

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina
Story: The Story of Jonah

Let There Be Art!

Purpose: The children will learn the story of Jonah and know that God loves all of the people in the whole world and wants everyone to be saved. When we know that God wants us to do something it is important that we do what He wants us to do.

Preparation: Read the Book of Jonah and the background information. Review Jonah's travels on the map. Be prepared to read the following sections from Jonah.

Ch. 1: 1-4, 11-12, 15-17

Ch. 2:1-2, 9-10

Ch. 3:3-5, 10

CH. 4:1-2, 10-11

Children need to be told the week before to bring white or pastel T-shirts for the lesson. Extra T-shirts need to be purchased for children who don't bring one.

It would be wise to run the transfers off ahead of time so someone can iron them on while the lesson is being taught. Names should be put in each T-shirt. **Note: Transfers need to be run off in mirror image so they iron on the correct way.**

Paint needs to "set" on the t-shirt by spending 10 minutes in the dryer. (A little reminder to parents would help.)

Materials:

- Bibles
- Map of area where Jonah travelled
- T-shirts
- Iron on transfers made from the computer
- Fabric Paint
- Fish or sponge fish shapes for stamp-painting
- Iron
- Towel for counter to use as ironing board
- Journals and pencils
- Pieces of Cardboard to put in T-shirts during painting & drying

Advanced Prep: Set up station for ironing transfers. Organize materials in the art room.

Presentation: Welcome the children and introduce yourself. Tell the children that they will be learning about Jonah, a man who didn't (at first) want to do what God told him to do. Once they've learned the story of Jonah, they will decorate T-shirts. (Make sure you identify the t-shirt before the shepherd does the transfer. Pin on or write initials on the label.)

Opening Prayer: Oh Lord, help us to know that You art a gracious and merciful God. Help us to learn to listen to You and to follow the path You want us to follow. Amen

Have the children find Jonah in their Bibles and follow along as you read the following verses. Ch. 1: 1-4, 11-12, 15-17

Ch. 2:1-2, 9-10

Ch. 3:3-5, 10

Ch. 4:1-2, 10-11

Memory Verse: Jonah 4:2b “I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love,”

Locate Joppa, Nineveh and Tarshish on the Bible Map and show the children where God wanted Jonah to go and where Jonah tried to go.

Discuss important concepts such as:

- obedience vs. disobedience and the consequences
- how God provided for Jonah even though he was disobedient
- things we learn about God - patience, power, desire for all to repent, grace, slow to anger, creativity

Explain to the children that they are going to decorate T-shirts. Explain the transfer that goes on the back and review the places on the map. Describe how they'll make a print(s) on the front of a fish, something like the one that swallowed Jonah.

Reflections: God gave Jonah another chance. Did he deserve it?
Has anyone ever given you another chance?
What do you think God was trying to tell Jonah when he asked Jonah why he was so concerned about the tree Jonah didn't plant or care for?

Journals: If you were Jonah, what message might you write?

Closing in prayer: God of wind and sea and fish great and small, be near us.
Thank you for loving us even when we are unlovable.
Thank you for forgiving us no matter what we do.
Thank you for the missionaries of the Church, carrying Your word around the world, just as Jonah did. Bless them and keep them safe.
Help us to listen to You, to do Your will, and grant us courage to carry Your word near and far. Amen.