo, students begin tossing the cargo "overboard," away from the chairs.)*

**SAY:** Pretend the other things in this room are objects in our ship. What else could we throw overboard? *(Students give suggestions.)*

The sailors were terrified. But remember the guy below, in the ship's hold? What was going on with him?

**ACTIVITY:** Jonah is still lying on the floor. Captain rushes up to him.

**Captain:** What?! What are you doing, sleeping like this? Get up! Pray to your God! **Sailors:** Come on. Let's cast lots so we can find out whose fault this is. *(The sailors roll the small stones on the ground.)*

**SAY:** God used the lot to show the sailors whose fault the storm was.

**Sailors:** *(Shocked.)* It's Jonah! *(Sailors turn accusingly to Jonah.)* Okay, tell us. What's your job? Where did you come from?

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3.

**Jonah:** I am from Israel. I worship and follow the Lord, the God Who created the sea and the land. *(Sailors panic.)* **Sailors:** Are you crazy? Why have you run away from God? What should we do so the sea calms down? **Jonah:** Throw me into the water; then the sea will be calm. I know this is all my fault. *(The sailors pantomime rowing hard. Finally, they stop.)* **Sailors:** Please, Lord, don't punish us if we're doing something wrong here.



Lesson 1 Visual 2



Lesson 1 Visual 3



Lesson 1 Visual 4

**READ:** Read aloud Jonah 1:14–16. **ACTIVITY:** Sailors pantomime throwing Jonah into the sea. (*They don't actually throw him.*) Jonah lies down on the floor. Student volunteer turns off fan. **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4.

Suddenly, the wind stopped. The huge waves became small. The sea was calm. Wow! The sailors were amazed. Now they could see God's power. They knew for sure that Jonah's God had caused the storm and that Jonah's God had made it stop. God was in control.

But Jonah was in the sea. It looked bad for him—even hopeless. He should have followed God and believed that God's direction is best! But God was not done with Jonah.



### Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (32436).

God cared about the people of Nineveh—and He cared about Jonah. God's direction is always best for us. Jonah needed to learn that. Even when the people of Nineveh did wrong, God still cared about them. God cares about you too. He loves you more than anyone else could ever love you. And in His Word, the Bible, He gave you the most important direction that you need to follow—how to become part of His family.

The Bible says we have all done wrong things. The Bible calls the wrong things we think, say, and do “sin.” And God says sin must be punished. But God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, 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. Tell students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Invite any students who want to know how they can be forgiven and become a child of God 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 and live for Him. Take time to pray and ask God to help you follow God's direction from His Word, the Bible. His direction is always right!



## DISCOVER!

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### Option 1: Want to Get Away?

#### Materials

- Paper; pencils; colored pencils; markers; scissors; glue sticks; resources about cruises: materials, books, travel brochures, information.

*Before class:* Gather and carefully preview resources about cruises or search online for them. Print photos if desired.

If you were designing a brochure that promotes a river cruise to Nineveh, what might it look like? What activities would be included? Would people really want to go to Nineveh? Include a description from the lesson of what the city was like.

**ACTIVITY:** Provide resources about cruises to students. In small groups, students design travel brochures, either to Tarshish or Nineveh. Groups may choose to draw pictures or use printed-out photos. **DISCUSS:** Talk about Jonah's choice and obeying God.

### Option 2: Sailor Interview

#### Materials

- Microphone or something to use as a microphone.

You are local news reporters. Your assignment is to interview some sailors who just came into the harbor after their ship was caught in a huge storm.

**ACTIVITY:** Encourage students to suggest questions they would ask the sailors from the ship Jonah was on. **ACTIVITY:** Student volunteers take turns being the reporter interviewing the survivors of the terrible storm and being the survivors who answer questions.



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

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

**ASK:** What is mercy? (*Allow students to respond, now that they have heard the lesson.*) God is merciful and kind, even to people who don't deserve it. How did God show us mercy? (*He sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for our sin.*) I can think of no better way to show mercy. It cost God a lot—He loved us so much that He gave His Son to suffer and die for us. Since God showed us mercy, we should be willing to show it to others.

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

#### ◀ Teacher Tip

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

## Option 1: Color Coded

### Materials

- Colored pencils or crayons; index cards; scissors.

**ACTIVITY:** Instruct students to cut twelve even squares per student out of their index cards. Have students write one word of Luke 6:36 on each square. Next, have students turn the squares over and color the back with a different color for each square. Once the squares are colored, students will mix them up. Using only the side with color, students rearrange squares into the correct order. Once all the squares have been rearranged, students recite the verse, turning over each square as they say the word on it. Repeat until all students have memorized the verse.

## Option 2: Beach Ball Pass

### Materials

- Whiteboard or verse PowerPoint from the Director Resources CD (32402); small open area; bay blast beach ball (32551) or other beach ball.

*Before class:* Write the verse on a whiteboard or display the PowerPoint.

Jonah chose to go in the opposite direction from what God wanted. In this game, you will pass the ball in one direction, and then in the opposite direction, while saying the memory verse.

**ACTIVITY:** Players form a circle and pass the ball from one player to the next, clockwise around the circle. Students say one word of the verse each time the ball is passed. Randomly call out “Reverse” at some point. Players must reverse the direction of the ball and continue saying the verse in order. Once the verse is completed, repeat it as long as time allows.



## Following God’s Direction

### Materials

- Paper.

*Before class:* Write four real-life scenarios juniors face that would test how merciful they are. Include a verse for each scenario. Print copies of each scenario, one per sheet of paper.

**EXAMPLE:** Your friends are bullying someone who just moved into your neighborhood. You could go along with your friends or you could stand up to them—even though that might make them bully you. What is the right thing to do? (*Proverbs 31:9.*)

Sailors used compasses and the stars to make sure they were headed in the right direction. How can we find God's direction for us? (*In God's Word, the Bible.*)

**ACTIVITY:** Students form small groups of 3 to 4 students, each group with a worker. Assign each group a scenario. Groups read their scenarios, discuss options, and choose the right things to do. Then one or more students from the group act out the scenario and explain the group's response. **READ:** For each scenario, have one of the students read the verse that is listed with the scenario. **ASK:** What direction did God give us in the Bible? (Ask this only if students have not already explained the verse.)

