Jonah Runs From God Kidzone Sun Am 11/6/22

# Memory Verse: Psalm 139:1 (NKJV)

**139**O Lord, You have searched me and known *me.*

Target Thought: We can’t hide from God.

# Jonah 1:1-3 (NKJV)

**1**Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, **2**“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” **3**But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

Jonah was a prophet of God; he would listen to God and tell the people what God said. One day, God said to Jonah, "Go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people who live there that they are a very wicked people and that they need to change their ways." Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh.

He didn’t like the people in that city, and maybe he was afraid of them. So Jonah decided to run away and hide from God. He caught the first ship out of town and headed in the opposite direction from where God told him to go. Jonah was being disobedient to God because he did not want to do what God had told him to do. Has God ever ask you to do something that you didn’t want to do? What was it? Is it okay to disobey God just because we don’t want to do what He has ask? NO.

Jonah learned a very important lesson that day. He learned that you might run from God, but you cannot hide. Jonah got on that ship and hid way down deep inside. "Surely God won't find me here," Jonah thought. But God sent a big storm and tossed that boat around so much that the other sailors thought they were going to drown. They found Jonah in the bottom of the ship and asked him, "Who are you and what are you doing here?"

Jonah answered, "I am a worshiper of the God of heaven, who made the land and the sea." Jonah told the sailors that he was running from God because he didn't want to go to Nineveh as God had told him to do. When the sailors learned that Jonah was running from God, they were even more afraid. "What should we do to stop this terrible storm?" the sailors asked. "Throw me overboard into the sea," Jonah answered, "and the sea will become calm." Jonah knew that he had disobeyed God. The sailors picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea and the storm stopped at once.

Did Jonah drown in the sea? No! God sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Can you imagine what was like in the fishes belly? It was dark and stinky, do you think it was scary?

Spending all that time inside the great fish gave Jonah plenty of time to think. He prayed to the Lord from inside the fish. He confessed that he had been wrong to run from the Lord and promised to fulfill his promises to God.

God caused the fish to spit Jonah out onto the shore. Then the Lord spoke to Jonah again and said, "Get up and go to Nineveh and deliver the message that I have given you." God only has good plans for us and it is better for to obey Jesus and live in His blessings and protection from the beginning. This time Jonah obeyed the Lord's command and went to Nineveh.

Just as God had something for Jonah to do, he has a plan for you and me, for all of us. I hope we will learn a lesson from Jonah. When it comes to doing what God wants us to do, we might run, but we cannot hide from God!

God, we know can’t hide from You, You know what we do and what we think. Give us the strength and courage to do all the things that You want us to do. In Jesus' name, we ask amen.

1. Is it okay to disobey God?
2. Can you hide from God?
3. Does God have a plan for all of us?