

Lesson No. (23)

Jonah The Ran away Prophet

References

The Book of Jonah.

Notes for Servants

- ★ Remember that our work is to serve the Lord. We should do His work His way not our way, as He direct us not as we pleased.
- ★ Our service should be in total obedience to God's commandment.
- ★ Let us repeat David's words, "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out thy law." May the Lord give us that simple eye with which we can observe the Lord's commandments all the time.

Objectives

General: God's love and His care for us.

Specific:

The children will be able to ...

- A. Understand that God loves all people even the sinners and want everyone to be good.
- B. Know that God loves everyone of them even when they behave bad and want them to confess and be good again.
- C. Obey God by obeying their parent, Abouna and their Sunday School teachers.

Bible Verse

“As I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

(John 13:34)

Teaching Aids

None.

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

Long ago there was a prophet whose name was Jonah. God told Jonah to preach to a great city called Nineveh. Jonah did not want to go. Instead, he went to the sea and tried to runaway by getting on a ship that was sailing far away from Nineveh. But God was watching him.

As the ship was sailing along, God sent a violent storm. The ship was about to break into pieces. The sailors threw out all of the goods to make the ship lighter, but the storm grew worse. Then every sailor prayed to his god for help. Still the storm kept on. All this time Jonah was sleeping down below in the ship. The captain came to him and said: "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish."

The sailors thought that someone on the ship might have done a great wrong. They cast lots to find out who it could be, and the lot fell on Jonah. Now Jonah had to tell them what he had done. He told them, "Pick me up and threw me into the sea, and it will become calm."The sailors did not want to do this, but the storm grew worse. At last they took Jonah and threw him into the sea. Then the wind stopped blowing right away. When the sailors saw they feared the God of Jonah and offered sacrifices to Him.

God did not forget about Jonah. He sent a big fish to where Jonah was thrown into the sea, and this fish swallowed Jonah whole. For three days and three nights Jonah was in this fish. There he thought about his sins and began to pray to God. Then God spoke to the fish, and the fish came near the shore and spit Jonah up on dry land.

Once more God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah went. Nineveh was a very big city, and its people were very wicked. When Jonah came into the city, he began to preach. "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned," he said. The people and the king believed Jonah's message was from God and were sorry for having sinned. They prayed to the God of Jonah and brought sacrifices, hoping that He would have mercy on them. When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction He had threatened.

Discussion

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

Learning Activities

Activity Sheet.