

# Jonah: Lesson 2

**SuperTruth:** God wants us to show mercy.

**SuperVerse:** “In that city of Nineveh there are more than a hundred twenty thousand people who cannot tell right from wrong. ... Don't you think I should be concerned about that big city?” Jonah 4:11 (CEV)

**Bible Story:** Jonah 1–4

## LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

God showed His mercy to a great city in Bible times called Nineveh. God also showed mercy to His prophet, a man named Jonah, when he disobeyed the Lord. God shows us mercy, and He wants us to show mercy to others, too!

- 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.
- Let's watch the Bible Background video to learn more about the Bible times and location in which the story of Jonah took place!

## SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

**Game:** Show Mercy (15 minutes)

*Objective: Play a game to show God's mercy.*

- When we hear about people doing bad things, we may think they deserve judgment, anger, revenge, or rejection. Yet, that's not what God wants. Today's game is about showing mercy.

*Game Instructions:*

- When you say “Go,” the first player for each team walks quickly to the cards and turns them over one by one until a player finds the “Mercy” card. That player then holds it up high toward their team, and that team shouts the SuperTruth together. Repeat until all players have taken a turn.

**Teaching:** Messengers of Mercy (15 minutes)

*Objective: Discuss how we can show God's mercy.*

- The people of Nineveh didn't know what was right or wrong. They didn't even know God's law at the time. God was telling Jonah that He was concerned about those people, and He wanted them to know that what they were doing was wrong! He has given us a message to give people, too! He wants us to deliver His Word and mercy to others.

*Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)*

- The challenge is to look at the back of the fish for Lesson 2, read the Bible passage about mercy, and answer the questions on the card. It also has a challenge for to show mercy to someone.

**SuperVerse:** Superbook Erase (5 minutes)

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

- Because we have received God's mercy, we need to show concern and mercy to others.
- The children will turn their backs, lower their heads, and cover their eyes as you erase two key words of the SuperVerse from the board such as “Nineveh” and “city.” Have the children then look at the board and raise their hands if they think they can say the verse filling in the correct words.

**Prayer:** Mercy Prayers (5 minutes)

*Objective: Communicate with God.*

- Even in Jonah's disobedience, God saved Jonah and then heard his prayer in the belly of the great fish. That is mercy shown by a loving God!
- Have children think of someone who may need mercy—maybe someone who is difficult to get along with, like Jonah felt about the Ninevites. Allow time for the children to pray, then close in group prayer.

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

**Catching Game:** Play a game to reinforce the SuperVerse. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

**Object Lesson:** Present an object lesson about making wise choices. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

**Activity:** Discuss a Bible story dealing with mercy. | **Grades 1–3** | 15 min

**Bible Study:** Dig deeper into the mercy that Jesus showed others. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

### Game Materials Needed:

- Eight identical pieces of cardstock
- Marker
- Two sixth grade helpers or other volunteers
- Optional: painters or masking tape

### Teaching Materials Needed:

- Supplies and Fish Necklace Pattern for children who missed Lesson 1
- Model of the finished craft to show children
- One manila envelope, preferably with a clasp
- One sheet of paper
- Marker
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

### SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers; or chalkboard and chalk, eraser
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

### Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App