

WEEK 33 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

Jonah, God's Mercy for All

Bible Passage: Jonah 1-4

Big Idea: God is holy and just, but He is also wonderfully merciful. He wants sinners everywhere to turn to Him and receive His mercy.

1 MEMORY VERSE

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Jonah 2:9

Salvation comes from the LORD.

What It Means and How to Practice

Salvation means rescue. Jonah could not rescue himself from the sea, and we cannot rescue ourselves from sin. God saves us through Jesus. Ask, 'Where does salvation come from?' Let your child answer, 'Salvation comes from the LORD!'

2 TODAY YOUR CHILD LEARNED

God sent Jonah to Nineveh, a real Assyrian city known for wickedness and violence. Jonah ran the other way. God sent a storm and provided a huge fish to rescue and correct him. After Jonah preached God's warning, 'The Ninevites believed God' (Jonah 3:5), turned from evil, and received mercy. Jonah became angry because he wanted mercy for himself, but not for his enemies. God patiently taught Jonah that the people of Nineveh mattered to Him.

3 WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS

Jonah is not mainly about a big fish. It is about God's heart. God is holy and does not ignore sin. He is just, and He is also merciful. Jesus said, 'Something greater than Jonah is here' (Matthew 12:41). Jonah resisted going to enemies; Jesus willingly came to save sinners. Jesus died for our sins and rose again.

Simple Explanation

You can say: 'Jonah wanted God's mercy for himself but not for people he disliked. Jesus shows us that God's mercy reaches sinners everywhere, including us.'

4 TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

Why did Jonah run away?

Jonah 4:2 says he knew God was merciful and did not want Nineveh spared.

What happened when Nineveh heard the warning?

They believed God, humbled themselves, and turned from evil. God showed mercy.

How is Jesus greater than Jonah?

Jonah reluctantly went to sinners. Jesus willingly came to save sinners, died for us, and rose again.

Who needs God's mercy?

Everyone. Romans 3:23 says all have sinned.

5 WHEN YOUR CHILD STRUGGLES WITH SOMEONE

Mercy does not mean pretending wrong is okay. If someone hurts, threatens, touches, or frightens your child in a wrong way, listen and help keep them safe. You can say: 'What happened was wrong, and God cares. We can tell the truth, ask for help, and still ask Jesus to keep hatred from growing in our hearts.'

6 DEFENDING THE TRUTH AT HOME

Could someone really live inside a huge fish for three days?

Normally, no. That is why Jonah's rescue was a miracle. Jonah 1:17 says the LORD 'provided a huge fish.' The Bible does not name the species. Jonah is also named in 2 Kings 14:25, and Nineveh was a real Assyrian city. Most importantly, Jesus spoke about Jonah in Matthew 12:39-41.

Try saying: 'That is a good question. Christians believe God performed a miracle, and Jesus Himself talked about Jonah.'

7 THE GOOD NEWS AND THE TRINITY

Jonah said, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.' We have all sinned and cannot earn forgiveness. God sent Jesus, His Son. Jesus lived without sin, died for our sins, and rose again. Everyone who turns from sin and trusts Him can be forgiven and receive eternal life.

Your child is also learning: 'God is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.' Matthew 28:19 names all three. No object or picture explains God perfectly, so we simply teach what Scripture says.

8 TRY THIS AS A FAMILY

Choose one safe person who may be lonely, difficult, or left out. Pray for that person and choose one simple act of Christlike kindness. Afterwards ask, 'Was it easy or hard to show mercy?' Remind your child: 'We show mercy because God has been merciful to us.'

9 PRAYER TO PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You for Your mercy. Forgive us when we run from You or refuse mercy to others. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins and rise again. Holy Spirit, help our hearts become more like Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

10 A FINAL THOUGHT FOR PARENTS

You do not need to turn your home into a classroom. Read a few verses. Ask one question. Listen carefully. Pray together. Keep bringing the conversation back to Jesus. The truth to carry this week is simple: Salvation comes from the LORD.