

Jonah: Lesson 3

SuperTruth: God showed His mercy through the cross.

SuperVerse: “God did not send His Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent Him to save them!” John 3:17 (CEV)

Bible Story: Jonah 1–4

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

The more we learn about the story of Jonah, the more we learn about God’s loving mercy. God cared about the city of Nineveh and about His disobedient prophet, Jonah. In today’s lesson, we are going to discover that God demonstrated the depth of His mercy by sending His only Son to die on the cross to save us from our sins!

- 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.
- In the Signposts video we will learn how the story of Jonah points to the life and death of Jesus Christ on the cross!

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Bouncing With Mercy (15 Minutes)

Objective: Play a fun review game about Jonah.

- The events in the Old Testament were part of God’s master plan. Many times, Jesus and writers of the New Testament referred back to events and writings in the Old Testament. Let’s play a fun review game to go over all the important things we have learned about God’s plan of mercy.

Game Instructions:

- Players try to bounce their ball on the floor hard enough so it lands in the container as many times as possible in 20 seconds. Each team has a chance to answer review questions.

Teaching: Jonah Points to the Cross (15 minutes)

Objective: Discuss how the story of Jonah points to Jesus and the cross.

- God showed His mercy in many ways throughout the Bible, but the depth of His love and mercy for us was shown by Jesus on the cross!
- Children will participate in this signpost presentation. Completion of all the steps of the presentation will form a cross from the signs.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 Minutes)

- The challenge is to look at the back of the fish for Lesson 3, read the Bible passage in Luke 18:9–14, and answer the questions about who received mercy—and who didn’t! It also has a challenge to show mercy to someone.

SuperVerse: Superbook Wave (5 Minutes)

Objective: Memorize the Superverse with a group activity.

- God had a plan of mercy, not judgment. He sent Jesus into the world with one purpose: to live a sinless life so He could become the perfect and only sacrifice needed to take away our sin!
- Children hold up cards with words of the verse on them. All the children assist in putting the cards in the right order.

Prayer: Good News Prayers (5 Minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- How will people know unless someone tells them the Good News?
- Today, let’s ask God to give us a desire to share the Good News of God’s mercy shown through Jesus on the cross. Allow time for children to pray, then close with a prayer.

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

Tossing Game: Play a game about the ship in the storm. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Craft: Construct a craft to reinforce the SuperTruth. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Bible Study: Use Bibles to quickly find the answers. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

Game Materials

Needed:

- Two small bouncy balls, such as tennis balls
- A container such as a box or a tall, clean trash can
- Bouncing With Mercy Questions and Answers Sheet
- Whiteboard and marker or chalkboard and chalk
- Timer—clock/watch with second hand, stopwatch, timer app

Teaching Materials

Needed:

- Fish Necklace Pattern, for children who missed previous lessons
- Sample of the finished Fish Necklace to show children
- Signpost patterns
- Optional: tape
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

SuperVerse Materials

Needed:

- Nine slips of paper, one for each phrase of the verse and the reference
- Superbook Wave cards
- Whiteboard and marker or chalkboard and chalk
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App