

Lesson No. (23)

Jonah and The Great Fish

References

The Book of Jonah.

Notes for Servants

- ★ You cannot seek God's love and runaway from Him at the same time. Jonah soon realized that no matter where he went, he could not get away from God.
- ★ Jonah had ignored God and rebelled against Him, but God still showed him compassion. When we ignore God, He may punish us but He will show compassion and forgive us if we return from our sins.
- ★ Despite the wickedness of the Ninevite people, they opened their hearts for God's message. We, also should open our hearts for His messages everyday, and every hour.

Objectives

General: God is everywhere and can see everything.

Specific:

The children will be able to ...

- A. Know that God loves us even when we do bad things.
- B. Find out that God will send somebody to tell us when we do something wrong.
- C. Learn about fasting and confession.

Bible Verse

"Salvation is of the Lord."

Jonah 2:9

Teaching Aids

Felt figures and flannel board.

Instruction

- (1) Review last week's lesson.
- (2) Who remembers the verse?
- (3) Remind the children about the church occasions for the coming week.

Story Time

Jonah was going about his daily work when God spoke to him. "Jonah," He said. "I want you to go to Nineveh. The people there are wicked. Tell them that their city and everything in it will be destroyed within 40 days." "Why choose me, Lord?" Jonah replied. "Why should I, an ordinary Jew in Israel, go to preach about God to people I don't know, who live far away, and who are not even Jews and don't believe in You? Besides, You are a kind and merciful God; You would never wipe out a whole city like that."

He decided not to go. He was afraid of God's anger, and tried to escape by going on board a ship bound for Tarshish, in the opposite direction to Nineveh. The ship set sail and Jonah fell asleep. Suddenly a great storm blew up and the captain shook Jonah awake. "Come," he said. "Perhaps it's your God who is angry with us." Jonah prayed, but the storm grew worse. "Look," he said to the sailors, "I know it's my fault; you had better throw me overboard." The sailors did not want to do that, so they rowed hard, trying to get back to land, but the hurricane blew more fiercely than ever, so they threw Jonah overboard.

The winds died down at once. At first Jonah floated on the waves, but not for long. A great fish, like a whale, came and swallowed him up, and for three days and three nights he lay inside its belly. Then the fish spat him out, onto the beach.

Again God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh, and this time he obeyed at once. He arrived at the great city and walked through the streets, calling out, "In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed!"

The people who heard him were afraid, for they believed in God's power. They took Jonah to the king, and the king ordered that every man and woman in the city to pray for forgiveness for their wickedness, to fast, and resolve to begin a new life. God was pleased with their fast and prayers that He spared Nineveh. God taught Jonah that he have to obey Him in everything.

Discussion

- 1 - Follow up the story by talking about it with the children.
- 2 - Continue the discussion while they do the activity.

Learning Activities

Colouring Page.