

# Children's Church Lesson: Jonah and the Big Fish

## Week 7: Jonah and the Big Fish

**Bible Story:** Jonah 1:1–3:10

**Key Verse:** "God had a big plan for Jonah." (Jonah 2:1)

**Lesson Focus:** Jonah learned to obey God.

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## Lesson Plan

1. **Welcome and Opening Prayer:**
    - Start with a simple prayer, asking God to help the children understand the importance of listening and obeying Him.
  2. **Bible Story** (Jonah 1:1–3:10):
    - **Tell the story** of Jonah being asked by God to go to Nineveh, but instead running away. Jonah was swallowed by a big fish when he disobeyed, but after praying, the fish spat him out, and Jonah finally obeyed God.
    - Use props like a large fish cutout or visual aids to show Jonah inside the fish, making the story more engaging for the children.
    - Emphasize that God had a big plan for Jonah, and even though Jonah made mistakes, God gave him another chance to obey.
  3. **Key Verse:**
    - Practice saying the key verse together: "God had a big plan for Jonah." (Jonah 2:1).
    - Explain that God has big plans for each of them too, and when we listen and obey Him, good things happen.
  4. **Discussion:**
    - Ask the children:
      - What did God ask Jonah to do?
      - What happened when Jonah tried to run away from God?
      - How did Jonah finally obey God?
      - What can we learn about listening to God from Jonah's story?
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## Activities: COLORING PAGE

1. **Jonah and the Big Fish Craft:**
  - **Supplies:** Paper plates, markers, glue, construction paper, scissors.
  - **Instructions:**
    - Have each child color a paper plate blue to represent the ocean.
    - Cut out a large fish shape from construction paper.

- Cut a slit in the fish's mouth, and place a small paper figure of Jonah inside the slit so it looks like the fish is "swallowing" Jonah.
- As they work, remind them that Jonah learned to obey God, and we should listen to God too.

2. **“Inside the Big Fish” Story Drama:**

- **Supplies:** Large blanket or sheet to represent the fish, a Jonah figure (stuffed animal or doll).
  - **Instructions:**
    - Gather the children and have them sit under the blanket to pretend they are inside the belly of the big fish with Jonah.
    - Use this time to review the story and ask questions like, “What do you think Jonah felt like in the fish?” and “What should Jonah have done first?”
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**Closing:**

- Review the key verse: "God had a big plan for Jonah." (Jonah 2:1) and encourage the children to remember that God wants us to listen and follow Him.
- Close with a prayer asking God to help them listen and obey, just like Jonah finally did.

This lesson will help the children understand that even when we make mistakes, God is patient and wants us to obey and follow His plan.