



LET'S FLY | WEEK 4 | OCTOBER 27, 2024

Preschool Lesson

Jonah

Bible Story: *Jonah* • God is with me wherever I go • *Jonah 1-3:3*

Memory Verse: "God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9, NLT

Key Question: Who is always with you?

Bottom Line: God is always with me.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

If you've ever been near a playground when an airplane flies by, you know the sound of the airplane is quickly followed by the sound of kids shouting with excitement! Their innate sense of wonder is immediately turned up as they ask questions like: Where do you think that plane is going? How big is that plane? How can it fly so high in the sky?

Today, our preschoolers will go to places like school, daycare, church, and grandparents' houses. We know God has plans for each of them, and as they grow, they will go to even more places that might be even further away. We want to make sure that wherever they go, they can look to God with a trusting heart and say, "Let's fly!" because they know God is always with me.

Story Focus: God is with me wherever I go. God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to tell the people who lived there to do what God says and love one another. But Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. So, Jonah went the other way and got on a boat! While Jonah was on the boat, there was a big storm. He knew that, if he got off the boat, the storm would stop. While Jonah was in the water, God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah and keep him safe. Jonah was in the fish for three days and three nights. While Jonah was inside the fish, he prayed to God, and then God made the fish spit Jonah out onto dry land. Once again, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time, Jonah did what God said, and he went to Nineveh. God loved Jonah and was always with him—in the boat, in the fish, and when he went to Nineveh.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow



KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group...

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

“Can everybody follow those rules today? *(Kids respond.)* Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let’s say them all together! Are you ready?”

1. I am made by God. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

“It’s time for our memory verse. Let’s watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!”

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

‘God *(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)*
is with you *(bring two fists together)*
wherever you go,’ *(march in place)*
Joshua 1:9. *(Open hands like a book.)*

“Ok, Now let’s sing and worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: ALWAYS WITH ME)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Goggles, Cape and Paper Airplane with Words that Highlight Current Week’s Story, Bible and Story Box)

*LGL brings the story box with the prop and Bible to the center of the room.
You should have goggles, a cape and paper airplane with words that highlight
the current week’s story.*

“I have my story box ready. I’m SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let’s see what I have in here...”

Pull out the Bible

What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, it’s the Bible! The Bible is God’s word and God’s word is always true. The Bible has many stories that make one BIG story, and we (you and me) are part of that story. Let’s see what else is in our story box today.

*Pull out **goggles** (put them on), **cape** (wrap it around your shoulders) and the
paper airplane.*

What is this? I have a costume today! Who else is wearing a costume today? *(Pause for responses.)* So FUN! I get to dress like a pilot and fly my airplane! So cool! Do you want to fly with

me? Stay sitting. Let's stretch our arms out like this (*raise both arms out to the side*) and pretend to be an airplane. Ready? (*Make airplane sound.*) Nneeaowa! Nneeaow! That was so FUN! Do you see this airplane? (*Hold up paper airplane.*) It has pictures of candy on it! What! Why candy? *Because it's Costume Sunday and we get treats on costume Sunday! WOW that's exciting! Now this airplane also has a special message. It says, God is with me wherever I go. This message has something to do with our story today. Are you ready for a story? (Pause for responses.) Great!*

Let's get our eyes and ears ready! Let's click on our listening ears (tug on each ear, one at a time, as you make a click, click sound), let's put on our looking eyes (bring your hands, one at a time, to your eyes like binoculars as you say look, look) and let's put our hands that have been moving and praising Jesus quietly in our laps.

Now we are ready. Let's watch today's true Bible story."

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

"Wow! That was an amazing story! Was God with Jonah inside the fish? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, God was always with Jonah and God is always with you and me.

When I ask, 'Who is always with you' I want you to say, [*Bottom Line*] 'God is always with me!' Are you ready? (*Pause for responses.*) 'Who is always with you?' [*Bottom Line*] 'God is always with me.' YES! [*Bottom Line*] God is always with me."

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me. No matter where we are God is always with us and will guide us.

PRAY

"Let's get our hands ready to pray. *Open them close them, open them close them, give a little clap. Open them, close them, open them, close them, fold them in your lap.*

God, thank You for always being with us. No matter where we are or what we're doing, You are there with us. Thank You for the true story about Jonah and how You were always with him—even in the belly of a fish. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen."

STORY SONG AND PARADE

(VIDEO: GULP!)

Before we go into small group, we have a FUN song today about Jonah and how he went in the belly of a fish in one BIG GULP! During our song we get to march and parade in our costumes. Are you ready? Here we go!

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *Jonah* • God is with me wherever I go • *Jonah 1-3:3*

Memory Verse: “God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9, NLT

Key Question: Who is always with you?

Bottom Line: God is always with me.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

SWIMMING VERSE

(“Memory Verse Sticker” Activity Page, 1 sticker per child)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Memory Verse Sticker” on label paper, one label per child. Say the Memory Verse as you do the motions with the children.

