

ILLUMINATE

KIDS

HUDDLE

March 29, 2020

Dear Parents,

By now we are all feeling pretty stretched! Some of you might even be feeling pulled far beyond any stretching you thought you could endure. We get it. This is a really hard thing we are in together. We hope that as you lead your children through these activities it will remind you that the greatest Anchor is holding onto you and your family. Every time I start to feel shaky the Word of God is what calms my heart and mind! Here are two verses that have brought me huge comfort...

My heart likes to wander off to... trouble and afraid land but John 14:27 reminds me that I cannot live there. Jesus said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." How can we not let our hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid? Well, Jesus tells us in John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Jesus tells us peace will not come through circumstances like having enough food in the fridge and toilet paper stacked up for three months. Peace comes through Christ alone!

Jesus has overcome the world and every circumstance within it. His Kingdom rises above it all! In the middle of this storm we can find true and lasting peace that can never be taken away. Right now Jesus is offering that peace to all of us. Let's take him up on his offer!

As you know, kids learn best through interaction and having fun. They love it when the whole family joins in the fun!

OBJECTIVE:

THE BIG IDEA: God is merciful.

SCRIPTURE: Jonah chapter 4, Luke 6:36

OPENING:

Have you ever wanted something bad to happen to a person who has been mean to you? (Let your kids share honestly - and you share honestly too.)

Ask your kids what they remember so far about the story of Jonah?

Ask your kids if they know what mercy is? Mercy is undeserved kindness. (Can you or your kids share a time you were shown mercy)

Have your kids help you find Jonah 4 in the Bible. Then read it together!!

BIBLE STORY REVIEW:

We have now read the whole book of Jonah!! If your kids need a refresher there is a great video on Superbooks!

1. Jonah Story Pictures

- <http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-jonah/>

2. Jonah Videos

- Download the free Superbook app.



- Go to videos.
 - Click on Superbook.
 - Click on Season 2
 - Scroll down to Jonah
 - If you do not want to download the app; YouTube has the last part of the video, which is Jonah Chapt. 4, “Jonah 4” <https://youtu.be/BigPeRnNQVE>
- ### **3. Worship Songs**
- “Good Good Father” https://youtu.be/eE_l-Klp2Uk
 - “Breaking Through” https://youtu.be/KFtTDYUua_o
 - “Alive” <https://youtu.be/qEvEVALlJNQ>
 - “This is Amazing Grace” <https://youtu.be/ZxVadCcRfoI>

GAMES:

• Jonah Pictionary

Supplies: paper, marker

1. As a family come up with the cards (fish, ship, sailors, storm, vine, etc).
2. Then using a white board or paper and markers play the game as a family.
3. One person look at a card and draw whatever it says, no talking!
4. Everyone else has to guess!

• Whale and Jonah (Sharks and Minnows)

Supplies: large area

1. Pick one family member to be the ‘whale.’ The whale will stand in the front center of the room with their back to the rest of the family.
2. Everyone else will line up on one side of the room.
3. To start someone will yell out, “Storm,” and everyone will try to run from one side of the room to the other without getting tagged by the ‘whale.’
4. Variations:
 - the person tagged is Jonah and becomes the new whale.
 - the person tagged becomes another whale until there is only one person left which is Jonah.

• Bible Trivia

Supplies: <https://youtu.be/PqBG8yj9NUw>

CREATIVE TIME:

- **Jonah Play**
Supplies: sheet, costumes, props
 1. Put on your own Jonah play acting out the whole story as a family with "costumes and props"!
 2. We would love some pictures for Illuminate Kids instagram!
[@illuminate.kids](https://www.instagram.com/illuminate.kids)
- **Coloring Page**
Supplies: The full size coloring page is at the end of this document.
 1. Color the coloring page.
 2. Hang somewhere for all to see to remind you where you get your strength from!

BIBLE VERSE FUN:

Luke 6:36: Be merciful, just as Your Father is merciful.

- **Chubby Bunny**
Supplies: marshmallows
 3. Recite the Bible verse.
 4. Add a large marshmallow in your mouth and say it again.
 5. Add another and say the verse again.
 6. Keep going this until you can add no more!!
 7. This requires parent supervision and is not good for littles.
 8. Parents you should try it first. Kids will think it is SO funny!
- **Bible Verse Mix Up**
Supplies: notecards or pieces of paper
 1. Write each word of the Bible verse on a separate card.
 2. Mix them up.
 3. Divide them up between everyone.
 4. Then put them in order!
- **Head, Should, Knees and Toes**
 1. Use the same hand movements as, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" but sing the Bible verse instead!

BIBLE STUDY:

Adapted from: <https://ministry-to-children.com/jonah-gets-mad/>

We know this might seem like there is a lot of content. That's because there is!! Don't feel like you have to use it all. Use as much or as little as you would like. Use it all in one day or use it a little at a time throughout the week. Don't let it overwhelm you, pray, take a deep breath and ask God to guide you as you lead your kids in this special time God has ordained.

God sent Jonah to Nineveh with a message that He was going to punish them because of their wickedness. When the Ninevites heard God's message they believed God and turned from their wickedness. God showed them mercy and did not destroy them as He said He would.

Read together [Jonah 4:5](#). Jonah did not fully understand God's mercy and kindness to him. He was selfish and did not want the same for his enemies. He went out and made a shelter, kind of like a little hut. He hoped that he would get to have a front row seat to watch the Ninevite's be destroyed by God. As he sat in his shelter the heat from the sun made him very uncomfortable but he was not going to miss out on watching his enemies be destroyed from the earth.

