

JONAH



THINK ABOUT IT:

How does God give you second chances?

Introduction

1. Play a game of Jonah Says. Have the children do the opposite of what you command. (whisper your name, stay in your seat, stand up, keep your eyes open)
2. Give a brief intro to Jonah: he was a prophet chosen by God to take God's word to the people; he didn't think Nineveh deserved forgiveness; instead of taking God's word to them, he went in the opposite direction and ran away.
3. Ask the children if they have ever been asked to do something they didn't want to do. Have them share with a partner, and then ask if they would have made a different choice if given a second chance.
4. Pray. Thank God for giving us His words through the Bible. Ask for His wisdom to understand how to make good choices. Thank Him for forgiving us when we make a bad choice and for giving us a second chance.

Message

1. Have the children enter the whale and hear the story.
2. Ask, "Why do you think Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh?"
3. Ask, "How are we like Jonah?"
4. Ask, "How did God answer Jonah's prayer?"
5. Ask, "How does God give you second chances?"



SCRIPTURE

Jonah

Jonah 2:3



MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- 25 ft. Big Fish *
- Jonah storybook of your choosing
- Ice
- Bucket for each small group
- Rubber and blubber gloves
- Towel or paper towels

* Directions to create a big fish available in the Member Toolbox



MAKING BLUBBER GLOVES

Supplies Needed (for 6 gloves):

- 1 large tub of Crisco (6-7 heaping tbsp for each glove)
- 12 sandwich bags
- 6 ft. duct tape (roughly 1 ft. per glove)
- tablespoon

Directions (to make 1 glove):

- Spoon 6-7 heaping Tbsp of Crisco into one sandwich bag.
- Put your hand inside a second sandwich bag and then stick it into the first bag.
- Use your hands to soften and spread the Crisco around so it evenly coats the inside of the first bag.
- Make sure that the inner (second) bag is flat inside the outer (first bag).
- Use duct tape to seal the "seams" between the two bags so that no Crisco comes out.



PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark the Bible verse
- Fill buckets with ice water



IDEA!

You can move things along by asking questions and explaining the science while the experiment is going on.



EXTRA TIME

Review past stories learned by seeing how many other second chances God offered to His people (Noah, Jacob & Esau, Israelites, etc).

Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Read Jonah 2:3.
2. Ask, "Where was Jonah thrown? How was he feeling?" (*heart of the sea; like he was drowning*)
3. Say, "The bucket of ice water is supposed to be like the icy water Jonah was thrown into, and the gloves are the clothing he wore. Let's see how well his clothes would have protected him."
4. Give each child a thin rubber glove and have them dip their hands into the ice water for about a minute (or until they no longer want to have it in).
5. Say, "God gave Jonah a second chance, and provided a great fish to swallow him. I wonder how that must have felt."
6. Place the blubber glove in the water and have the children take turns placing a hand inside it.
7. Ask, "How is the blubber glove different from the rubber glove?" (*warmer*)
8. Say, "The shortening (or fat) is similar to the blubber a whale has. Because of this, the whale would have been able to survive in freezing water. Jonah would not have lasted more than a few hours in the freezing water."
9. Ask, "How did God give Jonah a second chance? How does God give you second chances?"