

## Jonah: Lesson 1

**SuperTruth:** God wants to show mercy to all people.

**SuperVerse:** “I knew that You are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.” Jonah 4:2b (NLT)

**Bible Story:** Jonah 1–4

### Game Materials Needed:

- Pencils or washable markers
- Sheets of paper—one per child plus extras
- Two containers—clean wastebaskets, boxes, 5-gallon buckets
- Optional: masking tape
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

### Teaching Materials Needed:

- A coin or dollar bill
- Fish Necklace Pattern, one per child plus extras
- String, ribbon or yarn—about 36" per child, plus extras
- Card stock or paper
- Pencils
- Hole punch
- Children’s scissors
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

### SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Chalkboard and chalk, or whiteboard and marker
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

### Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

## LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Today, we begin a new Superbook story called, “Jonah.” He was an Old Testament prophet who God sent to bring a message to a city called Nineveh. God wanted the people of that city to turn from their sinful ways.

- When Joy sees a bully steal a bike at school, she is upset that the principal offers mercy to the thief. Superbook takes Joy, Chris and Gizmo to meet Jonah, who is swallowed by a great fish as he resists God’s plans to show mercy to wicked people. The children learn to show God’s forgiveness even to those who don’t deserve it.
- Mercy is showing love, kindness and compassion to someone who doesn’t deserve it. We all need God’s loving mercy, and His mercy will never run out!

## SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

**Game:** God Is Mercy-FULL (15 minutes)

*Objective: Explore the Superbook story by playing a game about God’s mercy.*

- God’s mercy is for all people—no matter who they are or what they have done. God chose to show the Ninevites mercy, not punishment. That’s why our game is about God’s mercy!

*Game Instructions:*

- The containers are full of “mercy balls” which contains each child’s name. Children must find their names to receive mercy and re-crumple the other balls for the next player. The first team that receives mercy for all their players wins, but both teams need to finish the game.

**Teaching:** Not What We Deserve (15 minutes)

*Objective: Discuss God’s undeserved mercy.*

- Jonah tried to run from God, but he quickly found out that you can’t do that. God truly does show mercy to all people; the Ninevites, Jonah, and us! God’s love and mercy give us a free gift of life through Jesus instead of the punishment and death that we deserve!

*Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (5 minutes)*

- Children make fish necklaces. The challenge is to look at the back of the fish for Lesson 1, read the Bible passage about mercy, and answer the questions on card. It also has a challenge for you to show mercy to someone, and next time share with us what happened if you want.

**SuperVerse:** Superbook Missing Word (5 minutes)

*Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.*

- The verse says that God is very slow to anger and is filled with love, compassion and mercy!
- Point to the first blank space—merciful—and alternate asking for the girls or the boys to shout the missing word. If children are stumped, offer clues or ask the other group—girls/boys—if they know the answer. When the verse is completed, have the girls and then the boys shout it aloud.

**Prayer:** Forgiveness Prayer (5 minutes)

*Objective: Communicate with God.*

- Jesus showed mercy to those who were rejected and judged. We are to show that kind of mercy to all people, too! When we do this, we are blessed with God’s mercy.
- Have the children pray silently and ask to be filled with God’s mercy and love for any people the Holy Spirit reveals to them. It may even be someone they don’t like or who has mistreated them!

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

**Dodgeball Game:** Play a game of mercy dodgeball. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

**Bible Study:** Dig deeper into God’s mercy. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

**Craft:** Demonstrate showing mercy to others. | **Grades 1–6** | 5 min

**Object Lesson:** Demonstrate God’s endless mercy. | **Grades 1–3** | 5 min