



Our God Saves (Part 2)

Jonah

July 10–11

Bible Passage: Jonah 1–4

The Big God Story

There once was a man named Jonah. God talked to Jonah, and Jonah believed God's words. One day, God said, "Jonah, go to Nineveh." Nineveh was a busy place full of people who didn't love God. They didn't know God, and they were doing bad things. But Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh. So guess what? Jonah ran away. He got on a boat and went far, far away.

Jonah tried to run away from God. But, God saw Jonah, because He is always with us. While Jonah was on the boat, God sent a great storm. The boat began to rock back and forth, back and forth. Everyone on the boat was so afraid. Jonah knew that God sent the big storm since he was trying to run away from God.

Jonah said to the other people, "Throw me off the boat, and God will stop the storm." So the people on the boat threw Jonah into the sea.

All of a sudden, the big storm stopped. God saved the men on the boat, but Jonah was in the deep sea! Do you think God saved Jonah too? Yes, our God can save.

God sent a great big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the fish's belly for three days and three nights. Can you help me count to three? One, two, three.

When Jonah was inside the fish, he prayed to God that he was sorry he ran away. The fish spit out Jonah onto the sand.

God talked to Jonah again and gave him another chance to obey. Do you think Jonah listened and obeyed this time? Yes, he did. Jonah went to Nineveh.

The people heard about God and believed God's words. Who saved the men on the boat? God did! Who saved Jonah? God did! Who saved the people of Nineveh? God did! Do you think God can save you and me when we ask Him for help? Yes, He can! Our God saves!.

Family Fun

Parents,

Jonah's story is a very distinct example of doing the exact opposite of what God has told us to do. Jonah got out of that sticky, stinky situation inside the belly of the whale because he was repentant and prayed to God for three days. I'm not sure he could have survived if he hadn't. He was rewarded with a group of very receptive Ninevites. God is all about redemption and saving us despite ourselves.

Tell Them

Get some colored paper or cardstock, stickers, crayons, markers and blue tape. Cut them in halves, then quarters. As a family write some inspirational phrases and words. Color them, decorate with stickers. Sign your first names or your family name or be anonymous.

To Go

When you visit a restaurant, stick one of the cards on the mirror with tape so that the next person will see it. Do this on vacation at rest stops or any public restroom or even on a vending machine.