

USING THE
REVISED & EXPANDED
**LITTLE ONES
CURRICULUM**
TO TEACH 3 - 6 YEAR OLDS

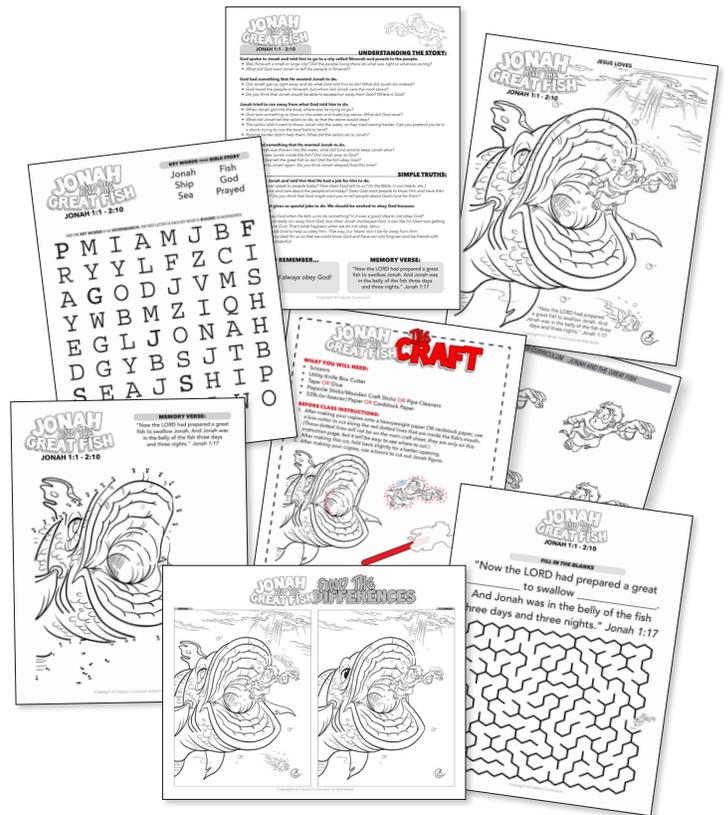


To download and print the **“Revised and Expanded Little Ones Curriculum”** go to:
 CalvaryCurriculum.com and click on “Children’s Curriculum.”
 (The **“Original Little Ones Curriculum”** continues to remain available online.)

The **“Revised and Expanded Little Ones Curriculum”** is a **Bible curriculum**, created as a **support** to Children’s Ministry teachers, parents, and others who minister God’s Word to children. It is appropriate to use with **3 - 6 year olds**. It offers activity pages to help involve the children according to their abilities. Each Bible story set has a list of questions that the teacher can use as a guide to supplement the Bible story.

Each Bible story set in the **“Revised and Expanded Little Ones Curriculum”** contains:

- A coloring picture with a memory verse
- A Teacher/Parent Question Sheet as a guide for the Bible story, with questions specific to each story.
- A simple craft with instructions
- A variety of activity pages:
 - Wordsearch
 - Dot-to-dot
 - Fill-in-the-blank / Maze
 - Find the Differences



The activity pages can be used at any point during your class to help reinforce the Bible story and to help the children enjoy their time in class.



Also available online are:

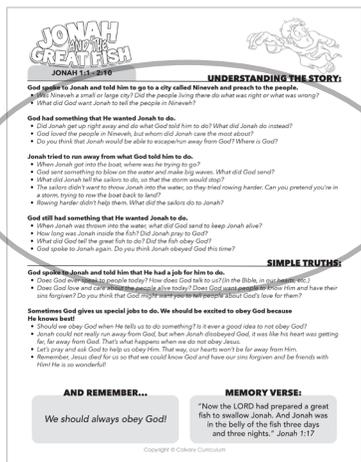
- The **“Leader’s Guide”** and the **“Teacher’s Guide”**
- A **yearly schedule** for the curriculum

WAYS THE TEACHER/PARENT QUESTION SHEET CAN BE USED:

- 1 The question sheet can be useful as a study help during the **teacher's preparation time** at home.
- 2 The questions can be **interspersed throughout the story time** to encourage involvement from the children.
- 3 The question sheet can be used during a specific **question and answer time** in class.
- 4 The list of questions can be used during a **game or activity** as a Bible story **review**.
- 5 The question sheet can be **copied** onto the **back** of the **coloring picture** to be sent home with each child. This helps to include parents, that they might know what their child learned during class.

When using this sheet with the children, you do not need to ask all of the questions on the sheet!

