

Two's / Three's & Four's

Unit 8 - Standing Firm

Story 24.A & B - Jonah & the Big Fish (Jonah 1-4)

Two's and Three's begin and end the service with playtime. Once you begin the lesson, it's okay if not all children are willing to participate; gather those who are willing. Feel free to shorten or modify elements to suit your needs. All plans are flexible for this age group.

1. CIRCLE TIME - Start 30 minutes after the service starts (1st- 9:00; 2nd-10:45).

(Some parents will keep their kids with them for worship at the beginning of service.)

Gather kids on the rug. Set behavior expectations with the following question and answer prompts:

Where are we? *We're at church.*

What do we do here? *Learn about God.*

How do we learn about God in this special place? *Listen carefully and sit quietly.*

- **BIBLE:** Show kids the Bible and tell them it's a very special book because it comes from God, the one who made us. Let each child pat the Bible gently and say "The Word of God."
- **MEMORY VERSE:** Practice the unit's memory verse. Give each child a chance to say it by repeating after you. At this stage, a few may be able to say it on their own, most will just repeat it one word at a time.

"God is for us!" ~Romans 8:31

- **STORY:** Give each child a laminated Bible Story Picture from the Story Box, and read today's story on the back of this paper.

2. WORSHIP - Play music on the CD player and give kids instruments from the Music Box.

Encourage kids to praise God through instruments, singing, and dancing! Put the instruments away after the song.

3. ART - Have kids sit at the tables and pass out today's Bible Story Picture with a label sticker already on. Help the kids place stickers on their pictures from the "Art Box."

4. SNACK - **Check for allergies on the attendance roster.** Clean up art supplies and help kids rub their hands with hand sanitizer. Set out snacks and water at the table. Before everyone eats, use this time as an opportunity to pray. There is a short prayer printed on the wall for kids to say with you or feel free to pray as you are led.

Thank you for the world so sweet, thank you for the food we eat.

Thank you for the birds that sing, thank you, God, for everything. Amen.



God told a man named Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people to stop sinning and to listen to God instead. [Point to Nineveh.](#) (*Point in one direction in the room.*)

Guess what? Jonah didn't go to Nineveh. He went the other way! [Point to where Jonah went.](#) (*Using your other arm point in the other direction in the room showing that Jonah went in the opposite direction that God told him.*)

He went and hid on a boat. (*Pull the boat out of the story box.*) Do you think God could still see him? Yes! God sees everything.

There was a big storm and the waves rocked the boat. (*Rock the boat like it is in a storm. Consider having the assistant flash the lights to symbolize lightning in the storm.*)

Oh no! It was very scary. The other sailors threw Jonah off the boat and the storm stopped! [Can you point to Jonah in your picture?](#)

God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah and save him! (*Pull out the fish from the story box.*)

Jonah was inside the big fish. It was cold, dark, and probably stinking! Jonah was sorry and wanted to obey God. [Say, "Good job, Jonah!"](#)

The whale spat Jonah back out and then Jonah went to Nineveh. The people actually listened to Jonah and said they were sorry to God.

God is with us wherever we go and forgives anyone who trusts in Him!