

## Lesson #3-9

# *Jonah and the Big Fish*

Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11]



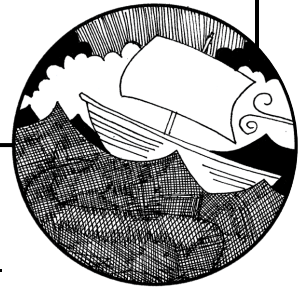
### Key Verse:

But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:17

### The Point:

No matter what we do, God's love for us never changes.



## *Introduction*

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people to turn to God. Jonah disobeyed and traveled by boat far away in the other direction. God caused a storm on the sea, so water gushed onto the ship. Jonah knew the storm was because of his disobedience. He told the people to throw him overboard. God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the fish's belly for three days and nights. While there, God spoke to him again and told him to give the message to Nineveh to turn to God. This time Jonah obeyed. The people in Nineveh turned from their evil ways.

### The Point

**No matter what we do, God's love for us never changes.** It is not always easy to follow God's call, especially when God calls us to go places we do not want to go and say things we do not want to say. Jonah's story can comfort us in recognizing our own desires to run away from God's difficult assignments, and also show us how we might be blessed on the other end in faithfulness.

# Activities a la Carte

## Activities

## Supplies

### Introduction

#### *Listen and Follow*

Listen to and follow instructions.

10 min.

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

### Learning the Story

#### *Our Part in God's Story*

Interview Bible-story characters.

10 min.

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-9.A
- † Pens or pencils

### Activities

#### *God's Call Around the World*

Explore the call to serve.

10 min.

- † Internet-connected devices
- † Optional: World map

#### *Breaking News*

Hear news stories of warning and blessing.

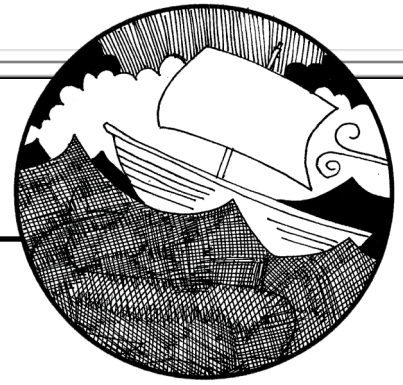
10 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-9.B
- † Optional: Video player

### Prayer



# God's Story @ Home



## Introduction (10 minutes)

### Listen and Follow

Listen to and follow instructions.

#### Supplies:

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

#### Preparation:

1. Create your own example; follow the steps in number 2 below.

#### Instructions:

1. Distribute paper and pencils.
2. **This is a listening game. I am going to talk through a series of tasks that you will then do on your paper, making certain marks in certain places. No instruction can be given twice. You do not look at each other's papers. You cannot see my paper. Are you ready?**
  - **Make a plus sign in the upper right corner.**
  - **Beneath the plus and diagonally to the left, make a tiny, shaded square.**
  - **Cough a little as you say, Draw a triangle with one point downward in the lower left of the paper.**
  - **Make a squiggly line from the triangle's bottom to the top of the plus sign.**
  - **Make an X in the middle of the paper.**
  - **Draw a circle on top of the X.**
  - **Speak a bit faster. Draw five circles, placing each of the four about midway on each side of the page and the fifth inside the triangle.**
  - **Write your initials somewhere in the upper half of the page.**

3. After the game is over, give everyone time to compare their pictures with each other and with you.
4. **Sometimes we give and receive directions in different ways, so the way one person describes a step may not make sense to another, and we may not do exactly what was expected. Today we will read about someone who knew what he was told to do, but he still did not do it right.**

## *Learning the Story (10 minutes)*

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### *Our Part in God's Story*

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Interview Bible-story characters.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-9.A
- † Pens or pencils

#### *Preparation:*

1. Make a copy of Activity Sheet #3-9.A for each person.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **We are going to read the story and instead of interviewing each other, we are going to use our Bibles to “interview” the people we meet in the story using Activity Sheet #3-9.A. Please record your answers on the sheet.**
2. Assign each person one or more characters to interview.
3. **Once your sheets are filled out, we will work together to create a brief news report for the characters—God, Jonah, Sailors, or Big Fish—using the interviews you completed. In the news report we will share important details of each character and demonstrate the kind of personality and emotions you think each character might have had.**
4. Read the final report out loud.

