



# 10

## God Sends Jonah



### Key Passages

- Jonah 1:3–5, 1:12, 1:17, 2:1, 2:10

### Lesson Focus

- You can't outrun God!

## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will color the Kings Booklet as a review of the previous lesson and/or play with play dough. Briefly discuss the kings with the students as they color.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—Students will hear how Jonah tried to outrun God.

**Song**—Students will praise God by marching, clapping, and singing the Memory Verse Song and "God is Sovereign." Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



### Activity 1: Jonah March

Students will review Jonah's journey as they march, shout, and do fun hand motions with this jingle. Lyrics are on the Flip Chart Song Page and on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



### Activity 2: Fish Puppet

Students will color and add stickers to complete this fold-over puppet of Jonah inside the fish.



### Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse while playing with bubbles.



### Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### COME ON IN

- Print, cut out, and assemble one Kings Booklet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Kings Booklet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough



### CIRCLE TIME

- Print the two Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Print the Jonah Lesson Map from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Charts, Quarters 1 & 2
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Two Lesson Illustrations
- Jonah Lesson Map



### JONAH MARCH

- Practice the "Jonah March" lyrics and motions. These can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Jonah March lyrics for your use



### FISH PUPPET

- Print and cut one Fish Puppet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Fish Puppet for each student
- Crayons
- Small colored dots for decoration
- Tape



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Bring bubbles to class.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- One bottle of bubble liquid



### APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for review
- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

We serve an amazing God! He continually reveals Himself to us. Time and time again, His Word proclaims His attributes including His patience, mercy, grace, forgiveness, and goodness (Exodus 34:6–7). As we study one of God’s prophets today, we do well to be grateful each day for the grace God has shown in our lives.

Jonah was a prophet of God who was called to prophesy to the 10 tribes of Israel. However, his acclaim doesn’t come from his association with Israel, but rather from his encounter with God, a great fish, and the Ninevites. The capital of Assyria, Nineveh was believed to have been one of the largest cities in the world at the time. The people there were known for godlessness, idolatry, and cruelty. The Jews despised these pagan Gentiles—and Jonah was no exception.

That seems to be why Jonah ran the other direction when God called him to warn the Ninevites of their wickedness and of God’s impending punishment. He despised the Ninevites and did not want God to forgive them (Jonah 4:2). Jonah’s escape route led him to a ship bound for Tarshish (Jonah 1:3). But could Jonah really outrun God? Of course not. God’s purpose will never be subverted.

In fact, Jonah’s rebellion and flight led to a revelation of God’s complete sovereignty and omnipotence over every circumstance and over all of His creation. In pursuit of Jonah, the Lord sent a great wind on the sea. A great storm arose, and the ship headed for Tarshish was about to be broken up (Jonah 1:4). Not only that, but the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah when he was thrown overboard (Jonah 1:17). Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. This is a God that CANNOT be outrun or outwitted! Finally, Jonah prayed to the Lord in humble submission to God’s sovereignty, in sincere repentance, and with an earnest request for God’s mercy and grace. The Lord heard his prayer and spoke to the fish, which vomited the prophet of God out onto the ground (Jonah 2).

God faithfully answered Jonah’s prayer for mercy. God saved him from drowning, preserved him in the fish, and then offered him another opportunity to go to the Ninevites and preach the message of judgment. This time, Jonah obeyed!

Jonah cried out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” (Jonah 3:4). God again demonstrated His abundant grace and mercy—this time to the sinful, rebellious, and despicable Ninevites. The people of Nineveh—from the greatest to the least—believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth as a sign of their repentance. God saw that they turned from their evil ways, and He relented and did not bring the destruction He had planned (Jonah 3:10).

To review, Jonah had received a clear message from God and knew that he should obey, but instead he chose to sin by disregarding God’s command to go to Nineveh. His sin did not stop God or His purposes. Nor can we thwart God’s plans for us. He will always accomplish what He intends, and He WILL carry out the work He has begun in us to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

What marvelous lessons for us in this small book. We, too, have sinned against God and continue to do so, but He has been gracious in giving us the message of the gospel. He has shown mercy to us in offering His Son on the Cross for the payment of our sins. He has listened to our cries of repentance and held back the punishment that He would be perfectly justified to give us.

