

kidz CONNECTION - it's all about the GROWTH!,
(Grace, Relationships, Obedience, Walk of
Faithfulness, Talking with God, Heart for God and
Others)

Prayer – Preschool/Early Elementary

Third quarter – Prayer Changes Me!

Week six – Sunday School

Scripture – Jonah

Lesson – When I choose to talk with God, I'll know I
can pray and ask God for forgiveness like Jonah
and the people in Nineveh did!

Verse – Philippians 1:6

Opening - 20 minutes

- Music - 15 minutes
- Activity - 5 minutes

Supplies –

- Card stock – print post cards for children in small group #1 – each child in this group will need four cards, one to keep and three to give away
- Stickers – children in small group #1 may put a sticker on each of their post cards to be a “stamp”
- Crayons/markers – children in small group #1
- Gummy lifesavers – children in small group #2 will each need eight lifesavers, two to keep and six to give away.
- Small paper cups – children in small group #2 will each need four cups – they will put two gummy lifesavers in each cup
- Paper towels – each child in small group #3 will need one pieces of towel they may tear into four strips to make seaweed, they will keep one piece and give three away
- Black paper tablecloths or paper – children in small group #4 will cut or rip into pieces – each child in this group will need four pieces, one to keep and three to give away

Assign each small group a specific part of the lesson to prepare props for. If you have more than four small groups, assign more than one small group to a part of the lesson. If you have less than four small groups, combine parts or assign more than one part to each small group. Let the children know their small group will have a part in teaching the lesson to the rest of the class. Explain to each small group the props they need to prepare and the role they will have in teaching the lesson as follows –

1. Jonah’s messenger service – each child in this group will make “post card” “messages” to share – they will put a sticker in the place for a stamp and prepare four “post cards” – they will keep one and give three away (you can run “post cards” on card stock by putting any clip art on one side and leaving the other side blank – children may add “x” and “o” with crayons if you like)
2. Boat to Nineveh – make gummy “life-savers” – each child will make four cups of gummies by putting two gummy “rings” into each paper cup – they will keep one cup and give three away
3. The belly of the big fish – Use strips of paper towel to make seaweed – one for themselves and three to share
4. People of Nineveh repenting – take black paper tablecloths and cut to cover people, animals, everyone – each child will have four pieces of black paper tablecloths or paper and keep one while giving three away

Bible Lesson – 10 minutes

Say – **Good morning children! I’m so glad to see each of you here today! We have been learning a lot about prayer and how being people who pray changes our lives! Last week we learned about King Hezekiah and how praying changed his life because he became a person who knew God would hear and answer his prayers! We can be people who know God hears and answers our prayers, too and this will change our lives like it changed King Hezekiah’s life!**

Ask – **Are you ready to help me with our Bible lesson today?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **Wonderful! I watched as you all worked so hard to make your props for our Bible lesson, you all did a great job! I’m so glad you all chose to help make props for our Bible lesson! Let’s get started! Long, long ago before your dad and mom were born, before your grandpa and grandma were born, even before their grandpas and grandmas were born, there was a real man who learned a very, very important lesson about talking with God! This man’s name was Jonah and he had a very special job. Jonah was a messenger for God!**

Ask – **Have any of you ever seen a “messenger”?** (Allow children to respond – Postman, UPS or FedEX delivery man, etc)

Say – **We have people who have the job of delivering messages to us. Our mailman is a message deliverer and the people who drive those big brown or white trucks are delivery people. Let’s pretend we are delivery people and we have a big truck full of messages we are going to deliver! Hold your hands up like if you were holding a steering wheel on your delivery truck and follow me as we make “deliveries” in our room today!** (Lead children on a “delivery route” around your room and return to your Bible lesson area where the children may sit back down with their small groups)

Say – **Well done! Jonah was a messenger, but he was different than the people who deliver packages and messages to us with the big trucks. Jonah was a man who had the job of delivering messages from God! I need Small Group number one to come up and stand by me. Be sure to bring the special things you made with you.** (Allow a moment for the children to stand by you)

Ask – **What did you make to help with our Bible lesson?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **What a wonderful job you did on these messages! Each of you needs to keep one of your messages and then give your other three messages to children who do not have any messages.** (Allow a moment for children to do this and when Small Group #1 hands out their “messages” they may return to their seats.)

