

Rules and Discipline



MEMORY VERSE: My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when He corrects you. **For the Lord corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.**

Proverbs 3:11-12



JONAH 1:1-7 Jonah Tries to Escape From God

1. What did God tell Jonah to do? Why do you think God wanted Jonah to do this?
2. What did Jonah do instead? How did Jonah's disobedience affect the other people on the ship?
3. Give some other examples of ways one person's disobedience could hurt other people.



JONAH 1:8-16 Jonah Admits His Sin

4. In verse 12, what did Jonah tell the sailors to do? Did the sailors want to follow Jonah's orders? How do you know?
5. When have you disobeyed God, your parents or a teacher on purpose? What happened?

6. After the sailors threw Jonah into the water, what happened that made them vow to serve God?



JONAH 1:17; 2:1; 2:10-3:5; 3:10 Forgiveness & Second Chances

7. What happened to Jonah in the water? How do you think he felt when this happened?

8. Jonah got a second chance to obey God. What happened to the people of Ninevah because of this?

9. Read Jonah 3:10. God always shows compassion when we repent from sin. Use a dictionary to write what "compassion" means. How has God shown you compassion?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

God knows what we need, and He knows we need rules to keep us safe. Sometimes, we need discipline to remind us to follow the rules. Rules and discipline may not sound like fun gifts, but they are good things God gives to us! When we follow rules, we actually get to do more fun activities, instead less.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Father, You love me so much that You want me to be safe and happy. Help me understand that rules and discipline are love-gifts from You. Help me to be thankful for them and follow them every day. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



What is one truth you want to remember from the story of Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-17; 2:1; 2:10-3:5, 10

Jonah 1:1-7

Jonah Runs from the Lord

1 The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.” 3 But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the LORD by sailing to Tarshish.

4 But the LORD hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart. 5 Fearing for their lives, the desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. But all this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the hold. 6 So the captain went down after him. “How can you sleep at a time like this?” he shouted. “Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives.”

7 Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit.

Jonah 1:8-16

8 “Why has this awful storm come down on us?” they demanded. “Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?” 9 Jonah answered, “I am a Hebrew, and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.” 10 The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the LORD. “Oh, why did you do it?” they groaned. 11 And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, “What should we do to you to stop this storm?”

12 “Throw me into the sea,” Jonah said, “and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault.”

13 Instead, the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to the land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn’t make it. 14 Then they cried out to the LORD, Jonah’s God. “O LORD,” they pleaded, “don’t make us die for this man’s sin. And don’t hold us responsible for his death. O LORD, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons.” 15 Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! 16 The sailors were awestruck by the LORD’S great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him.

Jonah 1:17; 2:1; 2:10-3:5,10

1:17 Now the LORD had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish.

2:10 Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

3:1 Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: 2 “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.” 3 This time Jonah obeyed the LORD’S command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. 4 On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” 5 The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.

3:10 When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

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