

## SMALL GROUP ROTATION – NIGHT 3

**Summer Jam Slogan:** “God forgives me even when I make the wrong choice!”

**Bible Story:** God gives Jonah a second chance (Jonah 3)/salvation (John 3:16)

**Supplies provided:** Treasure maps, tablecloth, baggies, cross, sand strips, scissors, paper plates, “Jonah & Whale Left-Right” game sheet, Gift for game

### ACTIVITY #1 – Ocean Explorer Treasure Maps

1. Say this, “Tonight we heard (or will hear) about how Jonah cried out to God to help him from the belly of the whale. Jonah admitted he made a mistake when he didn’t listen to God. Then God gave him a second chance. God forgave Jonah, and let him make the better choice to follow his command. God forgave Jonah, and he forgives us when we mess up too!

We also learned how easy it is to make Jesus our Friend Forever. Jesus died on the cross to take our place. Jesus had never sinned, he lived a perfect life here on Earth. He was the only one who could have paid that sacrifice since the rest of us have not lived a perfect life and are not even capable of it. That is the gift Jesus gave to us! If we want to live with him in Heaven forever God asks us to just accept the gift that He gave us! And it’s as easy as ABC! We call it the ABC prayer.”

2. Ask the kids to take out their Treasure Maps and turn to page 9 with the ABC prayer and to follow along you read it:
  - a. When we pray the ABC prayer,
  - b. A means- Admit: *Admit to God that we have sinned*
  - c. B means- Believe: *Tell God that we believe that He sent his Son Jesus to die for our sins*
  - d. C means- Choose: *Tell God that we Choose to become a member of His family and to follow Him forever*
3. Ask if anyone has any questions about becoming a member of God’s family.
4. Say, “If you have never prayed the ABC prayer and are ready to say it, repeat after me in your head as I say a simple ABC prayer...”
  - i. **PRAY:** *“Jesus, I admit I’ve sinned. I believe that You are the Son of God. I choose to put You first in my life. Be my friend forever, and help me to be more and more like You every day of my life. Amen.”*
5. Say, “If you said that prayer today and believe those words...you are a member of God’s family! You will be spend eternity in Heaven with God! OR if you aren’t sure, or have more questions you can talk to your parents about it or one of your Summer Jam leaders, we would be happy to help you.
6. Ask the kids to turn to Page 10 in their Treasure Maps. Tell them that this is a personal page for you that you don’t have to share with anyone if you don’t want to. There are 3 boxes on this page:

- You can check the first one if you have already said a prayer and accepted God’s gift to you.
  - You can check the second one if you said this ABC prayer for the very first time tonight.
  - You can check the last one if you aren’t sure and have more questions.
  - Remember, this page is personal to you, but I encourage you to show your parents or whoever you live with and talk this through with them at home.
7. Have the kids then turn to page 8 and fill in the blanks of tonight’s summer Jam Slogan, *God forgives me even when I make the wrong choice!*

### **ACTIVITY #2 – Sand Art Cross**

1. Set out the tablecloth so kids can do make their cross on top of it.
2. Pass out a cross, paper plate and strip of sand to each child.
3. Have kids write their name on the back of their cross.
4. Guide them to remove the sticky back from their cross and place it on the paper plate.
5. Pass out the scissors and have them cut the top off of their sand packets.
6. Instruct them to use the different colors of sand to decorate the sections of the cross.
7. As they decorate, ask them these discussion questions:
  - Has anyone ever forgiven you for doing something wrong?
  - How did that feel to be forgiven?
  - What did Jesus do for us? (*Died on the Cross for our sins*)
  - When Jesus becomes our friend forever, what do you think happens? (*God celebrates, we will live forever with Him in Heaven*)
8. Have kids put their cross in a baggie and keep them in your leader bag.

### **ACTIVITY #3 – Jonah and the Whale Left-Right Game**

1. Have kids sit in a circle. Give one child the gift to hold.
2. Use the “Jonah and Whale Left-Right paper to review the story of Jonah.
3. As you read the story, kids will pass the gift to the left or right when you use the word in the story.
4. After you read the entire story, whomever is holding the gift may open it.
5. Say this to the winning child: “Keep this whale to remind you how God showed us he loves us, helps us and forgives us through the story of Jonah!”

### **ACTIVITY #4 – Pray**

Say this prayer with your group, *“Dear God, thank you that you chose each of us. Thank you that we are so important to you that you sent your son to die on the cross in our place to forgive our sins. Help us to continue to live our life following you after Summer Jam is over. We love you, Amen.”*

**EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY - A-B-C Elimination**

Have your kids stand up and spread out. Demonstrate how to make an “A”, a “B” and a “C” pose with your arms (*you are free to make these up*). Turn your back to the kids and have them choose one pose to hold (A, B, or C). Spin around and shout out “A-Admit!”, “B-Believe!”, or “C-Choose!”. Any kids holding that pose will sit down. Play until there is a winner. Play as many rounds as time allows.