THE TEACHER/PARENT QUESTION SHEETS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN SECTIONS:



Section 1 - UNDERSTANDING THE STORY:

- The questions listed in the section "UNDERSTANDING THE STORY" can easily be answered by looking at the **Bible story itself**. (The Bible will be your answer key to the questions on this sheet.)

- These simple questions are intended to give a more thorough **understanding of the story**. These questions will help the children understand the **facts** and **events** of the story. Understanding the story in this way will help the class make clear and appropriate life applications later on.

- Some of the questions will also help the teacher identify **key words** that the children do not understand, so that they can then be explained. If a child does not understand key words, they may **significantly** miss out on understanding the story.

Asking questions is useful in expanding our understanding of the Bible. By using simple **who, what, when, where, how**, and occasionally, **why** questions, we will help the children learn more from the story. Using questions can help lead to discussing each Bible story in a meaningful way.

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH
JONAH 1:1-2:10

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY:

God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to a city called Nineveh and preach to the people.

- Was Nineveh a small or large city? Did the people living there do what was right or what was wrong?
- What did God want Jonah to tell the people in Nineveh?

God had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- Did Jonah get up right away and do what God told him to do? What did Jonah do instead?
- Did God force the people in Nineveh, but when did Jonah say the most about?
- Do you think that Jonah would be able to escape from away from God? Where is God?

Jonah tried to run away from what God told him to do.

- When Jonah got into the boat, what was he trying to do?
- Did any one else get into the boat with him? What did God send?
- What did Jonah tell the sailors to do that the storm would stop?
- The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah into the water so they tried to throw him overboard. Can you pretend you're in a storm, trying to save the boat back to land?
- How long did it take for the storm to stop? What did the sailors do to Jonah?

God still had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- When Jonah was thrown into the water, what did God send to keep Jonah alive?
- How long was Jonah inside the fish? Did Jonah pray to God?
- What did God tell the great fish to do? Did the fish obey God?
- God spoke to Jonah again. How did Jonah obey God this time?

SIMPLE TRUTHS:

God spoke to Jonah and told him that He had a job for him to do.

- Does God ever speak to people today? How does God talk to us? (In the Bible, in our hearts, etc.)
- Does God love and care about the people alive today? Does God want people to know Him and have their sins forgiven? Do you think that God might want you to tell people about God's love for them?

Sometimes God gives us special jobs to do. We should be excited to obey God because He loves us!

- Should we obey God when He tells us to do something? Is there ever a good time to not obey God?
- Jonah could not really run away from God, but when Jonah disobeyed God, it was like his heart was getting far away from God. That's what happens when we do not obey Jesus.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him. That way our hearts won't be far away from Him.
- Remember, Jesus died for us so that we could know God and have our sins forgiven and be friends with Him. He is so wonderful!

AND REMEMBER... We should always obey God!

MEMORY VERSE: "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:17

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Section 2 - SIMPLE TRUTHS:

• The questions listed in the section **"SIMPLE TRUTHS"** are based on observations that were made during the time spent discovering the facts and events of the story (within "UNDERSTANDING THE STORY" section). After discovering what a passage says, and making the words understandable for the children, the meaning and application of the story will come very naturally, as the Lord has already been speaking through His Word.

• The questions in the SIMPLE TRUTHS section should help to take what was learned in the story and **apply it to our lives**.

• One of the best things to do is: **Look for a simple truth and make a simple application!** These questions will help you to do that.

• Some of these questions will encourage the class to **pray** about what they learned in the story. This helps the story move from information only to application in the **child's life**.

The question sheet is intended to **supplement** the Bible story, **not** to replace the use of the Bible. Teachers should use their Bibles to prepare before class, and to teach from during class.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT WE CAN PREPARE FOR TEACHING THE BIBLE STORY?

- 1 Pray for understanding for yourself and for the children whom you will be teaching. "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures." (Luke 24:45)
- 2 Look at what came *before* the story. Context is very important when teaching the Bible. Something significant may have happened before the story that is important to mention.
- 3 Thoroughly know the story. When you know the story well, and you are less dependent upon reading it, it will help make the story flow more naturally as you tell it. Become very familiar with the passage!
- 4 Look at the question sheet and ask the questions to yourself. Consider the answers by looking at what the Scripture says. Pray through whatever the Lord speaks to you.
- 5 While preparing, look for key words that children may not understand. Think of simpler words that mean the same thing and could be used instead.
- 6 Listen to your favorite Bible teacher teach the portion of Scripture that you are preparing to teach. This can be a blessing to you and enhance your own understanding of the passage.

