

Bible Class Ages 4-6

Make sure to ask the kids if they need to use the bathroom or water fountain before class. If there are visitors or you have trouble remembering their names, write them down on a sticky note on the table so you don't forget. Talk to the kids before class starts. It is a good time to get all of those stories out they have been waiting to tell you and it will cut down on interruptions during class.

Welcome to Bible class

Prayer

Sing Songs

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus Loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak but He is strong.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me;
Yes, Jesus loves me;
Yes, Jesus loves me;
The Bible tells me so.

O Be Careful

O be careful little eyes what you see!
O be careful little eyes what you see!
For the Father up above
Is looking down in tender love.
So be careful little eyes what you see!

Also: Feet where you go
Hands what you do
Mouth what you say
Ears what you hear

Talk about how God knows everything. He knows every thing we see, do, say, hear, and where we go. We can't keep secrets from God!

Jonah, Jonah

Jonah, Jonah, Jonah, Jonah,
Who did swallow Jo Jo Jonah?
Jonah, Jonah, Jonah, Jonah,
Who did swallow Jo Jo Jonah?
Jonah, Jonah, Jonah, Jonah,
Who did swallow Jonah up?!

Whale did, whale did, whale did, whale did,
Whale did swallow Jo Jo Jonah
Whale did, whale did, whale did, whale did,
Whale did swallow Jonah up!

*You can talk bout how the Bible calls it a big fish, but some people just call it a whale and it doesn't really change what happened either way.

We all find Jonah in our Bibles. If they kids don't have them, that is okay, but it is important for them to see that it is a true story from the Bible. I usually find an easy to understand summary from BibleFunForKids.com to read.

Jonah

Our study is about Jonah and he was a prophet (speaker for God) and is found in the Old Testament book of Jonah. God spoke to Jonah and told him that He has seen the great city of Nineveh's wickedness and Jonah was to go to Nineveh. But Jonah disobeyed God and decided to run to Tarshish instead. Jonah found a ship in Joppa, paid the fare and went down into the ship.

God sent a great storm on the sea with high winds! The ship was about to break apart and even the sailors were afraid! They tossed the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

Jonah was in the lowest part of the ship sleeping. The captain woke him up and asked him "Why are you sleeping? Pray to God so all of us don't die!" Then they tried to discover why there was a storm and maybe it was someone's fault. They decided it was because of Jonah.

Jonah told them he was a Hebrew and he feared God Who made the heaven, seas and the land. The sea was getting rougher and they asked Jonah what to do to calm the sea. Jonah told them that he knew the storm was because of him and they needed to throw him into the sea. The men were rowing hard trying to get to shore, but they couldn't because the sea was getting worse.

They prayed to God because they didn't want to die in the storm because of Jonah. They picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. The storm stopped and the men really 'feared the Lord'.

God had made a great (or huge) fish to swallow Jonah. We are not told what kind; just that it was a great big fish. Jonah 1:17 The great fish swallowed Jonah and he was in the belly of the fish for three days and nights. Jonah prayed while he was in the belly of the fish.

God spoke to the fish and it spit Jonah onto dry land. Then God told Jonah to go to Nineveh again. Jonah went to Nineveh that time and he preached the message that God told him to. Nineveh was a big city and it took three days travel through it. On the first day of walking, he told the people that Nineveh would be overthrown in 40 days.

The people believed God's words and announced they would fast (not eat) and everyone put on sackcloth and sat in ashes which was a sign of repentance. Even the king of Nineveh took off his robe and covered himself in sackcloth and sat in

ashes when he heard. (Sackcloth was a rough fabric used to make bags for grain.) The king sent out a law saying man and animals were not to eat or drink anything. Everyone was to be covered in sackcloth and pray to God. Everyone was required to stop sinning and turn away from evil so that maybe God would not be as angry and they might live.

God saw that the people changed and He stopped the disaster that He had planned for Nineveh. This made Jonah angry! Jonah prayed to God that he knew He was merciful and good. But Jonah thought he would be better if he just died. God asked Jonah "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Jonah left Nineveh and made a shelter on the east side and sat down under the shade. He decided to wait and see what would happen to Nineveh. God created a plant to grow over Jonah that made shade and would keep him from being so miserable.