We can use the account of Jonah to examine our own hearts in another area. Jonah was hostile toward sharing the gospel with the pagan Gentiles of Nineveh and was displeased that God would indeed save them (Jonah 4:1–2). Similarly, there may be times we feel that certain people don’t deserve to hear the message of the gospel—the message of repentance and faith. Perhaps we believe them to be pathetic, evil sinners—seemingly without hope. We need to guard against any type of self-righteousness in our own salvation and remember that our sins were the reason Jesus suffered and died. He willingly bore our sins, dying on our behalf. Let’s take time to consider the Apostle Paul’s words to Timothy: “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth” (2 Timothy 2:24–25).

What an awesome truth to meditate on. Throughout the ages, God has used His people to deliver the message of repentance and forgiveness in Christ, and He is still doing so today. Maybe you will be the Jonah for someone in your class today who will hear the message of the hope of Christ and trust in that truth.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Jonah was a prophet from the region of Galilee, the city of Gath Hopher near Nazareth (2 Kings 14:25). We know that his father was a man named Amittai, but nothing else about the family is recorded in Scripture. Although some scholars claim Jonah was not a real person, Jesus Himself referred to Jonah. On at least two occasions (Matthew 12:39–41, 16:4), Jesus used Jonah as an example of a call to repentance and as a sign of His death, burial, and Resurrection. Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees that “as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Undoubtedly, Jesus regarded Jonah as an historical figure, and He regarded Jonah’s experiences in the fish and his preaching to Nineveh as real events.

The Assyrians were descendants of Shem’s son Asshur who settled in the North and occupied various places throughout the centuries. Around 1100 BC, Assyria rose to power in Mesopotamia and later declined. During this period of decline, around 800 BC, God sent Jonah to Nineveh. The city was known for its immorality and cruelty, and it is truly a miracle of God’s grace that the people turned from their wickedness—but the repentance didn’t continue in future generations. Later prophecies would be delivered against the Ninevites from Nahum, and God would judge them for their wickedness.

Under the leadership of Tiglath-Pileser III (2 Kings 16:7), Assyria began to influence Israel. Eventually, the Assyrians would conquer the Northern tribes and take them into captivity. After the fall of Samaria in 721 BC, the Israelites lost control of that region for many centuries. The Assyrian kings began to carry the Jews away from their land and brought new leaders from their own culture to Israel. This advanced the practice of the Jews intermarrying with the Assyrians and other foreigners. Because of this intermarrying, they were considered traitors by those who had remained in Judah, causing tension between the Samaritans and the Jews, which continued well past the time of Christ.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



### BEFORE THE THRONE

Gracious Lord, how many times have I gone the other direction when you’ve called me to do your will? Too many! Forgive me, Lord. Help me to grow in my faith and trust you more. Help me to be obedient the first time. I am awed by your grace and mercy to Jonah in his disobedience. The same grace and mercy falls on me in my disobedience. I am humbled more and more as I come face to face with your greatness. May my students be humbled and awed by you this week, too. Bless them and reveal your truth to them through your Word.

➤ As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children engaged.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Kings Booklet as a review and/or
- Play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Quarters 1 and 2 Flip Charts, Jonah Lesson Map, two Lesson Illustrations, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray.** *Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:*

**Today we will ask God for something. That is a prayer of supplication, or a "please" prayer. God cares about us and has promised to provide us with all we need.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, I know that you hear all my prayers, and you will give me all I need according to your perfect will. Lord could you please . . . (insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

## GOD'S WORD

*These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.*

- ? **Is there more than one true God?** *No. There is only one living and true God.*
- ? **Where can we learn about the one true God?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*
- ? **What does the one true God know?** *The one true God knows everything!*
- ? **Who should we trust and obey?** *The one true God!*
- ? **Who alone should we worship?** *The one true God!*

*The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark the passage before you begin.*

➤ Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

## Bible Pass Around

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number.* You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student.* **As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.** *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

➤ When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We've talked about some of God's prophets. And today we are going to talk about another one. God used prophets in the Old Testament to tell His people what He wanted them to know. Remember the prophet, Samuel? *Show Quarter 1, Lesson 12 Flip Chart Page.* God sent him to Jesse's house to look for the new king. And God led His prophet Samuel to Jesse's youngest son,

David. The prophet Samuel anointed David to be the next king! Then we learned about God's prophet, Nathan. *Show Quarter 2, Lesson 2 Flip Chart Page.* God used Nathan to give King David some very special promises. David's son would one day be king after him, Solomon would build a temple to the Lord, and Jesus Christ would come from David's family.