LEARNING THE BIBLE STORY

If you want to **tell** the story using flannel graphs, puppets, simple drama, props, pictures, or any other creative storytelling method, there's one thing that you need; **you need to know the story you are telling.**

DURING THE TEACHER'S PREPARATION TIME:

Choose a Bible story

- 1 Read your Bible verse(s) **OUT LOUD**
- 2 Close your Bible and close your eyes
- 3 Say **OUT LOUD** as much of the story as you can remember

REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT!



Continue repeating this process until you can say the story from memory; meaning, that you can remember the **order of events** and the **details** within the story. The goal is to be **familiar enough** with the story so that you can tell it mostly from memory. When you know the story well, **you can naturally tell it** while using some simple drama or any other storytelling method. It will be **easy** to insert a question here and there without losing your place in the story. (When **telling** the Bible story, have an **open Bible close by** and refer to it periodically, so that it is reinforced that the story being told is in the Bible!)

Look for a simple truth and make a simple application!

Our **goal** in teaching the little ones should be to **lead them to Jesus**, the only One who can save their souls, change their lives, and take them to heaven one day. This world needs Jesus and every boy and girl that walks into your class needs Jesus.

After telling the story, you can invite the kids to **narrate the story back** to you or you can have a time of asking the children questions, as a way of **reviewing** the story. (These are important ways to involve the children, and they love to "tell back" what they know and answer questions when they know the answers.)

WHAT IF THE CHILDREN DON'T ANSWER THE QUESTIONS?

- Be aware that the questions you ask are in reference to what you have already taught the children; that the answers are attainable for them.
- Give them enough time to think about the answers.
- If they do not know the answers, go ahead and answer the question that you asked so that they can hear the answer.

Whether or not the children answer correctly, be positive and encouraging. This will encourage them to continue trying to answer any questions you may ask.

INTERACTING WITH LITTLE ONES

Create a **welcoming atmosphere** for the children. This may include:

- Setting out coloring pictures and crayons
- Turning on worship music in the background
- Setting out toys
- Warmly greeting and welcoming each child into class

Remember, **YOU** are a big part of the classroom atmosphere!

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Remember that **children are people**, so treat them that way.
You may be surprised at how well they respond.

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Positive ways to interact with the children in your class:

- Making a point to learn their names
- Giving eye contact
- Giving cheerful hellos
- Showing interest and enthusiasm
- Asking simple questions
- Getting down on their level
- Showing sensitivity to their feelings
- Showing your enjoyment to be with them
- Giving them time to talk to you
- Setting simple rules
- Managing the class well so that they feel safe
- Reaching out to the quiet ones and the difficult ones too
- Encouraging them and giving them vision for their lives

Unhelpful ways to interact with the children in your class:

- Never attempting to learn their names
- Not bothering to say "hi"
- Not showing interest or enthusiasm
- Using big words that they won't understand
- Being distant from them during class
- Laughing at them
- Having a long list of rules
- Acting annoyed
- Being negligent to look out for their safety
- Not dealing with the child who is dominating or distracting the class
- Ignoring the quiet ones and only ever correcting those who are difficult
- Never encouraging them

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Often it's the **little things** that make a **big impact**, showing the children that they are **valued** and **loved**.

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**"Love one another; as I have loved you."
John 13:34**

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH

JONAH 1:1 - 2:10



UNDERSTANDING THE STORY:

God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to a city called Nineveh and preach to the people.

- Was Nineveh a small or large city? Did the people living there do what was right or what was wrong?
- What did God want Jonah to tell the people in Nineveh?

God had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- Did Jonah get up right away and do what God told him to do? What did Jonah do instead?
- God loved the people in Nineveh, but whom did Jonah care the most about?
- Do you think that Jonah would be able to escape/run away from God? Where is God?

Jonah tried to run away from what God told him to do.

- When Jonah got into the boat, where was he trying to go?
- God sent something to blow on the water and make big waves. What did God send?
- What did Jonah tell the sailors to do, so that the storm would stop?
- The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah into the water, so they tried rowing harder. Can you pretend you're in a storm, trying to row the boat back to land?
- Rowing harder didn't help them. What did the sailors do to Jonah?

God still had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- When Jonah was thrown into the water, what did God send to keep Jonah alive?
- How long was Jonah inside the fish? Did Jonah pray to God?
- What did God tell the great fish to do? Did the fish obey God?
- God spoke to Jonah again. Do you think Jonah obeyed God this time?

SIMPLE TRUTHS:

God spoke to Jonah and told him that He had a job for him to do.

- Does God ever speak to people today? How does God talk to us? (In the Bible, in our hearts, etc.)
- Does God love and care about the people alive today? Does God want people to know Him and have their sins forgiven? Do you think that God might want you to tell people about God's love for them?

