

September Wk 3

**Backyard
This or That**

September 17th

CRAFT

Jonah's Journey Spinner

SUPPLIES: Journey circle, Jonah Square Page, crayons, metal brad

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Pass out "Jonah" square and crayons.**

- *"Friends, today we heard the true story about Jonah. Let's make a special craft to help us remember Jonah's Journey."*
- *Our craft today has two parts. Here is the first part. Do you know who this is? Right! It's Jonah! Let's all color Jonah first."*

⇒ **Pass out "Journey" circle.**

- *"This circle has 3 pictures on it. Can you find the boat? Right there! Where is the fish? There it is! And where is the city? You're right! These are all part of Jonah's journey. Let's color all 3 pictures of Jonah's journey."*

⇒ **Help children stack the circle onto the square page, connect with metal brads.**

- *"Now we are going to stack our circles on top of each other. Jonah's square goes on the bottom and his journey goes on top. Now let's connect them with this metal brad."*
- *Great job! Now we have a story spinner with special pictures to help us review our Bible story about Jonah."*

⇒ **Retell the Bible story and then Bring it back to the Bottom Line.**

- *"In our story today, we learned that God had a special job for Jonah. God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to tell the people to do what God says and love one another. But Jonah didn't want to go. So, he got on a boat and ran away! Jonah did not do what God said. Spin your circle until you get Jonah into the boat."*
- *God loved Jonah and knew what was best for him. So, God sent a storm while Jonah was on the boat. Everyone on the boat was scared! Jonah knew that God sent the storm for him, so Jonah got off the boat to keep the other people safe. Then the storm stopped. While Jonah was in the water, God sent a big fish to swallow him! Spin your circle and get Jonah into the big fish's belly."*
- *Jonah was safe inside the fish's big belly, but that's not where he wanted to be. So, Jonah prayed and talked to God about it. Jonah told God he was sorry and that he would do what God said because God knows what's best. Three days went by, and God made the fish spit Jonah out! Then God told Jonah to go to Nineveh again. This time, Jonah did what God said, and he went to Nineveh! Spin your circle to get Jonah to Nineveh."*
- *The people in Nineveh believed in God and chose to do what God said because God knows what's best! God knew what was best for Jonah. God knew what was best for the people in Nineveh and God knows what's best for us,*
- ***Who knows what's best for you?***
- ***God knows what's best for me!"***



CHRIS P.

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ACTIVITY #1

Jonah Reenactment

SUPPLIES: Parachute, Stuffed animal

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children in the center of the room around the parachute.**

- *"Friends, come play parachute with me! Everyone, grab the parachute with both of your hands. Now, raise the parachute as high as you can. Great job! Now, pull it to the ground. Wow! You are so good at playing parachute."*

⇒ **Retell the story**

- *"I have an idea! We can make the parachute be a big storm like the one in our story. The storm came when someone was on a boat. Do you remember his name? (Pause.) That's right! The man's name was Jonah. God had asked Jonah to go to Nineveh. Did Jonah go right away? (Pause.) No, Jonah did not go to Nineveh. Instead, he got on a boat. Then God sent a big storm. Let's shake the parachute like the big storm! Shake! Shake! Shake! And, stop! Wow! That was a big storm."*

⇒ **Toss the stuffed animal on to the parachute. Continue to tell the story.**

- *What was the man's name who didn't go to Nineveh? (Pause.) Yes. His name was Jonah. Let's put this plush friend on the parachute, and we can pretend it's Jonah in the big storm. (Put plush friend on the parachute.) Now, let's shake the parachute again. It's a big storm!"*

⇒ **Have children bring the sides of the parachute together as if "swallowing" the stuffed animal.**

- *"Everyone freeze. Do you remember what the animal was that saved Jonah in the waves? A big fish! Let's bring the sides of the parachute together and pretend we are a big fishing swallowing Jonah! GULP!"*
- *Jonah sat in that fish for – how many days? 3! Let's all count to 3. 1 – 2 – 3! And the fish spat Jonah out! Let's open up the parachute and pop Jonah up into the air! WHEW!"*

⇒ **Grab Jonah from the water and finish the story. Then, Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**

- *"Then, did Jonah go to Nineveh like God had told him? Yes, he did. Jonah went to Nineveh because he realized that God knew what was best for him and for the people in Nineveh. Wow! God knows what's best for you and he knows what's best from me, too!"*
- **Who knows what's best for you?**
- **God knows what's best for me!"**

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ACTIVITY #2

This way or that way Activity Cards

SUPPLIES: Finger pointer, Action cards

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children stand in a circle in the center of the room. Place the actions cards face down on the floor.**

- *"Friends, let's stand in a circle together. Today in our true Bible story we learned about going God's way. When we have to choose to go this way or that way, we want to make sure we are choosing God's way! Because God knows everything! He knows what's best for you!"*
- **Who knows what's best for you?**
- **God knows what's best for me!**

⇒ **Hold up the special pointer finger.**

- *"We are going to play a game with my special this way that way pointer finger! Each of you is going to get a turn to use my pointer finger to choose a card from the center of the circle. When you point to it, I will flip it over and then everyone in the class will do what the card says to do! Each of you will get a turn. Are you ready? Let's do it!"*

⇒ **Pick one child at a time to use the pointer to select an action card. Have all the children in the class do that action.**

⇒ **Complete the activity and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**

- *"God wanted Jonah to be his messenger. When Jonah didn't listen and God sent a big fish to swallow him. When the fish spit him out he knew that God knew what was best for him! He listened to God and went to Nineveh!"*
- *God knows what's best for me. God knows everything.*
- **Tell me, who knows what's best for you?**
- **God knows what's best for me!"**

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ACTIVITY #3

Hula Hoop Jump

SUPPLIES: 3 hula hoops

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Space the hula hoops within jumping distance of each other. Line the children up near the first hula hoop. (Jump in each of the hula hoops and say one word per hula hoop: God – knows - everything!)**
 - *"Friends! Come over here and look at this. Do you think you can jump in each one of these hula hoops? Watch me and get ready to follow what I do! "*

- ⇒ **Position one volunteer at the start of the line and one at the end. Have each child take a turn hopping through the hula hoops.**
 - *"Let's each take a turn hopping through the hula hoops. We can all say the memory verse together as each person hops! Let's do it!"*

- ⇒ **Complete the activity once each person has had a turn and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *"Great job, friends! You did it. You followed my instructions and went my way through the hula hoops. But guess what? There is someone even MORE important that we should follow! Can you guess who it is? (Pause.) Yes! We should go God's way because God knows everything! When you choose to go God's way, you'll always head in the right direction!*
 - ***Who knows what's best for you?***
 - ***God knows what's best for me!"***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY

SEPTEMBER WEEK 3

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

⇒ *Jonah and the Big Fish*, The Beginner's Bible, p. 257

REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

- **Who knows what's best for you?**
- **God knows what's best for me!**

⇒ Memory Verse

- **"God...knows everything." 1 John 3:20**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

⇒ "Jonah told the people in Nineveh to do what God said and love each other. Let's make a list of people we can tell about God, too! When I say your name, **tell me one person you can tell about God.**

- *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the board/paper.*

⇒ Wow! Look at all these people on this list! Let's use it when we pray. Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**: "

- *"Dear God, You know everything. That means You know what's best for me and (name each child). Help us tell (read the list the children made) that You love them and they should do what You say because You know what's best for everyone! You're the best, God! In Jesus' name, amen."*