Say – **Well done! Thank you! You did a wonderful job delivering your messages to everyone in our class! God often gave Jonah messages to deliver to His people in Israel. Sometimes the messages told the people something God wanted them to do. Sometimes the messages told the people about something that was going to happen. Sometimes the messages were about something the people did that was wrong. One day God had a very important message for Jonah to deliver, but this time the message wasn’t for His people in Israel. This time the message was for the people who lived in a city far away. This city was Nineveh and God’s message said He saw how sinful and wicked the people in Nineveh were and God was going to destroy their city. Well, Jonah didn’t want to deliver a message to Nineveh. Jonah didn’t like the people in Nineveh, so he decided to not obey God and ran away. I need Small Group number Two to come up and stand by me. Be sure to bring the special things you made with you.** (Allow a moment for the children to stand by you)

Ask – **What did you make to help with our Bible lesson?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **What a wonderful job you did on these cups of gummy lifesavers! Each of you needs to keep one of your cups of gummy lifesavers and then give your other three cups of gummy lifesavers to children who do not have any.** (Allow a moment for children to do this and when Small Group #2 hands out their cups they may return to their seats.)

Say – **Well done! Thank you! Nineveh was that way –** (Point to your left) – **and so Jonah decided to go that way –** (Point to your right)! **Jonah got on a boat and sailed as far away from Nineveh as he could go.**

Ask – **Do you think God could see Jonah on the boat sailing as far away from Nineveh as he could go?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **You are right! God could see Jonah was not obeying and delivering His message to the people in Nineveh, so God sent a storm to get Jonah’s attention. The wind began to blow. Let’s all pretend we are the wind and start to blow like a storm!** (Allow children to “blow” like the wind in a storm)

Say – **You all did a great job making a stormy wind sound! Let’s pretend we are raining a lot like in a heavy storm! Let’s tap our finger tips on the floor to make the sound of rain!** (Show children how to tap their finger tips on the floor to make the sound of rain)

Say – **Well done! Storms often have wind and rain and sometimes they also have thunder! Let’s make the sound of thunder by saying, “Kaboom!” very loudly! Ready? Let’s be thunder!** (Allow children to say, “Kaboom” very loudly)

Say – **Excellent thunder! Let’s put the wind, rain and thunder together and make a loud storm sound three times! Ready?** (Lead children in blowing, tapping fingers and saying “kaboom” three times)

Say – **Well done! Well, God sent a very, very big storm and all the people on the boat with Jonah were very, very afraid. They were sure their boat would sink in the sea and they were afraid. Jonah was sleeping during the storm so the captain of the boat got Jonah and when he saw the big storm he knew it was his fault for running away from God and not delivering God’s message. Jonah told the captain to throw him into the sea. Even though the captain didn’t want to throw Jonah into the sea, there wasn’t anything else for him to do and as soon as he threw Jonah into the sea, the storm stopped! I need Small Group number three to come up and stand by me. Be sure to bring the special things you made with you.** (Allow a moment for the children to do this)

Ask – **What did you make to help with our Bible lesson?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **What a wonderful job you did making seaweed! Please keep one piece of seaweed for yourself and give your other three pieces of seaweed to children who do not have any seaweed.** (Allow a moment for children to do this and when Small Group #3 hands out their “seaweed” they may return to their seats.)