## Activity (10 minutes)

### God's Call Around the World

Explore the call to serve.

#### Supplies:

- † Internet-connected devices
- † Optional: World map

#### Instructions:

1. **Baptism is the first act of welcoming, claiming, and commissioning God's people. People who are baptized are claimed as God's own and as fellow workers in the church for bringing God's message into the world. Even though Jonah was not baptized the way we understand baptism today, Jonah was also called and commissioned as God's own. Jonah was called to be a prophet to do a special job for God, just like every baptized person is called today.**
2. **Use your Internet-connected device to look up images of baptisms on the African, Asian, Australian, European, South American, and North American continents. Save the images so we can share them with each other.**
3. **Discuss:**
  - **What does a baptized Christian life look like where you live? What does your faith community expect from you as a baptized person?**
  - **What does a baptized Christian life look like in the countries we have explored? What do you think their faith community might expect from them as a baptized person?**
  - **Jonah was not baptized like today's Christians, but he was still called by God to action. What did God expect from Jonah? What do you think God expected from the people of Nineveh once they were called to faith in God?**

## Activity (10 minutes)

### Breaking News

Hear news stories of warning and blessing.

#### Supplies:

- † Activity Sheet #3-9.B
- † Optional: Video player

#### Preparation:

1. See Activity Sheet #3-9.B for story links and transcripts.
2. Website hyperlinks are provided for your convenience and are correct and relevant at the time of publication but may not be at the time of use.

#### Instructions:

1. **We are going to watch (or listen to) a number of news clips from events throughout history.** Either show chosen clips or read printed news reports.
2. **Discuss your thoughts on the following questions:**
  - **What do you think it would be like to announce difficult news to a whole city or country full of people?**
  - **How do you think you would feel if someone told you to announce difficult news to a large number of people? What do you think you would do?**
3. **It is tough to be in charge of sharing difficult or negative news. But just like the news reports we heard, difficult information often results in ways for people, communities, and nations to join together for good. During World War II, many people checked in with each other, supported each other, and cared for each other. The whole country participated in the war effort, hoping that when everyone did their part, the war would be over sooner. When the country found out about the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., people came together to mourn and began to discuss more than ever the difficulties of racial discrimination and violence America experienced. Directly following the events of September 11, 2001, many communities gathered together to talk about their fears, worship, and pray together.**

4. **Jonah was also called by God to be in charge of delivering difficult news to the people of Nineveh. Today's story from the Bible begins: Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, "Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me" (Jonah 1:1-2). Jonah saw how difficult that message would be to share with Nineveh, and he tried to run away. However, we can turn to the end of the story and find out what happened when Jonah did eventually bring God's news: Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth (Jonah 3:4-5). Even though it was difficult to share God's news with Nineveh, the people heard God's message and believed it.**



# Prayer

Review the lesson by discussing the following questions.

1. **Why do you think Jonah found it so hard to go to Nineveh with God's message?**
2. **What are the messages God wants your community to hear? What kind of work or service does your community need most? Why?**
3. **Who are the people in your community already bringing the messages and doing the work you believe your community needs most? How will you join in sharing that message?**

Stand in a circle to pray. I will say the "leader" parts and everyone in the circle shouts the "all" response:

Leader: Holy God, You gave Jonah a call.  
 All: Call me, too!  
 Leader: Jonah was afraid  
 All: Sometimes I am afraid.  
 Leader: Jonah ran away  
 All: Sometimes I hide my faith and God's message, too.  
 Leader: But Jonah eventually went where God called  
 All: Get my feet going the right direction!  
 Leader: Jonah shared God's words  
 All: Help me to share your words!  
 Leader: The people listened to Jonah and trusted God.  
 All: Help the people I serve to know God and trust God, too.  
 All: Amen.