The next morning, God made a worm and it damaged the plant so much that it started to die. When the sun came up, God made a strong east wind and the sun was hot on Jonah's head. It made him feel weak and he wished he would die. Jonah was still angry and God told him that Jonah had pity for the plant that he didn't make! Why should God have pity on the 120,000 people in Nineveh? The people of Nineveh had repented and God did not destroy the city.

Scripture references

Jonah 1:2 "Go to Nineveh"

Jonah 1:17 God created a great, big fish

Jonah 2:1 Jonah prayed while he was in the fish

Jonah 2:10 God told the fish to spit him onto dry land

Jonah 3:6 the king put on sackcloth and sat in ashes, too

2 Kings 14:25 Jonah was a prophet

Luke 11:29-32 Nineveh repented because of Jonah, but Jesus is greater

Matthew 12:39-41 Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and nights, just like Jesus was buried three days before the resurrection

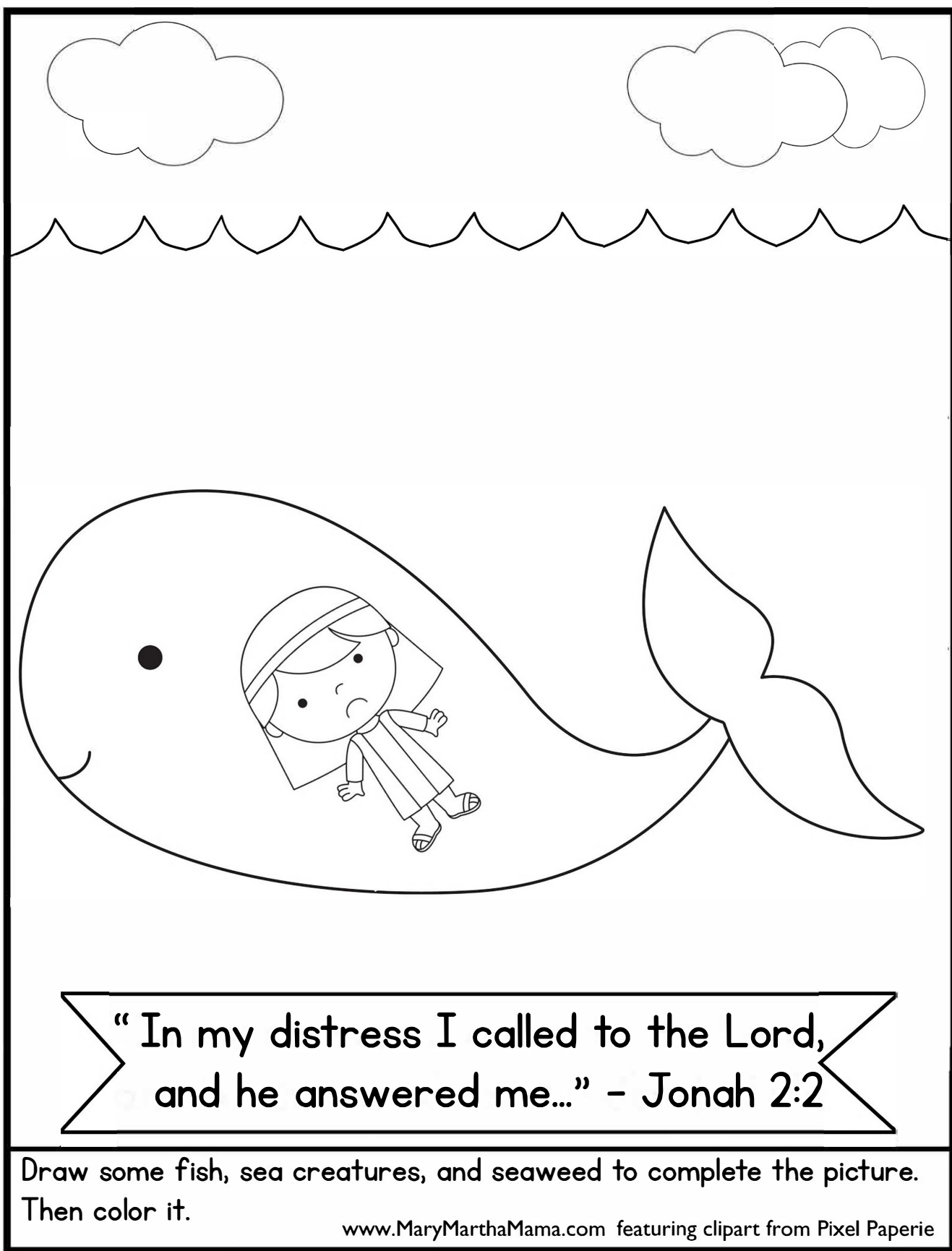
** If the kids have a good understanding of the story, I will show the parallel of the resurrection, but sometimes it is too much information.

