**2023 confirmation student and mentor resources**

Lent 1 – Intercepted & Redirected

SHARE

Jonah had an encounter with God that changed his life. When we have encounters with God, they

can be surprising, and can show us something new about ourselves, and can change the direction of

our life in meaningful ways. Do a summary of the Jonah story for participants, and talk about how

Jonah’s encounter changed his life.

REFLECT

Talk to the kids about a time when you tried something new, that you didn’t want to do, and how it

changed the direction of your life. Did you play a game that allowed you to discover a love for a

sport that you wouldn’t have otherwise experienced? Perhaps you went to a theater production that

sparked a love for acting? Maybe you had to unexpectedly change vacation plans, and it allowed you

to discover a new place, that you never would have discovered before. Share some example with the

kids, and invite them to share a time when something they tried something new, or something

unexpected happen to them, and it turned out to be a really good thing.

PRAYER

Thank you Lord for opening our eyes to new things. Help us be open to the possibilities in the

disruptions. Amen

**Lent 2 – God in the Depth of Chaos**

SHARE

Sometimes bad or scary things happen to us or around us. When bad things happen, it is important

to remember that God is always with us! Remind your participants of the Jonah story, and share that

Jonah was probably very scared when he was in the belly of the fish. God sent the fish to protect

and help Jonah. The fish was one of the “helpers” God used in the midst of a crazy storm.

REFLECT

Talk about whether participants have ever experienced anything that scared them or made them

nervous. Ask them what they did in those times. Who are the people/things that help them when

they are scared?

We are all called to be “helpers” or God’s hands and feet in this world. There are lots of people in

our community that work every day to be helpers to us, that we can go to if we need help! Who are

the helpers in your community? Have kids brainstorm a list! This could include police, firefighters,

medical professionals, teachers, public servants

PRAY

God, we pray for the helpers that will receive these bags. Help them know that we appreciate them.

Lord, help us be helpers for others when things seem chaotic and let us never forget that you are

always with us. Amen

**Lent 3 – Obedience and Preservation**

SHARE

Jonah disobeyed God and it put him in some tricky situations. Remind participants of the story of

Jonah (even reading it again from your favorite Children’s bible or from Jonah 1 if you need to).

REFLECT

What happened when Jonah disobeyed God? What had God asked Jonah to do? Ask kids the

following questions.

• Do you have any rules to follow at your house?

• What happens when you disobey?

• Do you have any consequences?

• What rules do you have at school or work?

• Why do you think you have rules?

• What would it be like if there were no rules?

• Do games that you play have rules?

PRAY

God, we know you give us guidelines and rules because you love us, and we know that even when

we break those rules, we can say we are sorry, and you can help guide us back in the right direction.

Thank you for always loving us. Amen

**Lent 4 – Faithful and Unfinished**

SHARE

In the story of Jonah (summarize it, if participants need a refresher), Jonah didn’t see the Ninevites

the same way God did. In the beginning of the story, he just thought they were bad people, and

didn’t really think they could change. Jonah just thought God should punish them.

REFLECT

In this story, God looks at Jonah and the Ninevites, and has faith that they can change, even though

Jonah ran from God, and even though the Ninevites had done a lot of bad things.

God looks that way at all of God’s creatures. We sometimes have a hard time doing it though!

Ask –

• When is it hard to see the good in other people?

• What can you do to see the good in other people?

• If someone met you on your worst day (maybe when you were throwing a temper tantrum) is that

how you would want them to remember you? How would you want them to think about you?

• How can we see others the way God sees them?

PRAY

Gracious God, help us see others the way God sees them. Remind us to put on our “God Glasses”

whenever we look at our friends, our neighbors and all of creation. Help us have love and

compassion for everything we see. Amen.

**Lent 5 – Jesus, the new Jonah**

SHARE

Share the story of Jesus calming the storm from Matthew 8:23-27 (you could find it in your favorite

children’s Bible too). Have a group act out the story as you read it. Imagine what it would be like to

be on a boat in the middle of the storm, you can incorporate sounds (swoosh, splash) and

movements (swaying, rocking) as your read the story.

REFLECT

Ask –

• What were the disciples scared of?

• How did Jesus calm the storm?

• How did Jesus make the disciples feel better?

• What are you scared of?

• How can Jesus make you feel better?

PRAY

Thank you, Jesus, for calming our fears. Help us remember to ask you to be with us whenever we are

afraid. Thank you for giving us peace and reminding us of how much you love us. Amen.