If you have the "Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home" sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!



# *Our Part in God's Story*

*Interview Bible-story characters.*

	<b>God</b>	<b>Jonah</b>	<b>Sailors</b>	<b>Big Fish</b>
<b>Where do you come from?</b>	I AM is my name. I always was, I am, and I ever will be.	Unknown	We are from a hodgepodge of places: The story does not specifically mention our hometowns, but we all worship different gods, so we're likely from all over the place.	
<b>Who are your people?</b>	All people - I made them after all!			
<b>Where are you going?</b>	I am always going to places where people need to hear my warnings and my blessings!			
<b>What is your occupation?</b>	Lord God and Creator of all things, seen and unseen.  I have made it my job to daily provide food, clothing, home, family, daily work, and everything my creatures need from day to day. I also protect them in times of danger and guard them from every evil.  I am in the business of creation, provision, mercy, and love.			Eating tasty things in the sea  Swimming
<b>What do you want to do?</b>			Sail our ship on the seas.	
<b>What does God want for you?</b>				To swallow Jonah and spit him out in the direction God wants him to go.



# Breaking News

*Hear news stories of warning and blessing.*

## Breaking news report clip links

*Note: All clips are provided via YouTube. Some clips are longer than others and need not be watched in their entirety. For some clips, namely the clip of September 11, 2001, it is wise to review first and consider the potential feelings and sensitivities of those watching. Feel free to search for similar videos online and use those of your choosing.*

## Pearl Harbor Bombing

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s\\_f9A3fwn6w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_f9A3fwn6w)

*Transcript:*

**Reporter:** Hello, NBC. Hello, NBC. This is KTU in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am speaking from the roof of the Advertiser Publishing Company Building. We have witnessed this morning the distant view a brief full battle of Pearl Harbor and the severe bombing of Pearl Harbor by enemy planes, undoubtedly Japanese. The city of Honolulu has also been attacked and considerable damage done. This battle has been going on for nearly three hours. One of the bombs dropped within fifty feet of KTU tower. It is no joke. It is a real war. The public of Honolulu has been advised to keep in their homes and away from the Army and Navy. There has been serious fighting going on in the air and in the sea. The heavy shooting seems to be . . . a little interruption. We cannot estimate just how much damage has been done, but it has been a very severe attack. The Navy and Army appear now to have the air and the sea under control.

**Operator:** Ah, just a minute. . . . This is the telephone company. This is the operator.

**Reporter:** Yes.

**Operator:** We have quite a big call, an emergency call.

**Reporter:** We're talking to New York now.

(<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5167/>)

# Breaking News

*Hear news stories of warning and blessing.*

## D-Day Invasion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3gjS8AnWVI>

*Transcript:*

### **CBS New York June 6, 1944 - 3:00 AM**

CBS World News, [Bob Trout](#) speaking. And again we bring you the available reports, all of them from German sources, on what the Berlin Radio calls "the invasion."

There is still no Allied confirmation from any source. Correspondents who rushed to the War Department in Washington soon after the first German broadcast was heard were told that our War Department had no information on the German reports. There's been no announcement of any sort from Allied Headquarters in London.

The first news of the German announcement reached this country at 12:37 AM Eastern War Time. The Associated Press recorded this broadcast, and immediately pointed out that it could be one which Allied leaders have warned us to expect from the Germans.

Shortly after 1:00 AM Eastern War Time, the Berlin Radio opened its news program with a so-called "invasion announcement." Columbia's shortwave listening station here in New York heard the Berlin Radio say, and I quote: "Here is a special bulletin. Early this morning the long-awaited British and American invasion began when paratroops landed in the area of the [Somme](#) estuary. The harbor of [Le Havre](#) is being fiercely bombarded at the present moment. Naval forces of the German navy are off the coast fighting with enemy landing vessels. We've just brought you a special bulletin." End of the quotation. That is the invasion announcement as heard from the Berlin Radio by Columbia's shortwave listening station.

