

SPECIAL PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE (OT)

LESSON 5: JONAH AND THE BIG FISH ☆

Lessons in this series: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [Overview](#)

After completing this lesson, the children will understand why it is important to listen to God and do what He says, instead of coming up with excuses.

TOPICS

Disobedience, Jonah, Listening, Responsibility

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

Jonah and the Big Fish (Coloring Activity) [Click here](#)

What Happened to Jonah? (Coloring Activity) [Click here](#)

As the children arrive, have them complete one of the above coloring activities.

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

BIBLE VERSE (5 MINUTES)

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28 NIV

This verse reminds children that God blesses those who listen and obey Him.

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Gather the children around you in a circle for story time. After the introduction, read the story about Jonah right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

Our story today is from the Old Testament of the Bible. It is about a man named Jonah, and is found in the book of Jonah. God wanted Jonah to do something important. However, Jonah did not want to. Let's find out what happened.

Read Jonah 1:1-17 (Jonah Runs Away From the Lord)

Discussion Questions:

1. Instead of obeying God, what did Jonah do? (*He ran away and got on a ship sailing to Tarshish.*)
2. How did the sailors find out the storm was because of Jonah? (*They cast lots, then Jonah confessed.*)
3. To save the ship from the storm, what did Jonah tell the sailors to do? (*Throw him overboard into the sea.*)
4. Do you think Jonah thought he would drown? Why didn't he? (*God still wanted to use him: Jonah 3:1,2.*)
5. What happened as soon as Jonah was thrown overboard? (*The storm stopped and God had a big fish come and swallow Jonah.*)
6. After being in the belly of a fish for three days, how do you think Jonah smelled? (*Allow the children to offer their thoughts.*)
7. Do you think Jonah listened to God the next time God told him to do something? (*Yes.*)

FUN TIME (15 MINUTES)

Spit Out Jonah! (Craft) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (6 MINUTES)

Oh Poor Jonah! (Song) [Click here](#)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

Have a snack of goldfish crackers or make cookies in the shape of a fish. As the children enjoy their treats discuss why it is so important to listen and obey God.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 MINUTES)

Oh Poor Jonah! (Game) [Click here](#)

NEXT WEEK

Come back next week to learn about more special people in the Bible.

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. [Click here](#)

OH POOR JONAH! ☆

A good energy burner that teaches an important lesson

TOPICS:

Disobedience, Jonah, Listening

MATERIALS:

Lyrics to "Oh Poor Jonah" [Click here](#)

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

It is helpful to teach the children the song "Oh Poor Jonah" before playing the game.