Sunday morning I will tell the whole story and we will make the small book that helps them remember the basics. Wednesday night I tell the whole story again. They usually don't remember much of it, but I will give more detail and ask more questions anyway. Then we will do the tie in worksheet. While we work on it, we talk about the story and how it applies to us.

Main points to bring out:

- You can't run away from God.
- Disobedience will make problems in your life.
- With repentance must come obedience (changed behavior).

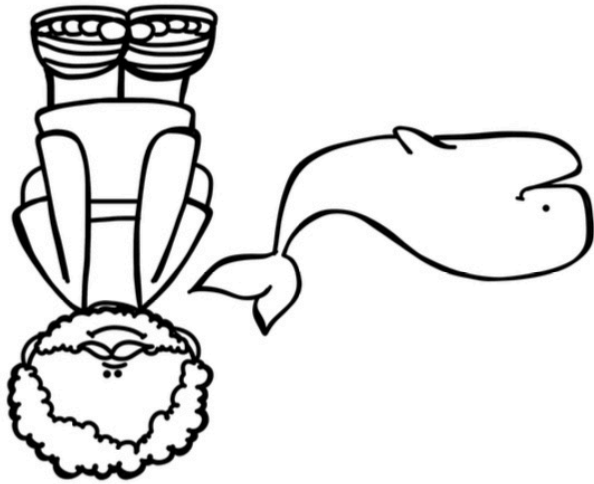
Attendance chart at the end. Try to have the kids help pick up before the second bell rings.



“In my distress I called to the Lord,
and he answered me...” – Jonah 2:2

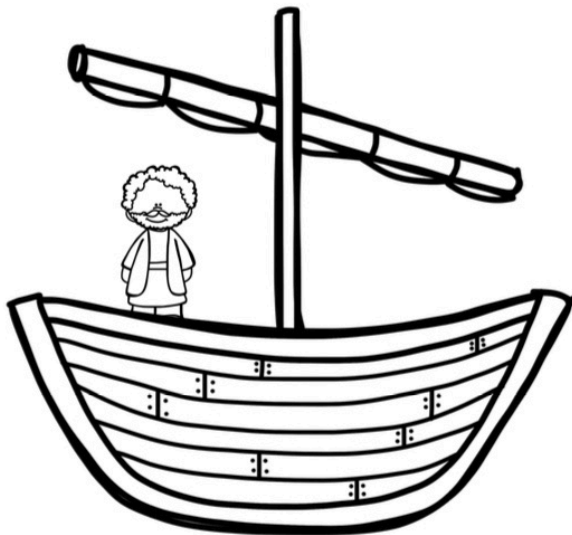
Draw some fish, sea creatures, and seaweed to complete the picture.
Then color it.

www.MaryMarthaMama.com featuring clipart from Pixel Paperie



Jonah & the Fish

Jonah prayed and told God he would do what He asked. God told the big fish to spit him out on land.



Jonah ran away from God on a ship. He wouldn't do what God asked.



God sent a storm. Jonah was tossed out of the ship and swallowed by a big fish.