Say – **Well done! Thank you! The captain of the boat threw Jonah into the sea and Jonah began to sink down to the bottom of the sea. Jonah was sure his life was over when suddenly, a great, big fish swallowed Jonah! God sent a big fish to save Jonah! This fish was so big, Jonah could still be alive inside the fish! The Bible tells us Jonah realized God sent the big fish to save him from the sea. Jonah realized he needed to talk with God so right there in the belly of the big fish, Jonah began to pray. He said, Oh Lord, I was drowning, but You heard my prayer and helped me! I was sinking to the bottom of the sea and You saved me! You are the Lord my God and from the**

bottom of the sea You heard my prayer! Some people worship useless, worthless, fake gods and do not know the Grace You want to give to them. I will thank You! I will sing songs of praise to You! I will keep my promises and serve You! You are the God Who saves! Jonah knew he could pray and God would hear and forgive him even at the bottom of the sea with seaweed all around him!

Say - God saved Jonah from the big fish's belly! He forgave Jonah! Jonah talked with God, asked for forgiveness and God forgave Jonah! Not only did God forgive Jonah, but He gave Jonah another chance to deliver His message to Nineveh!

Ask – Do you think Jonah chose to obey God and deliver his message this time? (Allow children to respond)

Say – Yes! Jonah delivered God's message! Jonah told the people of Nineveh, "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!"

Ask – Do you think the people of Nineveh listened to Jonah and believed his message or do you think they didn't believe Jonah's message? (Allow children to respond)

Say – I need Small Group number four to join me. Please bring the items you made with you. (Allow the children to join you)

Ask – What did you make to help with our Bible lesson? (Allow children to respond)

Say – What a wonderful job you did cutting out black pieces of paper! Please keep one piece of black paper for yourself and give your other three pieces of black paper to children who do not have any black paper. (Allow a moment for children to do this and when Small Group #4 hands out their black paper they may return to their seats.)

Say – Well done! Thank you! The people of Nineveh believed Jonah's message. They were sorry for their sins and put on black clothes to show how sad and sorry they were. The king of Nineveh told all the people to even put black clothes on their animals and for all of them to stop eating food to show they are very, very, very sad and sorry for their sins. They thought if God saw how very sad and sorry they were, maybe He would not destroy Nineveh.

Ask – What kind of animals do you think the people of Nineveh had? (Allow children to respond – as they tell an animal, ask what sound that animal makes and allow children to respond)

Say – God saw how sad and sorry the people of Nineveh were and heard their prayers for forgiveness and just like God heard Jonah’s prayer for forgiveness in the belly of the fish and forgave him; God forgave the people of Nineveh. God decided to not destroy the city of Nineveh!

Ask – Do you think Jonah was happy the people of Nineveh listened to his message and were sad and sorry for their sins? Do you think Jonah was happy the people asked God for forgiveness and that God forgave them? (Allow children to respond)

Say – Jonah was not happy. In fact, Jonah was angry that God forgave the people of Nineveh. God asked Jonah why he was angry and Jonah said he was angry because he knew the people would want to tell God they were sorry and God would forgive them. Jonah said he knew God was tender and kind. Jonah knew God was slow to get angry and was full of love for people.

Ask – Do you think God told Jonah it was okay for him to be angry? (Allow children to respond)

Say – No, God told Jonah he didn’t have the right to be angry. Jonah said he did have the right to be angry. Jonah said he was in a scary boat during a big storm, got thrown into the sea, swallowed by a very big fish which made him smell like rotten fish and slimy seaweed! Jonah said he had to travel over the desert to the wicked, evil town of Nineveh and warn them all of their impending doom, only to have God decide to forgive them. Jonah decided to just sit outside town and pout for awhile. Jonah thought maybe God would decide to change His mind again and send fire from Heaven to zap those Ninevites with complete obliteration! Which, was exactly what Jonah thought they deserved!

