

# SPARK SUNDAY SCHOOL

ACTIVATE FAITH

## UPPER ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION



### God Jonah

Lesson Focus: **God Always Finds Us**

Scripture Reference: **Jonah 1-4**

Spark Story Bible Pg. 122

### GATHER

**Check In** with your High & Low for today/this week.

**Check-In Questions:** What are some things that parents or teachers make you do even though you don't want to do them? What would be an alternative plan that you might suggest?

**Directions:** Take some time to solve these mixed-up word puzzles. I'll give you a hint: there is a plan, or pattern, for solving them. Each one can be solved in exactly the way the others can be solved. Write your answers on a blank piece of paper. *An answer key can be found at Zion's Sunday School Facebook Group*

mraf  
rmumes  
gsihinf  
torpkep  
Motrs  
telphone  
etotlb  
nragantuag  
spipopotamuh  
ediiculr

**Prayer:** Dear God, Some of your plans are easy to carry out, like asking for your forgiveness. But some of your plans are hard to carry out, like loving our enemies. Please help us to follow your plans. Amen.

### STORY

Today we're going to learn about some plans God had for a guy named Jonah and a city called Nineveh. Jonah decided he didn't want to be part of God's plan. Wait until you hear what happened to him!

Look up **1 Samuel 3:1-20** in the **NRSV** and listen along on our website. Or turn to **page 122** in the **Spark Story Bible**.

### Questions to Ponder:

- So, do you think you have an idea of what Jonah went through?
- Why didn't Jonah want to go with God's plan
- How did Jonah's plan work out for him?
- It must have been nasty inside the belly of the fish; Jonah even thought he would die. Was God punishing Jonah or helping?
- Today's Bible Memory Verse is Jonah 1:17. Why do you think this verse is important in today's story?

**Thank God for the big fish that God sent to swallow Jonah! By catching him and spitting him out on the beach, the fish saved Jonah's life! God can use anything—even a big fish—to bring about good!**

### RESPOND

Pick out 2 parts of your leaflet to complete.

# MEMORY VERSE

Look up **Jonah 1:17**. This is our Memory Verse for today.

---

---

## SEND

### Responding to God's Word

*These are ways God uses us to come back for others!  
Sometimes the best way to come back is to go out!*

To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to:

- \_\_\_ I want to tell you about Jonah and the Big Fish.
- \_\_\_ I want to share some gold fish crackers with you.
- \_\_\_ Take a nap.
- \_\_\_ Draw a picture of Ocean Creatures.
- \_\_\_ Play hide and seek.
- \_\_\_ Build a tin foil boat and see if I can get it to float in the sink or tub.
- \_\_\_ Jonah is stuck in the BIG fish. He's got a lot of time on his hands and nothing to do. Pretend you're in Jonah's place and write a poem about his plight. You can add it to your Faith Journal
- \_\_\_ Write out the Memory Verse & doodle around it in your Faith Formation Journal
- \_\_\_ Write out the Memory Verse and place it somewhere you will see it often
- \_\_\_ Give you a big hug!
- \_\_\_ Invite you to worship with you (outside or online) or invite them to Sunday School with you
- \_\_\_ Pray for \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Say "I'm sorry" \_\_\_\_\_ My own idea: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAY

**Dear God, Dear God, help us to trust that your plans are the best, even if we don't like them at first. Amen.**