

JONAH DISCOVERS GRACE AND SALVATION

INTO THE BIBLE

Today kids will discover grace and forgiveness from the story of one who was sent to doom a city, didn't want to, was shown grace, and was mad when the city was saved—all to understand grace.

Your Bible Story:

Jonah 2-Jonah 4:4

Your Bible Activity:

"Now would be a great time to spit me out!" Your kids will experience the inside of the whale in the hope of them understanding how much Jonah needed grace. You will make this out of a lot of trashbags taped together, a square fan, and cans of tuna!

Your Craft:

SERVICE PROJECT: This project is up to you, but it is a chance for kids to reach out to people "far from God" (a project for Prison ministry or maybe a local rehab center)

The Tournament Game

The Hat Race. We put on the helmet of salvation to remember what Jesus did to save us just like Jonah, but we are so busy trying to remember other things!

YOUR LINE-UP

Castle Gate Praise (10m):

- Welcome and sing:
Happy Day and Our God

Knight's Training (15m):

- Explain the beginning of Jonah's story in the belly of the whale
- Discuss the grace of God is shown to everyone

Black Smith Crafts (15m)

- Discuss the service project and who you are serving to show them God's love is for them

Sword Training (5m)

- Kids will put the words in order of a complete set of armor of a knight.

Into the Wardrobe (9m)

- The 3 children will finally meet Aslan, and Edmund will be rescued. But is there forgiveness?

Tournament Game (7m)

- Kids will wear different hats to remember things, but will it be important?

Castle Gate Praise (7m):

- Sing Trust and Obey and Happy Day
- Pray and Dismiss

KINGDOM PREP

Every week, you will need a TV or projector for the music DVD and for Narnia.

You will need to find:

- 6 large yard bags, cut along the seam of one side and the bottom
- Duct Tape (black)
- Small but powerful fan
- Different hats
- Post-It's and Markers
- Supplies for Project
- Can of tuna (optional)

Before kids arrive:

- Write things kids might need to remember on Post its (practice, their homework, parties, etc)
- Cut out some pieces of armor shapes.

To prep Service Project:

- Call the organization you wish to help and ask what they might need
- Our idea: Make chex mix and have kids tape homemade notes

What's different about today?

The schedule: time to mix it up and spend some time serving others!

CASTLE GATE PRAISE

Script:

Welcome, lords and ladies, to the Knights of God academy, where every week, we learn more about the armor of God. This armor helps us live a braver, more exciting, and richer life! And God gives us such awesome armor: the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Bible, your shield of faith, the belt of truth, the feet of the gospel of peace, and the armor of righteousness. This week, we are learning about something very important: the Helmet of Salvation! As a knight who has been training young knights for a long time, let me tell you, your helmet is important because it keeps your mind clear and focused on what is important!

We are going to learn today that what helps us have hope, keeps our mind clean from sin and doubting thoughts, and focused on what is right, is our salvation. Our salvation is being free from sin- that happened when Jesus died for our sin and rose again. That was the day that changed everything and our helmet was formed; our Happy Day!

Sing "Happy Day"

Script:

Now, we talk about Jesus because he's the one who have saved us, but before Jesus was born, God taught someone else what salvation is all about: forgiveness. Forgiveness is when we've done something wrong and God doesn't hold it against us. Our God gives us second chances all the time, when we pray and admit we've done wrong. And then our God reminds us, as we'll discover that Noah needs reminding, that if "Our God" is for us, no one can be against us; we can always follow Him!

Sing "Our God"

Other things to go over:

- Talk about a time when you did something wrong and needed to be forgiven by a friend or a parent; talk about how thankful you were they showed you grace
- Remind kids about offering and why it's so important to serve others; let them know that one of the things they get to do today is tell others about God's grace
- Review the Knights Code; Pray before going to Bible Training



KNIGHT'S BIBLE TRAINING

Script:

We are going to dive into this Bible story; quite literally! Our knight today thought he was a knight, but he had trouble counting on God's strength. His name was Jonah, and God asked him to go to a city called Ninevah. Jonah was sure that he would end up dead or at least no one would listen. So he fled, but you can't run from God, so he ended up in a huge storm on a boat. He actually knew it was his fault, and asked the men to throw him over rather than have them drown because of his mistake. But then something happened to Jonah he didn't expect: he was saved, but in the most unimaginable way possible. He was swallowed by a whale, just like we are about to be!