Ask – What do you think Jonah’s angry, pouty face looked like? (Allow children to make angry, pouty faces)

Say – I think you are right! Jonah pouted for awhile in the hot sun. God sent a vine to grow and give him some shade from the sun, but when a worm ate the vine, Jonah was sad for the vine. God told Jonah he didn’t make that vine grow and yet he cared about a simple vine. The great city of Nineveh had more than 120,000 people but Jonah did not care about the people. Jonah wanted God to destroy, flatten, level and completely obliterate all those people when they turned from their sin and asked for God’s forgiveness. God said he should care about all those people and give them forgiveness when they ask

for forgiveness, just as He forgave Jonah when he asked for forgiveness.

Say – **The Bible doesn't tell us if Jonah realized he needed to rejoice that the people of Nineveh listened to his message, turned from their sin and asked God for forgiveness or if he chose to remain angry that God forgave the Ninevites. Jonah knew he could turn to God and ask for forgiveness for his sin and he knew God would forgive him, but didn't want God to give His forgiveness to the people in Nineveh. The people in Nineveh learned about God and His forgiveness when they chose to turn from their sin and ask for forgiveness. They learned they could ask God for forgiveness and God would hear and forgive them.**

Thank children for participating and close in prayer – **Thank you all for helping with our Bible lesson today! We can all choose to talk with God and when we do our lives will change in amazing ways! One of those wonderful changes will be that we will know we can choose to talk with God and ask Him for forgiveness when we sin just like Jonah and the people in Nineveh did! Thank You God that we can choose to talk with You and really know You! Thank You for Your love for us, we love You, too! Amen!**

Dismiss children to their small groups for Small Group Time.

Small group time - 15 minutes

- Catch up/greet visitors/pray
- Work through application flyer
- Choose activity to do for coming week
- Work on memory verse

Final Application Activity – 10 minutes

Supplies –

- Paper cups – one per child
- Fish crackers – small handful per child
- Dried cranberries – two tablespoons per child
- Chocolate chips – two table spoons per child
- Knot pretzels – four per child

Directions –

- Help children combine their mix in their cups

Say – **We can pray and ask God for forgiveness and know no matter where we are – in a big city, in our homes or even at the bottom of the sea – God will hear our prayers and forgive us!**

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(Grace, Relationships, Obedience, Walk of
Faithfulness, Talking with God, Heart for God and
Others)

Prayer – Preschool/Early Elementary

Third quarter – Prayer Changes Me!

Week six – Optional Second Service

Scripture – Psalm 66:16-20; 67

Lesson – When I choose to talk with God, I'll ask God
for forgiveness and tell others how they can be
forgiven, too!

Verse – Philippians 1:6

Opening

- Music
- Verse – Philippians 1:6 **-/I am sure that the One/ who began a good work in you/ will carry it on/ until it is completed.**

- Game – My Choice Relay
 - Supplies –
 - Sheets of paper – 5 sheets of the same color for one team, and another set of a different color for each other team
 - Buckets - one per team
 - sets of, “My Choice Cards” - one per team
 - Set up –
 - Write verse, following breaks above, on 5 sheets of paper - one per team (plan to make teams with 5 children on each team.)
 - Mix verse sheets and place each team’s verse in a bucket
 - Print and cut apart, “My Choice Cards” - one set per team
 - My Choice Cards –
 - skip or take giant steps
 - take giant steps or hop
 - take baby steps or crawl
 - walk on tiptoe's or hop on one leg
 - crab walk or take slow motion steps
 - Directions –
 - Each team will line up opposite of their bucket
 - Each team needs an adult leader to hand choice cards to racers and read the card for the child
 - First players will look at card number one and choose a way they will race to their bucket, retrieve one verse paper and race back to their team the same way so the next player can receive their card and choose how they will race. This continues until all players have run and all verse papers have been collected
 - When a team has all their verse papers, their leader may assemble their verse in correct order and lead the children in saying the verse together.
 - Play again if you have time.