And we learned that God used Nathan again. *Show Quarter 2, Lesson 3 Flip Chart Page.* This time Nathan gave David some bad news. God knew that he had sinned. And Nathan's story about the rich man, the poor man, the traveler, and the lamb showed David that he had sinned against God.

God used prophets to tell the people what He wanted them to know. Remember, they didn't have the Bible back then. So God spoke through prophets to teach the people His truth and help them to know Him better.

Today we're going to talk about another prophet. *Refer to the Flip Chart.* His name was Jonah.

? Have you heard of Jonah before? *Show of hands.*

? Did you know there is a book in the Bible called Jonah? *Yes.*

Well, that's where we are going to look for our lesson today. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is.* **Here it is—the book of Jonah!** *Show the students where the book is. Have the student sit back down.*

*Show the Jonah Lesson Map.* Jonah was a real person who lived many years before Jesus was born. He lived in Israel. He was a prophet. God used His prophets to speak to the people. Well, one day God told Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh. Can you say that? *Repeat Nineveh several times.*

See where Nineveh is on the map? *Show Jonah Lesson Map.* God said go from Israel to Nineveh. Jonah did not like the people here in Nineveh. He didn't want to go. He tried to run away from God.

? Now, do you think anyone could run away from God? *No!*

Of course we can't. God is all-powerful. He is omnipotent. And He is all-knowing. That is omniscient. We could never run away from someone who has all the power and knows everything! But that is what Jonah tried to do. He did not want to go to this city called Nineveh and preach to those people. So Jonah was going to try and outrun God! The Bible tells us how Jonah tried to run away from God. I want you to listen carefully, OK? *Read Jonah 1:3 enthusiastically.*

? Jonah was trying to run away from the Lord. What did Jonah find in the city of Joppa and get on? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. A boat.*

*Show the Jonah Lesson Map.* He found a boat, paid the money, and got on the boat, hoping he could run away from God. But we can't outrun God. Look here at this map. Here is Israel where Jonah was from. God told him to go

Jonah 1:3

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

### Jonah 1:4

here, to Nineveh. Well, Jonah had other ideas. So, he went here to Joppa and got on a boat that was headed way over here to Tarshish. *Show the map and all the different places on it.*

*Show Lesson Illustrations #2 and #3. Lay them on the floor in the circle.* Well, God wanted Jonah to go this way to Nineveh. But Jonah got on a ship that was going to a place called Tarshish, this way!

? Oh, no! Do you think God was happy with Jonah? *No!*

? Can Jonah outrun God? *No!*

We can't outrun God. Okay. I'm going to read a bit more and we will find out what happened to Jonah. Remember, he was running the other way! He got on the ship to Tarshish. *Show Lesson Illustration #3. Ready? Listen to this. Read Jonah 1:4 emphasizing "great wind" and "mighty tempest."*

? What did God send? *A great wind.*

? Where was the great wind? *On the sea.*

There was a mighty tempest! It was a big storm. And Jonah was on the sea in the boat running away from God! *Show Lesson Illustration #3 and the Jonah Lesson Map. Point out the sea Jonah was on.*

? What was about to happen? Listen again and tell me. *Re-read Jonah 1:4. The ship was about to be broken up!*

Yes, the ship was about to be broken up! God sent a terrible storm. *Refer to Flip Chart. I wonder what the men and Jonah were doing on the ship during this storm. The Bible tells us! Listen carefully. Are you ready? Read Jonah 1:5 enthusiastically emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

? How were the men on the ship feeling about the storm? *They were afraid.*

? What did they do with the cargo? *Threw it into the sea!*

The captain of the ship and all the sailors were afraid! Now these men sailed on the sea all the time. I'm sure they would have been in storms before. But this storm was much bigger and much worse. These men were really afraid!

? And where was Jonah? What was he doing? *Re-read Jonah 1:5b. Sleeping.*

Jonah was sleeping! But the ship's captain woke him up. They asked Jonah who he was. When he told them he was a prophet running away from the one true God, they knew that something had to be done. Jonah told them what to do. Listen. *Read Jonah 1:12.*

? What did Jonah tell them to do? *Throw him into the sea!*

? What would happen once Jonah was in the sea and off the boat? *The sea would be calm.*

### Jonah 1:12

So Jonah knew that God had brought the storm. Jonah was learning that he couldn't outrun God. God knew exactly where Jonah was, didn't He? And we can't outrun God either.

