



Authorised Mess — JONAH

Your details

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Church: River of Life, Worthing

Bible book	Jonah
Theme of session	Obedience, not understanding God's plan
Notes	

Session details

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Spiral worms	Draw a spiral on the paper plate/card from the outer edge to the centre of the circle with a black marker/pencil. Colour and decorate the spiral with stickers to make it look like a worm. Now cut along the black line to make a giant spiral worm. Attach string to the top of the spiral and hold it up to see your worm.	Paper plates or white card (pre-cut into large circles), pencils/colouring pens, stickers, scissors, colourful string/thread. More detailed instructions can be found on the Internet—for example, http://www.ehow.com/video/5116774_wind-spinners-kids-make.html .	Story reminder: reminds us of the worm that God sent to eat the tree when Jonah was sitting outside Nineveh.



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Younger participants	Fish table mats	Stick the fish on to the paper and then colour/decorate with sea weed/bubbles. Laminate and use as a table mat.	A4 paper, pre-cut fish shapes, glue sticks, colouring pens, laminator, laminating sheets.	Practical object which can be used at home and be a prompt for remembering the big fish story (Jonah 1:17).
Older participants	Mosaic table mats	Use the small squares of coloured paper to fill the template in a mosaic style. Laminate and use as a table mat.	A4 paper, template of a fish/boat, small squares of coloured paper, glue sticks, laminator, laminating sheets.	Practical object which can be used at home and be a prompt for remembering the big fish story (Jonah 1:17).
Older participants	Paper bag whale	Stuff the paper bag half full with shredded newspaper. Seal with a rubber band—to form the body and tail. Stick googly eyes on the whale's face and draw on a smile. Make a small slit in the whale's head and insert the water spout. Fix in place with sticky tape. To make the water spout: cut the blue paper in half widthways. Cut 1-in strips across two-thirds the width of the paper. Roll the paper into a tube and fix with tape.	Large rectangular paper bags with a fold-out bottom (painted blue), shredded newspaper, elastic bands, googly eyes, black felt tip pens, sticky tape, blue paper (A4), scissors. More detailed instructions can be found on the Internet—for example, http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mbagwhale.htm .	Talk about situations when things look helpless and how God steps in (Jonah 1:17 and 2:1–10).



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Older participants	Jonah's tree	<p>Stick double-sided tape along the two shorter edges of the brown paper. Uncover one of these pieces and lay a toilet roll tube along the tape so it is flush with one of the longer edges. Now roll the tube so that it is covered fully by the paper and fix the end by uncovering the other piece of tape. Cut out 1-in strips in the excess paper not covering the toilet roll tube and use double-sided tape to stick these strips to the paper plate. Now take a bundle of green tissue paper strips and twist the ends together. Poke this into the top of the tree. Finish by drawing a face on 'Jonah', adding pipe cleaners for arms and fixing 'Jonah' to the plate under the tree.</p>	<p>Paper plates, brown paper (A5), double-sided tape, toilet roll tubes, green tissue paper, corks, pipe cleaners, glue, scissors, pens.</p> <p>Pre-make the 'Jonahs' as the glue needs time to dry. Cut some of the corks in half—these will be the heads. Take one cork and stand on its end. Take a half cork and, using strong glue, stick it (on its side) to make a head.</p>	<p>Talk about times when we don't understand what God is doing (Jonah 4:5–11).</p>



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Girls	Aquarium pencil case	Draw a design on to the paper and then put it inside the pencil case. Using a black glass pen, trace the template on to the pencil case. Now decorate the picture with coloured glass paints. Leave to dry.	Clear pencil cases, glass paints/pens, paper (to fit inside the pencil case), pencils.	Practical object which can be used at home/school and be a prompt for talking about the big fish story/Messy Church.
Boys/opens up great art	Storyboard	Using their imagination, set the task of recreating the story of Jonah using the junk craft. Remind them to include Jonah, the fish, Nineveh, the sea, the boat and so on.	Large flat board or piece of cardboard, junk craft such as boxes, bottles, lids, corks, ribbons and so on, glue sticks, tissue paper.	Great for creativity—and boys like the gross motor skills aspect of junk modelling. Also provides a fantastic opportunity to talk through the story as a small group, about how Jonah may have felt, and about how they feel about God, obedience and what we don't understand.
Food-based	Whale biscuits	Spread a small amount of butter icing on the biscuit. Shape a small ball of fondant icing into a whale and then place on top.	Rich tea biscuits, teaspoons, blue butter icing, blue/grey fondant icing.	Fun and a reminder of the big fish story (Jonah 1:17).



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Really messy	Moving boat picture	Draw a wavy line lengthways across the middle of the card. Cut along this line leaving about 2 in at both ends uncut. Sponge paint above the line with blue paint. Sponge paint below the line with blue/green paint. Pat off excess paint with paper towels. Colour in the boat and fix it to a lolly stick with tape. Glue cotton wool to the cloud shapes and then add to the sky with double-sided sticky pads. Now insert the boat through the slit in the card and make it 'move' along the sea by guiding the lolly stick backwards and forwards along the wavy line.	White card (A4), pre-cut cloud/boat shapes, coloured pens, lolly sticks, sticky tape, glue sticks, cotton wool, double-sided sticky pads, blue paint, green/blue paint mixed together, sponges, paper towels.	Talk about the times we try to run away from God.



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Celebration suggestion

Retell the story using knitted figures, a home-made ship, a city made of construction toy bricks and a tree.

Song: 'Oi oi' (We used *Duggie Dug Dug's Action Songs Vol 1&2*. This DVD is available from www.eden.co.uk.)

Meal suggestion

- ✿ Fish fingers and tinned spaghetti.
- ✿ Whale biscuits (made in the activity).

Faith in Homes suggestion

- ✿ Pray for people/missionaries in dangerous places.
- ✿ Talk about what it means to be frightened about obeying God.
- ✿ Use <http://www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.dltk-bible.com/jesus/takehome33.gif> to discuss if it's easier to obey or disobey God, and find out a fun way for all the family to see how well they are obeying.