Read together [Jonah 4:6-9](#). God loves Jonah. He sees this selfish man with no forgiveness or mercy in his heart towards the Ninevites. He shows love and compassion for Jonah as he creates a vine that grows large leaves to shade Jonah from the hot sun. Does Jonah deserve God's loving kindness? (let your kids share their thoughts) God sent a worm to eat through the vine causing this plant that made Jonah very happy to die. Weird - huh? After the vine dies God sent a scorching east wind to cause the sun to be so hot on Jonah's head that he feels like he is going to pass out. He began to whine and say "It would be better for me to die than to live." Now Jonah is just being a whiner!!

Jonah is so blinded by his unforgiving heart. His behavior seems silly after all that has happened to him (he was in a fish for three days!!). But we are all capable of behaving this way if we choose to be unforgiving to others and not be merciful as God has been towards us.

Read [Jonah 4:10-11](#). God explains to Jonah that he was concerned over a plant that he had nothing to do with its existence. Did Jonah create the plant in the first place? (nope) God created man and woman as His most special creation. Sin came into the world and caused them to be separated from Him. God desires all people to be rescued from the destruction that sin brings into a person's life. He saw the Ninevites and had compassion on them and showed them mercy when they repented.

Jonah sounds like a person in one of Jesus' parables. A parable is a story that Jesus told to people around him to help them understand the ways of God's Kingdom. Open in your Bible to [Matthew 18:21](#). You can read the parable or use the summary below.

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples asked Jesus how many times he was to forgive someone who sins against him. He thought 7 times would be plenty of times. Jesus told him that he was to forgive a person who sins against him 70 times 7. How many times does that equal? (See if they can do the math - 490) Jesus didn't actually want Peter keeping track of how many times he was to forgive a person, so He tells the disciples the following parable:

Once there was a King who was looking at his books that recorded bills that his servants had not paid him back. As he looked at his book he saw that one of his servants owed him millions of dollars. WOW!! That's a lot of money!! The King decided it was time for

this servant to pay back all that money. He sent his servants to bring this man before him. “You must pay back all that you owe me today.” The man looked at the king and knew he had no way of ever paying that bill in one day. The King commanded that his servants take this man, his wife, and his children and sell them as slaves to receive money to pay off the bill that this man owed.

The news of his whole family being sold into slavery broke this man’s heart. He fell to his knees before the King and begged him to be patient with him and he promised he would pay back all that he owed. As the King watched this man beg for mercy, he showed compassion for him. He decided to erase the bill from his record book that the man owed. This man was free from having to pay back anything. He no longer owed a large amount of money to the king. He owed nothing to the King because he had shown him mercy and took away the large bill he owed.

The man left the King’s palace. He had been shown mercy that he did not deserve. As he walked down the street he saw a man who borrowed a couple hundred dollars. He grabbed the man and put his hands around his neck and began to choke him. “Pay me back every dollar you owe me!”

The man was startled and fell to his knees and says, “Please be patient with me and I will pay you back every dollar I owe you.”

The man who had just been shown mercy by the King refused to show mercy to this man and had him thrown in jail until he paid back every cent. This man who owed the king millions of dollars and had his bill erased by the king, showed no mercy to the man who owed him a few hundred dollars.

When the King heard about this man who showed no mercy, he had him put in jail and allowed him to be tortured until he paid back all that he owed.

Read together how Jesus ends this parable by reading [Matthew 18:35](#). Like the King in Jesus’ parable God forgives sins and wipes a person’s record clear when they put their faith in His Son, Jesus. The price for our sins is not something any of us could ever pay back to God. He mercifully forgives us for our sins when we believe in Jesus. Being forgiven a great debt should cause believers to be merciful and forgiving to others who hurt them.

God has called His followers to look and act like Him. Here is a great verse to memorize for the week! **Luke 6:36:** Be merciful, just as Your Father is merciful.

Remember mercy is undeserved kindness. As sinners each of us deserve to be punished for our sins and separated from God forever. “But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

God has shown His mercy to every man, woman, boy and girl by providing a Savior who left heaven and came to earth as a man. He was sinless and willingly died on the cross taking on the punishment for the sins of all people. He was put to death in a very cruel,

painful way by being nailed to a cross. This Savior, Jesus, died on the cross so our sins could be forgiven. God has shown us mercy and as followers of Jesus we must show mercy to others even if we don't like them.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

Don't feel like you have to get through every question from below. If your kids are getting bored just do a couple of questions or really focus on the one that seems to grab their attention. You can always come back later in the week, too!

1. Why was Jonah angry? *(Because God had forgiven the Ninevites)*

Questions 2-6 are from Matthew 18:21-35 (see the Bible study)

2. From Jesus' parable why was the King going to sell the man and his family as slaves? *(To get back money that the man could not pay)*
3. How much did this man owe the King? *(Millions of dollars)*
4. What did the King do when the man begged for him to be patient? *(He showed mercy and cancelled the debt)*
5. How did the man who had his debt forgiven treat the man who owed him hundreds of dollars? *(He did not show mercy and had him thrown in prison until he paid back every cent)*
6. Why did the King put the unmerciful servant in prison and have him tortured? *(Because he didn't show mercy to the servant who owed him money)*
7. When Jonah was angry about God's kindness to the Ninevites what did he do? *(He made a shelter hoping to see the Ninevites destroyed)*
8. How did God show Jonah kindness when he sat in anger in the hot sun? *(He created a vine that provided shade for him)*
9. Who was Jonah more concerned about? *(Himself, the vine)*
10. Who is God concerned about? *(People because He wants everyone to turn from their sin and be saved.)*
11. Have you ever felt like Jonah? Has someone hurt you so many times that you want them to suffer? How has this lesson changed how you feel? If it hasn't changed how you feel about your enemy will you pray for God to change your heart; so you can be merciful as He is?

