

Family Theme | **Lessons From the Life of Jonah** Date | **December 28, 2025**

Study Text | **Various Scriptures From Jonah 1-4**

Read the Word: Various Scriptures From Jonah 1-4

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how you can put life lessons from Jonah into action.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



Key Truth: Jonah Ran (Jonah 1:1-17)

LIFE LESSON 1: Never run from something God wants you to do.

- What are some common ways people “run” from God’s calling today—even if they stay physically in place?
- When have you faced a task or command from God that you were reluctant to obey? How did that work out?

LIFE LESSON 2: Obey God. Your sin affects those around you.

- In what ways can our disobedience affect others, just like Jonah’s actions affected the sailors?
- Think about choices people make that negatively affect others. Why do people often neglect to think about the long-term consequences of their decisions? What’s the remedy for that?

LIFE LESSON 3: God can work miracles if necessary to accomplish His will and plan.

- Why should we not be surprised that God could cause a fish to swallow and save Jonah?
- What are some modern-day examples—big or small—where you’ve seen God intervene in unexpected ways to accomplish His purpose?



Key Truth: Jonah Prayed (Jonah 2:1-10)

LIFE LESSON 4: God often disciplines disobedient servants so they can reassess their obedience toward Him.

- Hebrews 12:6 tells us that God disciplines those He loves. What are some ways God might discipline us today?
- Discipline is uncomfortable for both children and adults. How do we usually respond to discipline? How should we respond?



Key Truth: Jonah Obeyed (Jonah 3:1-10)

LIFE LESSON 5: Help get the gospel to all people, including those you would consider as enemies.

- What is our church currently doing to get the gospel to all people? As an individual, what are you doing to share the gospel with others?
- Who is someone you’d be surprised to see respond to Christ with repentance and faith? What’s one way you could share the gospel with that person?



Key Truth: Jonah Complained (Jonah 4:1-11)

LIFE LESSON 6: Remember that God loves all people, including our enemies, and wants them to repent and be saved.

- *What group would you hesitate to approach with a declaration and demonstration of God's love?*
- *At times, Jonah showed obedience, but he also showed a lack of compassion. How can we develop compassion for the lost? Why is it important to avoid an "us vs. them" mentality?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- How did Jonah's disobedience affect the lives of others? What does that teach you about how your disobedience affects others?
- What did God do to change Jonah's mind about going to Nineveh?
- How does Jonah's story give you encouragement about God's grace and mercy in your life?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Isaiah 9:6**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

The Hebrew word *Elohim* means God and speaks of God's sovereignty over all other gods.

Everyday Extras:

Remind your child this story from the Bible, while it might be hard to believe, is a true account of an event in Jonah's life. Visit bitly.com/jonahswallowed and bitly.com/jonahlargefish with your child as additional resources regarding this story. Then, play a game of Tag with your family. Discuss how God pursued the disobedient people of Nineveh and Jonah because of His love for them. God demonstrated His mercy to Jonah in a miraculous way. God pursues us and demonstrates His mercy with us too.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned an angel appeared to shepherds in a field and told them about Jesus' birth. They went to find the newborn baby. Some wise men also saw a special star in the sky. They knew it was a sign God's Son had been born. The men traveled a long time and brought Him special gifts. They knew **Jesus Is a Gift of Love** for the world.