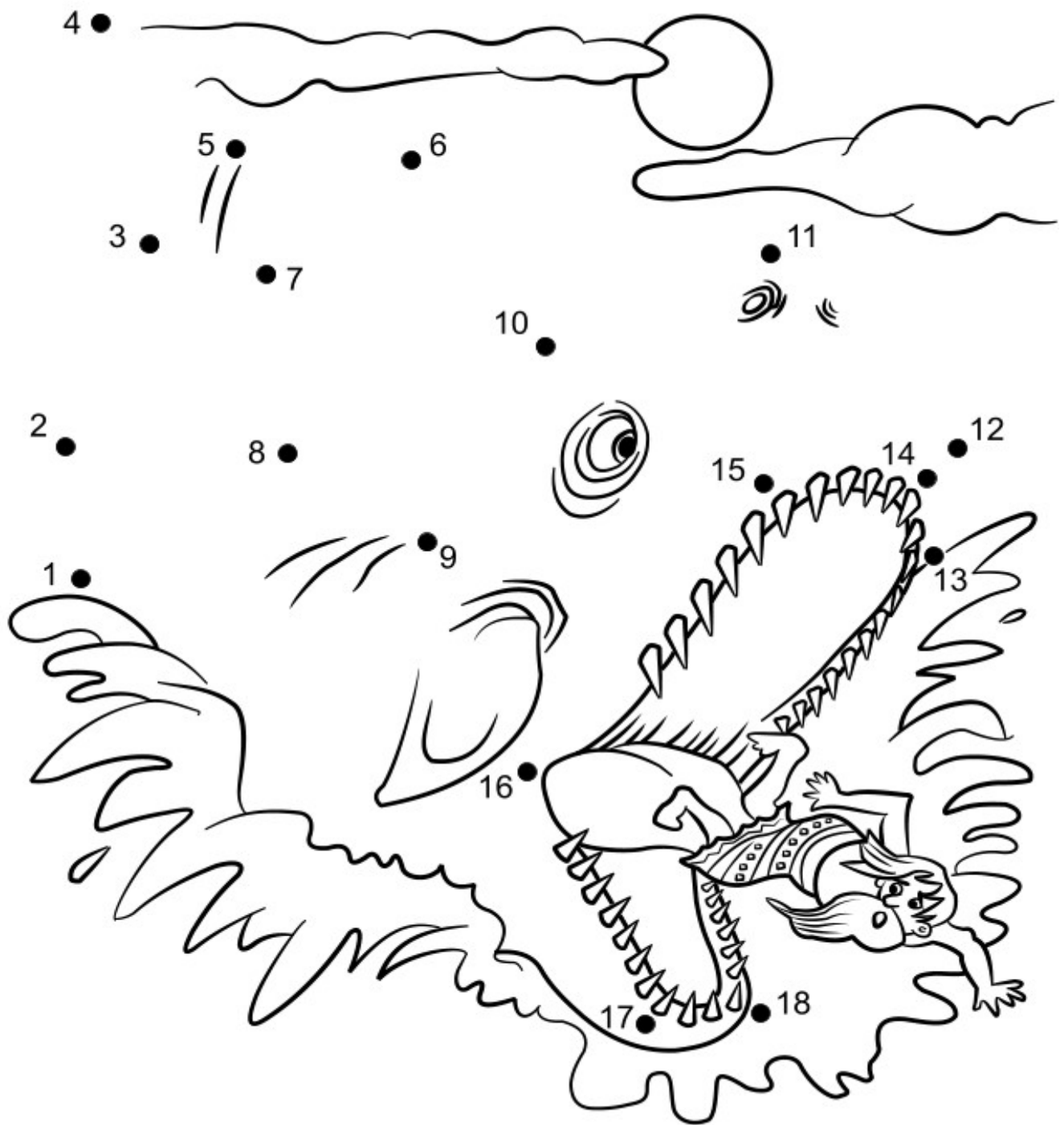
WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Before playing the game, read **Jonah 1:1-17** to the children.

