

Sunday School Lesson 1 (Primaryes)

Unit Theme: Jonah -- Obedience to God

Title: Jonah Runs from God

Scripture: Jonah 1

Lesson Objective: The child will learn the consequences of disobedience to God through Jonah's story.

Materials needed: Exodus 20:12 verse visual
Strips of different sized paper

1. Start with taking prayer requests and having a couple of children open in prayer.
2. Work on learning the verse and play a game with it. Explain the verse to them and ask them ways they can "honor" their parents.
3. Sing OBEDIENCE and have the children participate with the visuals.
4. Begin the Lesson—

Introduction: Are you afraid of storms? Imagine a wind blowing so hard that it could knock you over. Then imagine you are on a big old creaky boat on the ocean. There are ice old water droplets slashing across your face and you can barely see what is going on, but you sure can hear a lot of strange noises going on. The thunder booms and you are sure the boat is going to break in pieces. What is that terrible cracking noise? A flash of lightning streaks across the sky and you see sailors scurrying around the deck throwing things over board or hanging on to some piece of the ship for dear life. Now imagine your name is Jonah...

Progression of events outline:

1. The Lord tells Jonah to go to Ninevah.(Ask them if their parents have ever asked them to do something they did not want to do.)
2. Jonah runs from God.
3. The Lord sends a storm.
4. The mariners were afraid.
5. They find Jonah and cast lots. (Have different sizes of paper cut into strips and have the children "draw lots" like Jonah and the sailors did.)
6. They throw Jonah into the sea (climax).
7. A great fish swallows Jonah.

Conclusion: Now Jonah was in the belly of a great big fish. Do you think Jonah would have disobeyed God if he had known what was going to happen to him? Disobedience to God always brings consequences. Consequences are the things that happen as results of our actions. This week as you are asked to do certain tasks by your parents and teachers, stop to think of what will happen if you choose disobedience over doing the right thing. Ask the Lord to help you to do right just because it is the right thing to do.