

CITY SG – November 8th- 9th, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Jonah • *Jonah 1–3*

Today's Bottom Line: God knows what's best.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NIRV)

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Index cards (one per kid), Pens

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid one index card and a pencil.
- Say, "Think of a place you love to go to or something fun you love to do! You're going to write or draw it on your card. Just one idea per card!"
 - *Provide examples to get them started, like "The beach," "a cousin's house," "playing on the playground," or "reading a book."*
- Collect all the cards, place them in a pile, and mix them up.
- Mix up the index cards face down, and put them in a pile in the middle of the circle.
- Explain how to play:
 - One kid will draw a card.
 - Without speaking, they'll act out what they think is on the card.
 - Everyone else will try to guess what they're doing or where they are!
- Continue until everyone who wants to act has had a turn, or as time allows.

Say, "Today, in our true story from the Bible, we'll learn about a guy named Jonah who didn't want to do what God asked him to do. He had his own idea of what was best. But guess what? God always knows what's best! Not just for Jonah, but for the people around him—and for us too!"

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Which Way Will I Go?

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Pick a Door" Activity Page (one set per group), "God's Way Q&A" Activity Page (one set per group)

What You Do:

- Gather the kids around and place Set 1 of the "Pick a Door" Activity Page cards side by side like doorways. (There will be three doors, and all will be numbered 1 for Set 1. Mix the door with the correct answer randomly in the arrangement.)

- Mark a finish line at the end of all seven sets of three doors.
- Say, “This game is called *Pick a Door!* At each set of doors, I will ask a question about Jonah’s story, and you have to decide which door he chose in the Bible Story to move forward.”
- Read the question, and then read the three door choices from the “God’s Way Q&A” Activity Page. Be sure to follow the order of the door choices that you placed the doors on the floor so the correct answer is included randomly.
- Invite the kids to point to the door of their choice.
- Once the kids agree on the correct door Encourage discussion by asking, “Why do you think that’s the right door?”
- Tell them the correct answer and repeat this for Sets 2-7.
- After all 7, say. “Do you know what Jonah’s journey tells us about God? Well, God knows what’s best! We should always follow God’s direction. God wanted to give an entire group of people the chance to live better if they just turned from their ways! And God wanted to give Jonah a chance to share that message with them.”

2. Jump If You ...

Application Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to stand in a big circle.
- Explain how to play:
 - Say, “I’m going to say a sentence that starts with, ‘Jump in the middle if you ...’ If the sentence is true for you, take a big jump into the middle of the circle, then jump back to your spot.”
- Demonstrate by reading the first statement.
- Read the statements slowly, one by one, and give the kids time to respond.
- After the final statement, invite the kids to sit down, and discuss.

Jump in the Middle If You ...

- Have brown eyes
- Like broccoli
- Have a brother
- Like chocolate ice cream
- Like roller coasters
- Love to read
- Like to eat tacos
- Don’t like sour candy
- Have a younger sister
- Love math the most
- Are wearing red
- Are at church today
- *Give a few kids a chance to come up with some scenarios*

- Say, “Some of these things—like what you’re wearing or what ice cream you like—are things people can see or hear about you. But other things about you are more personal, like how you feel when you’re nervous, or who you pray for at night. We have to ask each other to find out those things about each other. BUT God knows it all!

God is your closest, closest friend. He knows everything about you, and He loves you so much! And He goes through every bit of life with you. So talk to Him about everything! “n everything you are facing in your life, He wants to guide you to goodness. God is good and His ways are good.

3. Memory at Sea

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: “Memory at Sea” Activity Page (two set per group), 20 Plastic cups (per bin), Floor tape

What You Do:

- Mark a starting line with the carpet tape.
- Place two sets of the “Memory at Sea” Activity Page cards in a cup.
- Place each set of cup upside down ALONG with some of the empty cups, a distance away from the starting lines.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Before you begin the game, review the memory verse together several times.
- Instruct the teams to stand behind the starting line in a single file line.
- Explain how to play:
 - At your signal, one kid from each team runs to lift up a cup, and returns it to their team.
 - If a cup has a verse card, they keep the verse card. If it’s empty, they leave it and run back.
 - Once all the cards with the pieces of the verse are collected, instruct the teams to work together to assemble the verse in the correct order.
 - **Younger groups will need a volunteer with each team once they have collected the cards to read the cards and assist them in putting the cards in order.**

Ask:

- What does Isaiah 40:31 tell us about God?
 - *Possible answers: God gives us new strength! When we trust God, He lifts us up like an eagle and He helps us run and not get tired.*
- What do you know about eagles?
 - *Possible answers: Eagles fly over 100 miles a day without flapping their wings. Eagles can fly above storms!*
- Why do you think God compares trusting Him to flying like an eagle?
 - *Possible answers: God’s strength helps us to have confidence no matter what’s going on around us!*
- How do you think God gives us strength today?

- Possible answers: *Through the Holy Spirit, through people who help us, through prayer, and through God's Word.*

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- "God, we are so thankful that You know what's best even when we don't understand. Help each of us to trust You and follow Your ways no matter what. Thank You for sending Jesus so we can be close to You forever! Fill us with confidence through the Holy Spirit so that we can soar like eagles this week! We love You so much, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to say what they learned about Jonah today!