In the Whale

Each child will enter the small opening of the trashbags that with the fan are forming a huge, dark, and smelly oval with slimy walls, just like a whales belly!

- As you enter, encourage kids to react and make comments. Ask them how long they think they could stand to be in a whales belly. Let them take in the atmosphere and let them know that Jonah was in the whales belly for 3 days.
- Pull out a flashlight and read the Bible from Jonah 2-3 while in the "whale".
- Ask kids if they feel trapped, and how it must have felt to have been spit out.

Script:

Now I want you to think about it; how it must have felt for Jonah to be spit out. Some people are just as trapped in sin, like the people of Ninevah, and they need to be free. They feel trapped and alone, and they don't even know they can pray to get rid of the sin that holds them down and makes them feel guilty. You see, Jonah's story ends with a happy ending, but Jonah didn't see it that way. Jonah was upset with God that he was loving and forgiving, even though he had just been forgiven.

But after Jonah, God showed us His amazing love a different way. He gave us His son, to come to Earth and to save us. You see, a price has to be paid for our sin; it traps us, and something has to set us free. Jesus paid the price by dying on the cross and rising again 3 days later. Just like Jonah was free, and we are free, Jesus was free from death and lives forever! Salvation is our freedom, like from the belly of a whale. Let's Pray:
God, thank you so much that you've always loved us and freed us. Thank you for giving us Jesus as a savior to save me from my sin. In Jesus name, Amen.



BLACKSMITH CRAFTS

Script:

Instead of going to the blacksmiths today, because he does deserve a day off once in a while, we are going to be doing something that all Knights of God do: Help others! In fact, we are going to try to tell them that God loves them, just like Jonah was asked to do. Unfortunately, going out into a city and shouting isn't the best way to let people know about God's love for them. We are going to let people know God loves them by first helping them, or doing something nice for them. Then we can share with them why we did it; because God's love for us is so great, we can't help but tell people! And they are given God's forgiveness, too!

What you need for a simple service project of making Chex-Mix:

- Bags, food to mix, sanitary napkins or sanitizer, and an assembly line in mind!
- Make sure you contact the mission you are helping and ask if bags are ok.
- Also, get some markers and paper to make cards with a message on them from the children. This should not include personalized information like last names or pictures. Just tape it to the bags!
- No matter what, check to make sure you are using allergy free ingredients, like raisins, gluten-free chex, gummy bears, and peanut free flavoring.

SWORD TRAINING

Today's Verse: But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9

(Hide the verses, or assign a child to hide them right before Sword Training).

Part of being saved is admitting we do wrong things. That means we need to confess them and not hide them. Jonah tried to hide and it didn't really work out for him, did it? So I have pieces of armor hidden all around the room. You'll need to find the verse today, and you'll have to piece it together.



STEP INTO THE WARDROBE

Script:

We are headed into Narnia again, into one of the moments we've all been waiting for; today, Peter, Susan, and Lucy finally make it to see Aslan. Now if you are just jumping in this story, you should know that when these 3 children entered Narnia, they quickly discovered they all had an important role; except for Edmund, their brother. He thought he would be the queen's favorite, except the queen isn't a queen: she's the White Witch. Peter, Susan, and Lucy, are trying to save him, so they are headed to Aslan, the true king Narnia! And when they arrive, Peter will not only have to tell Aslan that Edmund has betrayed them, but that he, too, has failed as a brother.

- *Watch from 1:20:10 as they walk to Aslan*
- *PAUSE at 1:22:19 when Aslan finishes talking*

Questions:

- Did you notice that Peter told Aslan he was too hard on Edmund? Did you see Aslan's reaction?

Let's keep watching and see if Edmund is rescued.

- *Skip ahead to 1:27:00*
- *Stop at 1:29:45 after Peter says "Try not to run off."*

Questions:

- Was Edmund worth saving?
- Why did Aslan say "what is done is done"? Do you think Aslan has forgiven him?
- Do you think you should be quick to forgive someone like Lucy?

It's hard to think that Edmund could do something so wrong, and yet Aslan could forgive him for it. He totally betrayed his family and joined the white witch. The problem is, that's the same betrayal we make when we sin, and we are always forgiven.

TOURNAMENT GAMES

Easy Steps for quick set up!

- Have the hats ready to go and the post its on some of the hats.
- You can also have kids write things they need to remember on post its, like soccer practice, homework, certain chores, walking the dog, etc!