Do you know this is a true account of Jonah? We know it is true because it is God's Word! And it gets even more exciting! Jonah was now overboard in the sea! I guess he thought he would drown out there. But God had a different plan. Listen to this! *Read Jonah 1:17 emphasizing "great fish" and "swallow Jonah."*

Jonah 1:17

? Refer to Flip Chart. **What was God's plan?** *A great fish would swallow Jonah.*

? **How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish?** *Three days and three nights. Hold up fingers and count.*

? **Could Jonah outrun God?** *No!*

We can't outrun God! God is sovereign—He's in control of everything. God is omnipotent—He has all the power. And God is omniscient—He knows everything. He is an amazing God. And we cannot outrun Him. *Have the children repeat the attributes and the meanings.*

? **So Jonah stayed in the fish for three days and three nights. Now what do you think Jonah did while he was in that fish?** *Allow discussion.*

Well, the Bible tells us! Listen carefully. *Read Jonah 2:1 emphasizing "Jonah prayed to the Lord."*

Jonah 2:1

? **What did Jonah do?** *Prayed to the Lord.*

Jonah prayed from inside the belly of the fish. *Refer to Flip Chart.* He knew God could hear him even from a fish. And God answered his prayer in an interesting and kind of yucky way! Listen to this! *Read Jonah 2:10.*

Jonah 2:10

? **What did the Lord do?** *He spoke to the fish, and the fish vomited Jonah onto dry land.*

Yuck! Out came Jonah. Out of the fish's mouth! Onto dry land! You sure can't outrun God! Jonah tried, but he couldn't do it.

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* Guess what? Jonah DID finally go to the great city of Nineveh. He could not outrun God. Jonah could not change God's plan! Jonah preached to the people in Nineveh, just like God wanted him to do in the first place!

God is in control—He is sovereign—He was in control of the storm and the great fish.

God is all-powerful—He is omnipotent—He has power over the weather, the sea, and the fish in the sea.

God is all-knowing—He is omniscient—He knew right where Jonah was all the time. God had a plan, and Jonah could not run from Him. We can't outrun God!

## SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page and Flip Chart Song Page during this part of the lesson.

*Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Jonah learned that God is sovereign. Sovereign means that God is in control of everything that happens. We can trust God in all things because we know that He is in control of all things. **Let's sing two songs about God's sovereignty. Everybody stand up!** Sing the two songs called "God Is Sovereign."*

*Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **That was great! We'll sit back down now, but let's keep on praising our God. Remember, our memory verse is a praise that King David wrote. Let's sing it out to God.** Sing the Memory Verse Song together two or three times.*

*Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and at the back of this Teacher Guide.*

**OK. Now everybody stand up and line up here facing me. We're going to march to the story of Jonah!**



## Jonah March

### MATERIALS

- ☐ "Jonah March" lyrics and motions from Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Have students line up facing you. Say the first line while doing the hand motions. Have students repeat it until they can do it with you. Then continue with the second line, running in place and shouting the words. Continue through the whole jingle.*

**We're going to do a Jonah march together. I'm going to say the words and show you the motions. Then you can do it. When we**

**get to the part that says, "We can't outrun God," make sure you shout it out and pretend to run like this.** *Show example of running in place.* **There are lots of different things we get to do so watch me carefully and do what I do. Okay, is everybody ready?**

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

**Jonah did not want to obey God. He tried to outrun God and do something else instead. But we need to obey God. We can't outrun God.**



## Fish Puppet

### MATERIALS

- Fish Puppet for each student
- Crayons
- Small colored dots and/or other stickers for decoration
- Tape

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Have students color the puppet then add colored dots and/or other stickers to decorate the fish. Help students fold on the line and tape the edges together to make a hand puppet.*

We're going to make puppets today that you can wear on your hand. First, you need

to color the fish and then decorate the fish with the stickers. When you're finished with that, raise your hand, and I will come and help you fold it and make it into a puppet. Do your best and make it look really nice.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Even though Jonah tried to outrun God, we learned that God is sovereign—He's in control. We can't outrun God. But God saved Jonah out of the sea by sending a huge fish to swallow Jonah so he would be safe. You can use your puppet to tell others how Jonah couldn't outrun God.



