THE GOSPEL PROJECT JR. Unit 14.2 Jonah prophet to Ninevah
Date: Sunday November 15, 2026 Teachers: Cara (co-lead) Greg (co-lead)
Bible Passage: Jonah 1–4 **Key Passage:** Joel 2:13
Props from home/make at centre: large arrow with THIS WAY on it
At centre: activity sheet (2 copies JK/SK)

Review Rules:
One Mouth speaking at a time (Teacher points to mouths/kids point to their mouths)
Two Hands kept to myself (kids wiggle hands and keep them to themselves)
Two Feet kept to myself (kids cross legs)
Speak Kind words like our God three in ONE!

BIBLE STORY INTRO materials: use props or whiteboard to draw fish and tree ***Vicky***
Let's remember the story from last week: We looked at the life of the prophet Hosea to learn that God loves people when they do not deserve it. God goes after sinners, just like Hosea went after his wife. Today's story is another story about God going after people when they don't deserve it, because that is the nature of God. God loves the world He made and His love pursues us even when we don't deserve it because we have rejected God to have our own way.
In today's Bible story God wants his prophet Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh and tell the Ninevites to turn from their ways and turn to the God who made them and loves them. Who knows this story? Does Jonah obey God and go do this? NO! Who can tell me what happened? This is a very famous story and the part that gets a LOT of attention is the FISH (show the ocean bottle OR fish) because it is so wild what happens to Jonah. But do you know there is another big part of this story and an image we don't hear about enough? Does anyone know what it is?
A TREE! It is a tree that God causes to grow….and well let's watch what happens…

BIBLE STORY VIDEO: BIBLE STORY VIDEO: JONAH PROPHET TO NINEVAH

DISCUSSION VIDEO ***Vicky***
Why did the cupcakes only help the cupcake that fell? How is this like our Bible Story? Jonah did not want to take God's message to the Ninevites because he didn't like them, and he was angry when God showed mercy to them. Do you know now why the tree/plant was a part of the story and what did that represent? God asked Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "Yes!" Jonah said. "It is right. I'm so angry, I could die."
God said, "You cared about the plant, but you did not take care of it or make it grow. It only lasted one day. But Nineveh is a big city with thousands of people. I created them and care about them. Aren't they more important than a plant?" God deeply loves the world He made, and He wants us to share His love for them, by sharing the good news- the gospel with the world.

DISMISS JR. KIDS-GR.1

Cara

KEY PASSAGE (PLAY KEY PASSAG SONG) *This is the first week for this song, encourage kids to stand and follow along

"Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious, He is compassionate, slow to anger, rich in faithful love." Joel 2:13

GOSPEL GEMS ***Cara***

God said go- Jonah said No! (shake head no)
God sent Jonah to Nineveh because He loved the PEOPLE (make a heart with hands)
God sent Jesus because He loves us. (make a cross with hands)

SING A SONG: ***Cara/Greg***

Sing the song "God Is So Good" :
"God *is so good, God is so good, God is so good,
He's so good to me."
Jesus came to show us how God loves us so much!

ACTIVITY: materials: 2 copies of find the pics ***Cara/Greg***

Divide the class into JK/SK+1, teachers take a group and ask them to help you find the objects on the page. Some of these things are really funny things to be inside a big fish, but what is the funniest thing- Jonah! God used the fish to rescue Jonah from drowning in the sea, and he wanted Jonah to talk about God's rescuing love!
Jonah should have died, but God showed him mercy, and the people of Nineveh didn't deserve God's love, but God does not give people what they deserve. Even when the Ninevites' desires and their actions were far from what God wanted and they behaved really badly, God gave them the opposite of what they deserve, He showed them love and mercy.

ACTIVITY: "*The opposite way!*" ***Greg***

materials: (make a sign with construction paper/or at home bring, large arrow: **THIS WAY**)
God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Did Jonah obey God and go to Nineveh? NO! Jonah did the opposite, he got on a boat and tried to go as far away from Nineveh as possible. I am going to hold up this sign that is an arrow that says THIS WAY, and when I hold it up you are going to go in the opposite direction. Pay attention to which way the arrow is pointing though!
Jonah didn't want to obey God, because He knew God's nature was one of merciful love. God loves the world He made and he wants the world to know about his love, Jonah wanted them to receive God's judgement which is for people to experience the consequences of their desires and actions. Do we want to be like Jonah? NO! We want to obey what God wants AND we want to share His merciful love with the world God loves. Did God give the people what they deserved for their bad behaviour?NO! God gave the opposite His merciful love!

ACTIVITY: 3 DAYS! materials: ***Cara***

Ask the kids to lie down. Jonah was in the belly of the whale for 3 days!!! Let's count those sleeps, that's one, two, three. This make us think about another 3 days in the Bible. Does anyone know another 3 days that are important**?**
Jesus gave his life by dying on the cross, and after 3 days He rose again to rescue us.

PRAYER: Father, thank you for loving us even when we have not loved you back. Thank you Jesus for rescuing us, like you rescued Jonah and the Ninevites, thank you for giving us your Spirit to make us love you back.

COLOURING SHEET/SNACK/FREE PLAY:
Colouring sheet: fishy fishy

OPTIONAL **ACTIVITY IF TIME:** ***"Jump out of the boat"*** **materials** (masking tape)
Use masking tape to mark a boat shape on the floor. Play out the Bible story. Invite toddlers to throw you (Jonah) out of the boat.GOD LOVES PEOPLE even when they make wrong choices. God sent Jesus because He loves us!