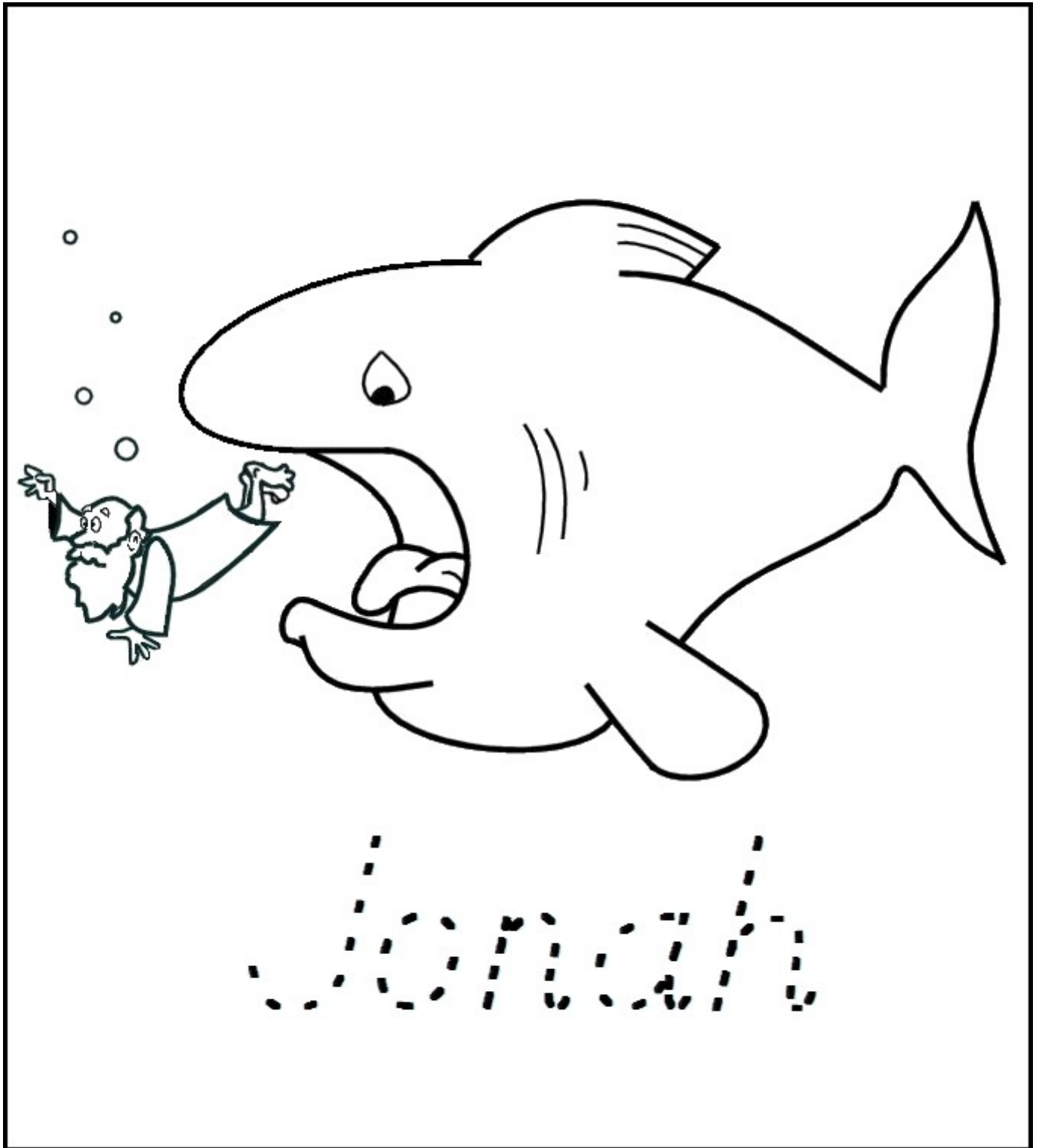
Choose two children to become the waves. They clasp hands and raise them to form an arch. The rest of the children sing the song, Oh Poor Jonah and walk under the arch one at a time. When the children get to the verse "Oh Poor Jonah," the waves drop their arms and trap the child that was walking under the arch at the time. The trapped child then replaces the child who has been a wave the longest.



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What happened to Jonah?



OH POOR JONAH! ☆

A song about how Jonah's disobedience got him into deep trouble Sung to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down."

TOPICS:

Disobedience, Jonah

MATERIALS:

Song sheet [PDF] [Click here](#)

DURATION:

Approximately 6 minutes



VERSES

Jonah chose to dis-o-bey, dis-o-bey, dis-o-bey.

Jonah chose to dis-o-bey,

Oh, poor Jonah!

Jonah chose to run a-way, run a-way, run a-way.

Jonah chose to run a-way,

Oh, poor Jonah!

Jonah chose to board a ship, board a ship, board a ship.

Jonah chose to board a ship,

Oh, poor Jonah!

Jonah caused a big bad storm, big bad storm, big bad storm.

Jonah caused a big bad storm,

Oh, poor Jonah!

The sailors threw him overboard, overboard, overboard.

The sailors threw him overboard,

Oh, poor Jonah!

A big fish swallowed Jonah whole, Jonah whole, Jonah whole.

A big fish swallowed Jonah whole,

Oh, poor Jonah!

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