Now here's what Trans-Ocean, one of the German news agencies, says, and I quote: "Early Tuesday morning, landing craft and light warships were observed in the area between the mouth of the Somme and the eastern coast of Normandy. At the same time paratroops were dropped from numerous aircraft on the northern tip of the [Normandy peninsula](#). It is believed that these paratroops have been given the task of capturing airfields in order to facilitate the landing of further troops. The harbor of Le Havre is at the moment being bombarded. And," continues the broadcast, "German naval forces have engaged enemy landing craft off the coast." The Trans-Ocean broadcast, still unconfirmed, concludes this way: "The long-expected Anglo-American invasion appears to have begun." This is the full text of the German Trans-Ocean broadcast as recorded by the Associated Press.

<http://www.billdownscbs.blogspot.com/2015/08/1944-cbs-announces-unconfirmed-reports.html>

# Breaking News

*Hear news stories of warning and blessing.*

## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassinated**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmOBbxgxKvo>

### *Transcript:*

Announcer: Direct from our news in Washington, in color, this is the CBS evening news with Walter Cronkite and Russ Hodge in Memphis, Tennessee, Dan Rather in New York, Bernard in Saigon, Marvin Calvin, Wellington, New Zealand and...South Vietnam. Walter Cronkite: Good evening. Dr. Martin Luther King, the apostle of non-violence in the civil rights movement has been shot to death in Memphis, Tennessee. Police have issued an all points bulletin for a well-dressed young white man seen running from the scene. Officers also reportedly chased and fired on a radio equipment car containing two white men. Dr. King was standing on the balcony of a second floor hotel room when according to a companion a shot was fired from across the street. In the friend's words, the bullet exploded in his face. Police, who had been keeping a close watch over the noble peace prizewinner because of Memphis' turbulent racial situation, were on the scene almost immediately. They rushed the 39 year old Negro leader to a hospital where he died of a bullet wound to the neck. Police said they found a high-powered hunting rifle about a block from the hotel but it was not immediately identified as the murder weapon. Mayor Henry Lowe has reinstated the dusk to dawn curfew he imposed on the city last week when a march led by Dr. King erupted in violence. Governor Buford Ellington has called out 4,000 National Guardsman. Police report that the murder has touched off sporadic acts of violence in the Negro section of the city. In a nationwide television address, President Johnson expressed the nation's shock. President Johnson: America is shocked and saddened by the brutal slaying tonight of Dr. Martin Luther King. I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has struck Dr. King who lived by non-violence. Walter Cronkite: Dr. King had returned to Memphis only yesterday determined to prove that he could lead a peaceful mass march in support of striking sanitation workers most of whom are Negroes. Dr. King had this to say last night about the situation in Memphis. Dr. King: Maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic first amendment privileges because they haven't committed themselves to that over there. But somewhere I read of the freedom of a symbol. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for a right. Walter Cronkite: There was shock in Harlem tonight when word of Dr. King's murder reached the nation's largest Negro community. Men, women and children poured into the streets, they appeared dazed, many were crying.

<http://www.hark.com/clips/tsbywngqfv-walter-cronkite-reports-on-1968-king-assassination>

# Breaking News

*Hear news stories of warning and blessing.*

**September 11, 2001**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfYQAPhjwzA>

*Transcript:*

Aired September 11, 2001 - 08:48 ET

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED. THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

CAROL LIN, CNN ANCHOR: This just in. You are looking at obviously a very disturbing live shot there. That is the World Trade Center, and have unconfirmed reports this morning that a plane has crashed into one of the towers of the World Trade Center.

CNN Center right now is just beginning to work on this story, obviously calling our sources and trying to figure out exactly what happened. But clearly, something relatively devastating happening this morning there on the south end of the island Manhattan.

That is, once again, a picture of one of the towers of the World Trade Center.

VINCE CELLINI, CNN ANCHOR: We could see these pictures. It's obviously something devastating that has happened. And again, there are unconfirmed reports that a plane has crashed into one of the towers there. We are efforting more information on the subject as it becomes available to you.