During the Activity: Encourage children to swim like fish to different places in the room and say the Memory Verse. Swim back to where you started to say the verse with the motions and give each child a sticker.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, let’s say our Memory Verse together as we do the motions. The Bible teaches us that, ‘God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) is with you (*bring two fists together*) wherever you go,’ (*march in place*) Joshua 1:9. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!”

During the Activity: “Today in our Bible Story, we heard about a BIG fish, but we’re going to pretend to be little fish and swim around the room. Okay, little fish! Let’s swim! Let’s swim over to the [place (door, window, TV/Screen)]. Great! Let’s say our verse right here. ‘*God is with you wherever you go,*’ Joshua 1:9. Good job! Let’s swim to the [place (this side of the room/that side of the room)]. (*Repeat as desired.*) Now let’s swim back to where we started. Great swimming, friends! Now let’s say our verse one more time but with the motions this time. ‘God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) is with you (*bring two fists together*) wherever you go,’ (*march in place*) Joshua 1:9. (*Open hands like a book.*) That was fantastic! I have a sticker for all my fishy friends!” (*Give each child a sticker.*)

After the Activity: “Friends, that was so much fun pretending to be little fish swimming around the room saying our Memory Verse in all the different places we swam to. The Bible teaches us that God is with us always, no matter where we go. Tell me friends: **Who is always with you?** [*Bottom Line*] God is always with me! One more time! **Who is always with you?** [*Bottom Line*] God is always with me. Great job, friends!”

STORY WALK (2-3's)

(Flat Sheet, Painter's Tape)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Use the painter's tape to create a boat shape on the floor then lay a flat sheet on the floor next to the boat to be "water". The sheet will also be used for the children to climb under when they are "in" the fish.

During the Activity: Walk the children through the story scenes as you review the Bible Story. Start with the boat (Jonah on a boat), then to the flat sheet (Jonah in the water), then under the sheet (Jonah in a fish), then to the other side of the room (Jonah goes to Nineveh).

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Follow me, everyone! Let's walk through the Bible Story!"

During the Activity: "In our Bible Story, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah did not do what God said. Jonah got on a boat and went a different way. Everyone, get in the boat with me and sit down. (Pause.) While Jonah was on the boat, a big storm came. (Rock the boat by moving side to side.) Whoa! Whoa! Jonah told the other people on the boat to put him in the water and the storm would stop. So that's what they did! Everybody, stand up and get out of the boat and into the water. (Walk to the flat sheet, lie down on stomach and pretend to swim.) Just keep swimming! While Jonah was in the water, God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah and keep him safe. Let's swim into the big fish. (Have kids stand up, have leaders help pick up the sheet and encourage the kids climb under it). One BIG GULP! Jonah prayed to God, and God made the big fish spit Jonah out on dry land! Whew! Follow me. (Walk from one side of the room to the other.) God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, and this time he did what God said."

After the Activity: "God was with Jonah on the boat. God was with Jonah in the water. God was with Jonah inside the big fish. And God was with Jonah when he went to Nineveh. God was with Jonah wherever he went, and God is with you wherever you go too, because God is always with you! Who is always with you? [Bottom Line] God is always with me!"

JONAH SURPRISE (4-5's)

(“Jonah Surprise” and “Surprise Fish” Activity Pages on Cardstock - 1 image per child, Party Blower - 1 per child, Double-sided Tape/Glue Dots and Scotch Tape)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Jonah Surprise” on white cardstock and cut, one cutout per child. Attach with double-sided tape to the outside end of a party blower. Copy “Surprise Fish” on white cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.

During the Activity: Give each child a “Surprise Fish” cutout, and a party blower. Ask children to color their big fish, then help tape the big fish piece to the side of the blower. Be sure not to

obstruct the mouthpiece so the child can still blow it and unfurl it. Encourage the children to blow the blower and “blow” Jonah out of the fish.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come sit with me at the table. I have a really fun way for us to remember today’s Bible Story about Jonah.”

During the Activity: “Look at this big fish! It’s like the big fish in our story that swallowed Jonah! Use the crayons to decorate it. (Pause.) Let’s tape the big fish on your party blower. (Help attach it with a few pieces of tape.) Now blow on the mouthpiece for a surprise. (Demonstrate.) WOW! You blew Jonah out of the big fish! Hooray!”



After the Activity: “God told Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people to do what God says and love one another. But Jonah did not go. Jonah got on a boat and went the other way! So, God sent a big storm. Jonah jumped off the boat into the water, and the storm stopped. While Jonah was in the water, God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah and keep him safe. Jonah prayed to God while he was inside the fish, then God made the fish spit Jonah out onto dry land. Everyone, blow Jonah out. (Pause.) Once again, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, and this time, Jonah did what God said! God was always with Jonah, and God is always with you too! Who is always with you? [Bottom Line] God is always with me!”

MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

‘God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)
is with you (bring two fists together)
wherever you go,’ (march in place)
Joshua 1:9. (Open hands like a book.)

PRAY

“Let’s pray together. (Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)

Dear God, thank You for being with Jonah, and thank You for loving us so much that You are with us wherever we go. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)

Hand out placemats and encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.

Send each child home with a Costume Sunday TREAT!