Sometimes God gives us special jobs to do. We should be excited to obey God because He knows best!

- Should we obey God when He tells us to do something? Is it ever a good idea to not obey God?
- Jonah could not really run away from God, but when Jonah disobeyed God, it was like his heart was getting far, far away from God. That's what happens when we do not obey Jesus.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him. That way, our hearts won't be far away from Him.
- Remember, Jesus died for us so that we could know God and have our sins forgiven and be friends with Him! He is so wonderful!

AND REMEMBER...

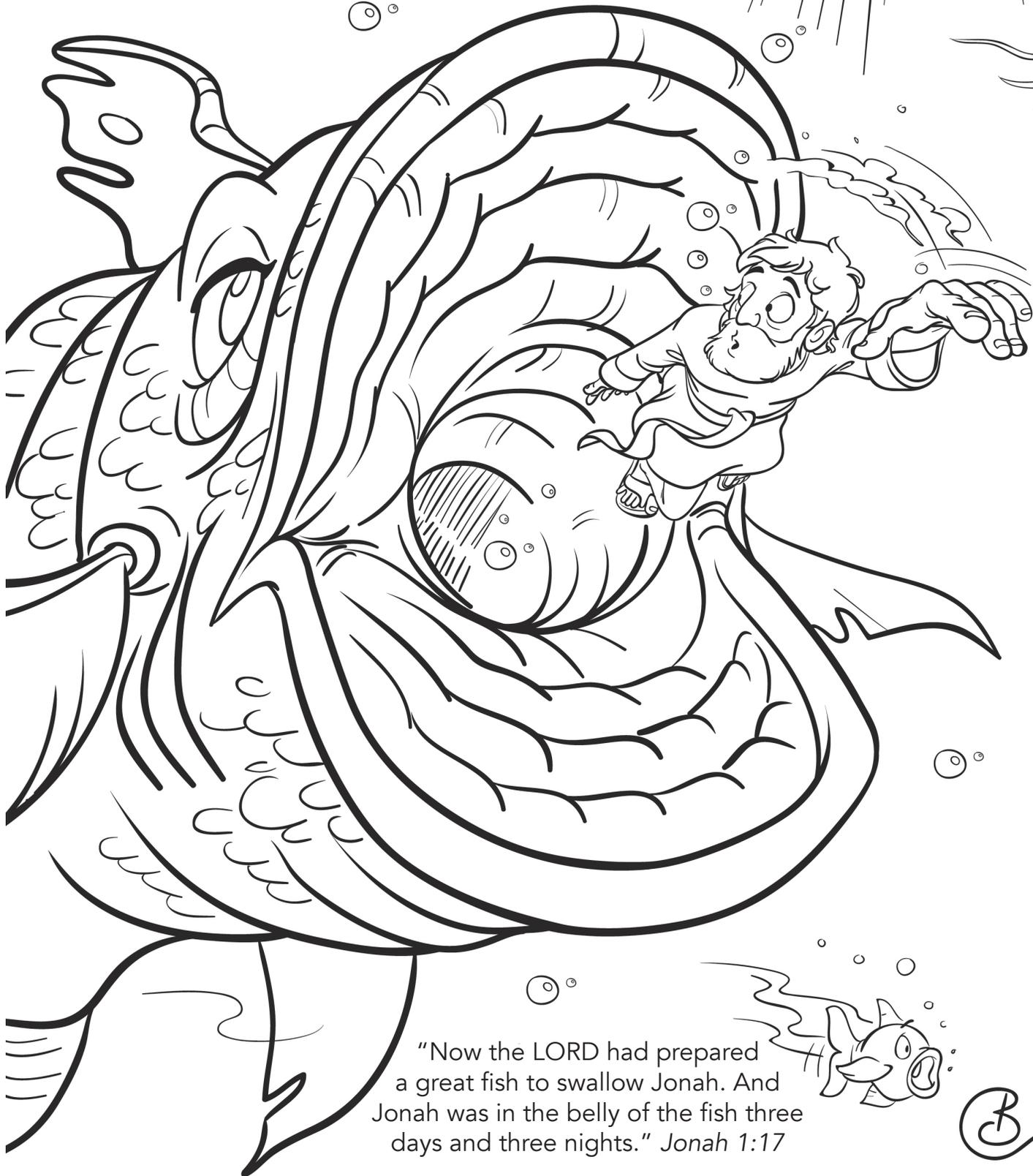
We should always obey God!

MEMORY VERSE:

"Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." *Jonah 1:17*

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH

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