LIN: Right now we've got Sean Murtagh -- he is a CNN producer -- on the telephone. Sean, what can you tell us what about you know?

SEAN MURTAGH, CNN PRODUCER: This is Sean Murtagh. I just was standing on the vice president of the vice president of finance for CNN.

CELLINI: Shaun, we're on the air right now. What you can tell us about the situation?

MURTAGH: Hello?

CELLINI: Yes, Sean, you are on the air right now. Go ahead. What you can tell us?



# *Breaking News*

*Hear news stories of warning and blessing.*

MURTAGH: I just witnessed a plane that appeared to be cruising at slightly lower-than-normal altitude over New York City, and it appears to have crashed into—I don't know which tower it is—but it hit directly in the middle of one of the World Trade Center towers.

LIN: Sean, what kind of plane was it? Was it a small plane, a jet?

MURTAGH: It was a jet. It looked like a two-engine jet, maybe a 737.

LIN: You are talking about a large passenger commercial jet.

MURTAGH: A large passenger commercial jet.

LIN: Where were you when you saw this?

MURTAGH: I am on the 21st floor of 5 Penn Plaza.

LIN: Did it appear that the plane was having any difficulty flying?

MURTAGH: Yes, it did. It was teetering back and forth, wingtip to wingtip, and it looks like it crashed into, probably, 20 stories from the top of the World Trade Center, maybe the 80th to 85th floor. There is smoke billowing out of the World Trade Center.

LIN: Sean, what happened next? Does it appear to you that the plane is still inside the World Trade Center?

MURTAGH: From my angle -- I'm viewing south towards the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center. It looks like it has embedded in the building. I can't see, from my vantage point whether it has come out the other side.

CELLINI: Sean, what about on the ground or any debris that has hit down there?

MURTAGH: My vantage point is too far from the World Trade Center to make any determination of that.

# *Breaking News*

*Hear news stories of warning and blessing.*

LIN: Did you see any smoke, any flames coming out of engines of that plane?

MURTAGH: No, I did not. The plane just was coming in low, and the wingtips tilted back and forth, and it flattened out. It looks like it hit at a slight angle into the World Trade Center. I can see flames coming out of the side of the building, and smoke continues to billow.

CELLINI: Generally, is that a trafficked area in New York for aircraft.

MURTAGH: It is not a normal flight pattern. I'm a frequent traveler between Atlanta and New York for business, and it is not a normal flight pattern to come directly over Manhattan. Usually, they come up either over the Hudson River, heading north, and pass alongside, beyond Manhattan, or if they are taking off from LaGuardia, they usually take off over Shea Stadium and gain altitude around the island of Manhattan. It is rare you have a jet crossing directly over the island of Manhattan.

LIN: For our viewers who are just tuning in right now, you are looking at live picture of the World Trade Center tower, where, according to eyewitness Sean Murtagh -- he is the vice president of finance and eyewitness to what he describes as a twin-engine plane -- or possibly a 737 passenger jet -- flying into the World Trade Center. It appears to be still embedded inside the building.

Sean, are you in a position to hear whether any sirens are going, any ambulances, any response to this yet?

MURTAGH: Not from my vantage point. I am probably 1 1/2 to two miles from the World Trade Center.

LIN: It is a remarkable scene: flames still coming out of the windows, black smoke billowing from what appears to be all sides. Obviously, windows are shattered, and steel is jutting out from the structure right now.

CELLINI: Sean, we are looking at these pictures.

MURTAGH: I see them in my office. I have them on all my TVs.

# *Breaking News*

*Hear news stories of warning and blessing.*

CELLINI: And you are telling us you believe the plane remains embedded.

MURTAGH: I can't tell from my vantage point.

LIN: Sean, thank you so much for your eyewitness account there.

Right now, we want to go to our affiliate NYW, reporting on this as we speak.

[\(<http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0109/11/bn.01.html>\)](http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0109/11/bn.01.html)