

6-8 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the children to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

Tell the story of Jonah to the children in the class.

A picture book version isn't necessary but a simplified version of the story will put it into the understand level of the age group. If you have a children's bible that you use with your class, then this ought to be appropriate.

Drama:

Have the class act out the story of Jonah. Provide them a desk or part of the room that will be the stomach of the fish/whale.

Discussion 1:

Why was God angry with Jonah? Was Jonah sorry for disobeying God?

Activity:

Give the children a piece of white construction paper. On this they should draw a large fish. Provide art materials, colored paper, scissors and glue.

The children should decorate their fish and the water behind it.

Once their finished with this, give each child a simple cut out basic "man" shape. If there's time they could improve this with the art materials. The man - Jonah - should be glued into place in the fish's stomach.

Discussion 2:

Do the children always do what they're told to do? What happens to them when they are naughty? Do they think that God put Jonah in the fish's stomach as a "time out" to make him think about what he'd done wrong in refusing to do what God had told him to do?

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for the story of Jonah. For example:

"Dear God thank you for the story of Jonah. Help me to remember that when I am asked to do something that I should do it willingly. Amen"