## Memory Verse Review and Activity

**1 Chronicles 29:11** Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.*

### MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- One bottle of bubble liquid

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Have students sit down on the floor in a circle—they will need space to move around. Using the Flip Chart, students will recite the memory verse together. Each time the verse is completed, the teacher will blow bubbles over the area*

*where the students are seated on the floor. Allow students to try and catch the bubbles in some safe, appropriate way. One child at a time, girls catch the bubbles, boys catch the bubbles, etc. Repeat as time allows.*

Come here and sit down on the floor in a circle. We've looked at the words to our memory verse. Now it's time to put it into our memories. So we're going to say it over and over. But each time we say the verse, I'm going to blow some bubbles at you to see if you can catch them. Are you ready?

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We can't outrun God, but we can trust Him and obey Him. Jonah was reminded that God is great. He is powerful. And He is in control over all things, just like our memory verse says.



# Applying God's Word/Snack

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*After thanking God for your snack, review the lesson with the children while enjoying the snack for the day.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* Jonah decided to disobey God and go the other way. But he was reminded that God is in control—He is sovereign and was in control of the great fish and the storm. God is all-powerful—He is omnipotent—He has power over the weather, the sea, and even the fish in the sea. God knows everything—He is omniscient. He knew where Jonah was and what Jonah was trying to do. God had a plan, and Jonah could not run from Him. We can't outrun God!

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

This may seem like a made-up story. And some people may try to tell you that this could never have happened. No man could ever live inside a fish for three days. But, this is true history from the Bible. This is God's holy Word. God would not lie. God cannot lie. And not only that, when Jesus lived on the earth and He was teaching people, He talked about Jonah inside the fish. Jesus knew that Jonah really lived and that everything the Bible says that happened to Jonah really did happen. We can trust God's Word to be true.



## Group Prayer Time

- Pray that we will trust God and obey Him, not try to outrun Him.
- Thank God for His Word and the truth.
- Pray that God will give us hearts that truly love Him.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## 1 CHRONICLES 29:11

*(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")*

1 Chronicles 29:11 *Shout!*

Yours, O Lord is gre-eatness,  
*(Jesus loves me, this I know,)*

The power and the glo-ory,  
*(For the Bible tells me so.)*

The vic-tor-y and majesty,  
*(Little ones to Him belong,)*

For all that's in heaven and earth is Yours.  
*(They are weak, but He is strong.)*

Yours is the kingdom—O Lord! *Shout!*  
*(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

Yours is the kingdom—O Lord! *Shout!*  
*(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

Yours is the kingdom,  
*(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

You're exalted as head over all.  
*(The Bible tells me so.)*

1 Chronicles 29:11 *Shout!*

## JONAH MARCH

*(To be spoken in a marching cadence.)*

Jonah was a real live man.  
*March in place and point finger.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

He didn't want to follow God's plan.  
*March in place and shake head, "No!"*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

He got on a ship the other way.  
*Point left then cross other arm over to point right.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

God sent a storm to the ship that day.  
*Turn around, waving hands.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

Jonah was tossed overboard.  
*Hold nose and jump once.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

He should have just obeyed the Lord.  
*Look up and raise hands upward.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

God sent a fish to swallow him whole.  
*Open and close arms like jaws.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

Jonah prayed, and the fish let him go.  
*Fold hands to pray then open hands up and out.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

God wants us to obey His Word.  
*Open hands like a book.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

So we can glorify the Lord.  
*Put hand over heart then point up.*

*Shout—We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

*Shout—No! We can't outrun God!*  
*Run in place.*

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN

*(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")*

God is sovereign, this is true.  
*(Jesus loves me, this I know,)*

He takes good care of me and you.  
*(For the Bible tells me so.)*

He watches over everything,  
*(Little ones to Him belong,)*

And is King above all kings.  
*(They are weak, but He is strong.)*

Yes, God is sovereign. *(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

Yes, God is sovereign. *(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

Yes, God is sovereign. *(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

He reigns above all things.  
*(The Bible tells me so.)*

continued next page

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN 2

*(To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")*

God is sovereign, it is true, it is true, it is true.

*(Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb.)*

God is sovereign, it is true. He's in charge of all things.

*(Mary had a little lamb its fleece was white as snow.)*

He controls all things for you, things for you, things for you.

*(Everywhere that Mary went, Mary went, Mary went.)*

He controls all things for you and does them for your good.

*(Everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go.)*

**Think of fun ways to sing. For example: Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.**