



Unit 14, Session 1

Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh

Jonah

Story Point: God loves all people and showed mercy to the Ninevites.

Open your Bible and read aloud the Book of Jonah, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

God told the prophet Jonah, “Go to the great city of Nineveh. Tell them to stop doing evil things.” The people of Nineveh were enemies of God’s people. **Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh.** So he got on a boat heading the other way! **God sent a terrible storm, and the sailors were afraid.** They cast lots to figure out who caused this trouble. The lot fell on Jonah. **The sailors asked Jonah, “Who are you? What are you doing here?”**

Jonah replied, “I worship the one true God who made everything.” **The sailors did not know what to do, so Jonah told them to throw him into the sea. When they did, the storm stopped.** From that moment on, the sailors worshiped the one true God.

God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. **Jonah prayed and thanked God for sending the fish to save him. Then the fish vomited Jonah onto dry land.**

God told Jonah, “Go to Nineveh and preach My message.” So Jonah went into the city shouting: “In 40 days, Nineveh will be destroyed!” The people turned from their evil ways. The king repented. God decided not to destroy Nineveh.

“I knew it!” Jonah said. “You are a gracious God. You show mercy to people. You are slow to anger, and You are loving. **I knew You would decide to not destroy Nineveh. I am so mad!”**

“Is it right for you to be angry?” God asked. Jonah left Nineveh and made a shelter where he could still see the city. God provided a plant to shade Jonah. But the next day, God sent a worm that attacked the plant, and the plant died. Then God sent a hot wind. Jonah almost fainted. “I want to die,” he said.

God asked Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” **“Yes!” Jonah said.**

God said, “You cared about the plant, but you did not take care of it or make it grow. **Nineveh is a big city with thousands of people. I created them and care about them.** Aren’t they and the animals in the city more important than a plant?”

Christ Connection: God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. Later, God sent Jesus to His enemies to call us to repentance. Jesus willingly obeyed. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.