Bible lesson

- Supplies –
 - VeggieTales DVD – Jonah
 - Start time – 36:37 – Jonah admits the storm is his fault
 - End time – 53:44 – Jonah gets a second chance

Greet children and gather them in sharing circles (sitting knee to knee with the others in their small group).

Say – **This morning we got to see how choosing to talk with God changes our lives by making us people who know asking God for forgiveness brings us forgiveness and a second chance. Let’s watch a clip about someone who learned this very thing!**

(Show video clip)

Say – **When Jonah asked God for forgiveness, God forgave him and gave him a second chance. God hears our prayers for forgiveness and gives us second chances, too! David knew this when he wrote Psalm 66 and Psalm 67! What an amazing blessing it is to know God will hear our prayers for forgiveness and give us second chances, too! I want to know what God’s Word says! (Read Psalm 66:16-20; 67)**

Say – **David spent a lot of time talking with God and this changed his life in many ways! One way it changed his life was by helping him know God would hear his prayers for forgiveness and forgive him! David wanted people everywhere to know God would forgive, them, too! When we make the choice to be people who talk with God, we will know He will forgive us when we ask for forgiveness! This will change our lives! We will want to let others know how God forgave us and that they can be forgiven by God, too! David wanted to tell others what God did for him by forgiving him. Let’s be like David! I your small group, beginning with your Small Group Leader, tell about a time when you know God forgave you! (Allow a few moments for groups to do this)**

Say – **David knew if he didn’t ask for forgiveness for his sin, God wouldn’t hear his prayers and forgive him. David knew he had to ask God for forgiveness and he knew when he did God would forgive him. David wanted to praise God for forgiving him! Let’s praise God like David did! “Thank You Lord for listening to and hearing my prayers!” (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer) “Thank You Lord for forgiving me!” (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer) “Thank You Lord for loving me!” (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer)**

Say – **David knew God blessed him and all people with His love and he knew this would show all the people in the world that God had the power to save! David knew he could ask for forgiveness and he also wanted all people everywhere to know God would forgive them, too! When we talk with God and our lives change because we know He will forgive us, we will want others to be forgiven by God, too! Let’s pray for others, people we know who have not chosen to ask God for forgiveness yet. Let’s also pray for the people who will receive clean water through our project with Samaritan’s Purse and pray that they will learn about God’s love and forgiveness and choose to ask God for forgiveness!** (Give groups time to spend in praying for others to know God’s forgiveness and love.)

Say – **David said knowing God would forgive everyone brought him so much joy that he wanted to sing praises to God! Let’s be like David and sing praises to God for His amazing love and forgiveness He has for everyone! In your small groups, pick a song of praise that you will lead the rest of us in singing.** (Allow a moment for groups to pick a song they want to lead the rest of the class in singing one verse of to praise God – it is okay if more than one group picks the same song.)

Say – **David said we need to choose to ask God for forgiveness and we will be blessed when we do because God will forgive us! When we spend time talking with God we will want to ask Him for forgiveness for us when we sin and forgiveness for others as well and our lives will be changed! Small Group Leaders, go around your circle and pray the following from Psalm 66 for each child in your group, by name, “Dear LORD, please help _____ know You hear his/her prayers and will always love him/her!”** (Allow groups a few moments to do this, and then when they have all finished, close in prayer.)

Extra time craft –

- supplies –
 - Posters – collect the posters children made to let the church know of their service project
 - Stickers
 - Crayons
 - Paper
 - Two-sided tape
 - Scissors
- directions –
 - Have children update their posters to let people know how things are coming along with raising money to help provide safe, clean drinking water for families in Africa

Say – **We absolutely can know God will hear our prayers for forgiveness and forgive us as well as He will hear other’s prayers and forgive them, too! Knowing this changes our lives! Update your poster to let people in church know how things are coming along with raising money to help provide safe, clean drinking water for families in Africa. Remember to pray this week for these families that they will learn about God’s love for them and choose to ask Him for forgiveness!**

If you have extra time play your memory verse game again.