

Sunday School Lesson 4 (Primaryes)

Unit Theme: Jonah – Obedience to God

Title: Jonah is Angry

Scripture: Jonah 4

Lesson Objective: The child will learn that having the right attitude and not getting angry is part of obedience.

Materials needed: Ephesians 4:26 verse visual
Coloring sheets

1. Open by singing “Trust and Obey”
2. Ask a child to pray before introducing the verse.
3. Learn the verse with a game
4. Lesson
5. Coloring sheet of Jonah under the gourd.

Introduction: Jared’s dad told him to wash the car. Jared was not very happy about it but he did it anyway. Then he went off and sat on the stairs pouting. When Jared’s mom came home she was thrilled to see the car in the driveway, all nice and shiny in the sunlight. As she walked up the stairs she saw Jared sitting there and thanked him for washing the car. Jared just grunted. He thought she ought to be thankful he washed the car. Jared had obeyed, but not with the right attitude. Can you think of someone in the Bible who obeyed but was angry about the results of his obedience?

Progression of events outline:

1. Jonah is angry that Nineveh repented and was saved from destruction.
2. Jonah sat and pouted outside the city.
3. God gives Jonah a gourd that makes him happy.
4. God sent a worm to destroy the gourd.
5. Jonah gets mad again and wishes to die.
6. The Lord tells him that Nineveh is more important than a little gourd vine.

Conclusion: Although Jonah had obeyed God and preached to the city of Nineveh, he ended his story as a bitter preacher of the gospel pouting under a gourd vine. This was not true obedience. True obedience is obeying completely with the right attitude. Jonah could have chosen to rejoice over the fact that Nineveh was going to be spared from destruction, but instead he acted selfishly. We have a choice to make every time we are given a command. Will we do that task given to us with the right spirit God’s way, or will we do it and be unhappy about it? “Only two choices on the shelf—pleasing God or pleasing self.”