

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**  
**CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)**

**Lesson #46**

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** Jonah

**SCRIPTURE:** Jonah, Chapters 1 - 3

**AIM:** To show the children that God has a plan for each one of us. We, therefore, need to obey Him.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Psalm 31:14 "But as for me, I trust in Thee, O Lord, I say, 'Thou art my God.'"

**SONGS:** 50, 65, 178

**Content:**

A long, long time ago in a faraway land was the city of Nineveh. This was a big city with a lot of people living in it. Sadly, these people did not know anything about the living God and His love for them. Their city was full of idols and they worshiped them. These people also did a lot of bad things.

There was a man named Jonah. He was a prophet who spoke God's word. God spoke to him one day. God told Jonah to go to that big, bad city of Nineveh and warn the people in that city to stop worshipping idols and doing bad things or else God would destroy that city.

Guess what happened? Jonah did not want to obey God and follow God's plan. Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah tried to run away from God. Do you think anyone can run away from God? Could any of us run away from God? He found a ship going to another country far away. He paid the fare and got on the boat. He was going to run away from God. Oh, be careful, little feet where you go! God saw what Jonah was doing. Remember, God sees everything you and I do.

God saw what Jonah was doing and God sent a strong, strong wind into the sea. There was a great storm. The winds roared and the waves of the sea were very high. These waves were so high that the ship was being tossed around like a toy. The sailors on this ship were afraid. They began praying to their idols for help. Of course idols do not hear because they are not alive. No help came. The storm only got worse. Finally, the captain of the ship found Jonah in the lowest part of the ship. Jonah was sleeping during this great storm. The captain said to Jonah "How is it that you are sleeping. Get up and call on your God."

The sailors blamed Jonah for this great storm. Then Jonah told them the truth that he was running away from God. He also told them that if they threw him into the sea, the storm would stop. The sailors did not want to do this, but the sea was getting rougher and rougher by the minute. They picked up Jonah and threw him into the stormy sea. Immediately, the storm stopped and the sea was

calm. The men knew without a question that Jonah's God was the only true and living God and they worshipped Him.

Jonah was going down and down into the sea. God still loved Jonah and He had a special plan for Jonah. God, who created all living things, prepared a great, great fish to swallow Jonah to keep him from drowning. With one big gulp, the big fish swallowed Jonah. He was in the belly of this great fish!

Do you think he was afraid? Sure, He was. He started to pray to God to forgive him for running away and for not obeying Him. Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights. My, that was a long time to be in that dark and smelly place! Then God commanded the fish and the great fish opened its big mouth and vomited Jonah up onto the dry land. What a relief for Jonah. Breathing fresh air at last.

God spoke to Jonah again. He told him to go to Nineveh and proclaim the message that He was going to tell Johan. This time, Jonah obeyed God and he went to Nineveh. The people heard Jonah's word. They asked for forgiveness (repented) and believed in the living God. So, God forgave them and He did not destroy their city.