

Text: Jonah 1 - 4

Teacher: Keith Pierce

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 31:30

Concept development

Inspired Scripture – Revealing examples of repentance

Lesson**Words to define:**Repented (3:10) - *changed his mind, make a turn***Body:**

Ch 1

God tell Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell them to repent before he destroys the City
 Jonah decides to run and hide from God so he gets in a boat to Tarshish
 A big storm comes up and the men are afraid for their lives
 Jonah is thrown over board and the storm stops
 The men on the boat believed in Jehovah
 A big fish swallowed Jonah

*Gen. 10:8-11
 City build soon
 After flood - build
 by Nimrod - son of Kush*

*those on ship
 understood who
 Jehovah really was*

Ch 2

Jonah prays to God from the belly of the fish
 Jonah did not blame God for his troubles
What a place to hide from God

*> Chapter is prayer Jonah makes to
 God in belly in fish. Jonah got
 himself in this position. He didn't blame
 God for his troubles. God always knows
 where we are. We cannot run and hide.*

Ch 3

Again God ask Jonah to go to Nineveh
 This time he went and began to tell of the coming destruction
 The people of Nineveh repented from the greatest to the least

*great city - 3 day journey into
 the city - Jonah traveled one
 day before preaching - big city*

Ch 4

Jonah is upset because the people of Nineveh repented and were spared destruction
 He wanted to die
 Jonah goes outside of the city and makes a booth to sit in and watch the city
 God causes a gourd to grow in the night to give Jonah shade and protection from the wind
 The next night the gourd died
 The east wind and the sun came out the next day
 Jonah cared more for the gourd than the people of Nineveh

*Jonah was upset about
 the gourd, he should have
 been more worried about
 the Nineveh ppl.*

not a whale - big fish

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 31:30

Text: Jonah 1-4

1. Jonah prophesied to:

Israel Early Judah Late Judah Other Nation

2. Jonah prophesied during the reign of _____.
2 Kings 14:23-25

"The threat of Assyria was constantly on the horizon, but they did not come closer during the years while Syria was Israel's most immediate danger. Assyria was plagued with problems at home. They had a weakness in administration. It was at this moment in history, with Jeroboam II strong in Israel and Assyria at a low ebb, that God spoke to a prophet in Israel telling him to go cry out against Nineveh.

The Assyrian empire was known for its cruelty. "Judged from the vaunting inscriptions of her kings, no power more useless, more savage, more terrible, ever cast its gigantic shadow on the page of history as it passed on the way to ruin. The kings of Assyria tormented the miserable world. They exult to record how 'space failed for corpses'; how unsparing a destroyer is their goddess Ishtar; how they flung away the bodies of soldiers like so much clay; how they made pyramids of human heads; how they burned cities; how they filled populous lands with death and devastation; how they reddened broad deserts with carnage of warriors; how they scattered whole countries with the corpses of their defenders as with chaff; how they impaled 'heaps of men' on stakes, and strewn the mountains and choked rivers with dead bones; how they cut off the hands of kings and nailed them on the walls, and left their bodies to rot with bears and dogs on the entrance gates of cities; how they employed nations of captives in making brick in fetters; how they cut down warriors like weeds, or smote them like wild beasts in the forests, and covered pillars with the flayed skins of rival monarchs: (Farrar, The Minor Prophets, pgs 147, 148).

3. The scripture says that when God called Jonah to go to Nineveh, he fled to Tarshish. After reading the above paragraph, what reasons do you think Jonah had for not wanting seek Nineveh's repentance?

4. What verse in chapter one indicates that the mariners didn't believe in the one, true God?

5. What scripture in chapter one indicates that the mariners became believers?
6. Jonah was thrown into the sea and consumed by a whale. T or F
7. Describe your perception of Jonah's surroundings in the belly of the fish.
8. What did Jonah say to appeal to the Lord to free him from these surroundings? Chapter 2
9. What did Jonah cry out as he entered the city of Nineveh? Chapter 3
10. What was the response of the people?
11. What was the response of the king?
12. Considering the paragraph written at the beginning of the lesson on the wickedness of Assyria, what impression does it make on you that God forgave them here in Chapter 3?
13. What did Jonah know about God from the very beginning of his call to go to Nineveh? Chapter 4:2
14. What does it mean to you that we serve a God as described in Chapter 4:2?
15. Explain the point made to Jonah about the plant and the people of Nineveh in Chapter 4.