



REVISED & EXPANDED

LITTLE ONES CURRICULUM LEADER'S GUIDE



Calvary Curriculum

DEAR PASTOR, DIRECTOR, LEADER, ETC.,

We suggest that you, as the leader, read through the following pages in order to understand the vision and design of the **Revised & Expanded LITTLE ONES CURRICULUM**. We also recommend that you print a **TEACHER'S GUIDE** for each of your teachers to read through, so that they can better understand this curriculum and be prepared to use it in their classes.

In designing the **Revised & Expanded LITTLE ONES CURRICULUM**, we wanted to create it in a way that would give you the freedom to mix and match the pages to best suit your teachers, children, and ministry set-up. You will see that there are multiple pages and activities in this curriculum. Some of those pages will be more appropriate for the younger children, while others will be more appropriate for the kindergartener to lower elementary age child. You can consider what age divisions your ministry has and which pages would be best to use for each.

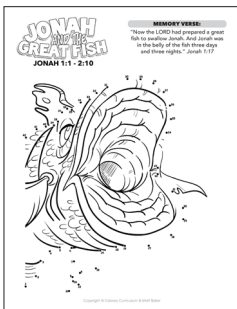
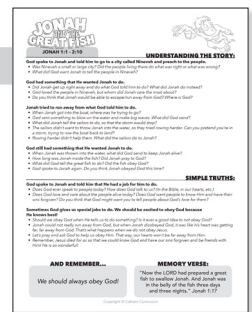
If you are printing for your teachers each week, it is not necessary that every single page is printed and used from each **BIBLE STORY SET**. Unless you prefer that they have the whole set, your teachers really only need the question sheet and any other activity pages that will be used during class that week (*coloring picture, wordsearch, craft, etc.*) Remember, you can **mix-and-match** as best fits your ministry.

In addition to your craft, the following are a few examples of different combination options that you could utilize from week to week depending on how many copies you want to make.



RECOMMENDED FOR EVERY WEEK

FRONT: Coloring Picture (Art by Matt Baker)
BACK: Teacher/Parent Question Sheet



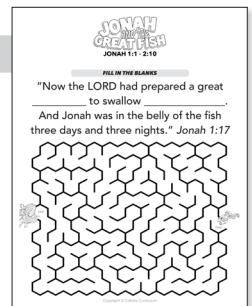
RECOMMENDED FOR YOUNGER AGES

FRONT: Dot-to-Dot
BACK: Find the Differences



RECOMMENDED FOR OLDER AGES

FRONT: Wordsearch
BACK: Fill-in-the-Blanks / Maze



The following pages are also contained in the **"TEACHER'S GUIDE."**

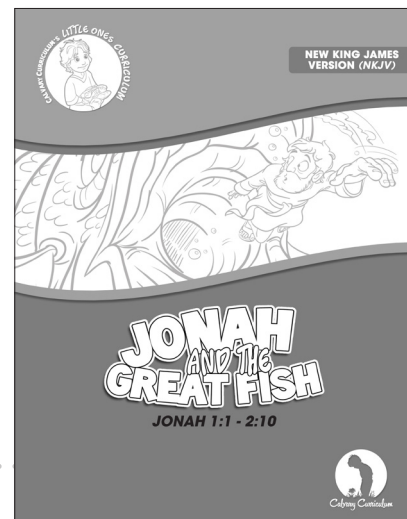
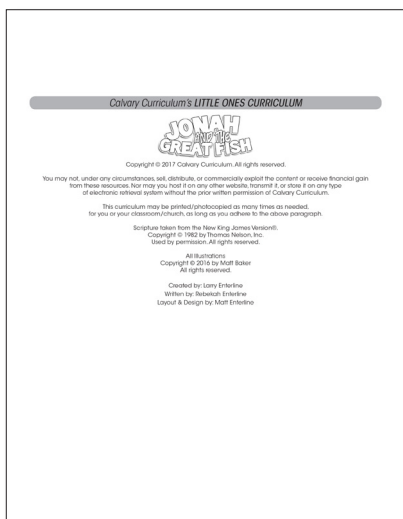


As you read through the following pages, you will get a thorough understanding of the vision and design of the **Revised & Expanded LITTLE ONES CURRICULUM**. Each page of the curriculum will be explained.

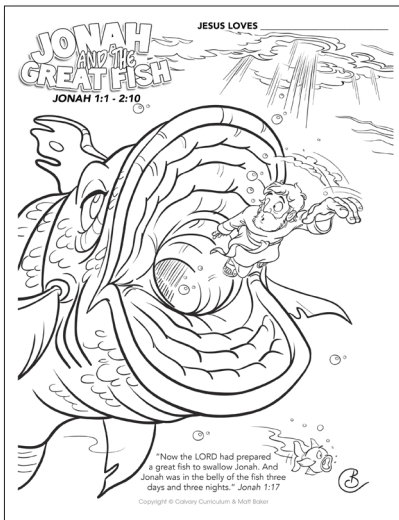
The Lord is continually working in this world, and as long as we are here, the Lord wants to use us to bring Jesus to this world that He so loves. Children everywhere need to know this wonderful message, and you are doing a great work as you invest into their lives. You are a vessel that God is using to communicate to these children the love of God, the character of God, the Word of God, and the plan of God. Our prayer for this curriculum is that it would be a great support to you, as the teacher or parent, and that it would be a blessing to the children as they learn to love God and to love His Word.

In creating a curriculum primarily geared for the preschool/kindergarten ages (3 yrs. - 6 yrs.), we recognized the importance of making the Word of God its emphasis. At the same time, we realize that lovingly ministering to preschoolers will involve things that keep their minds going and their hands moving. The activity pages are to help make the children's time enjoyable and their experience very age appropriate. May the Lord use you to bring His Word and His love to these little ones, and may He fill you afresh as you invest into what is eternally valuable; the Word of God and the souls of these boys and girls.

On the **COVER PAGE** you will find the Bible story title, Scripture reference(s), and the Bible translation being used.

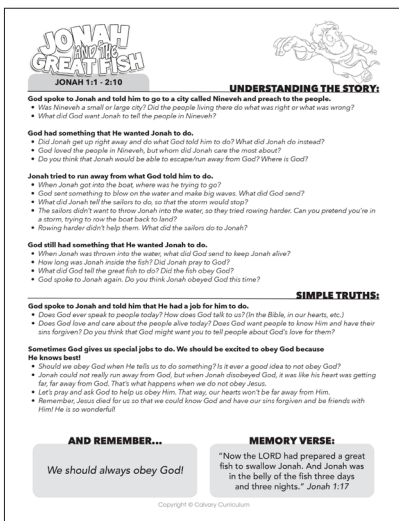


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With a Bible memory verse, story title, and space for the child's name, each **COLORING PICTURE** is designed to draw the children into the story being learned. So much can be communicated through one picture, and it's been our hope to capture the heart of the story through the coloring pictures in this curriculum. The beautiful illustrations found on each coloring picture are drawn by Matt Baker (*Walt Disney Animation Studios, Bakeart Creations, etc.*). We are blessed that God has brought him to this project as we have watched him bring each of the Bible stories

to life. We have chosen to include more details in each picture for the sake of communicating more of the story. We know that even if the children cannot stay within all of the lines while coloring, they will be able to enjoy the picture and the story will be more real to them. Besides, many of us are just thrilled when the children can keep the colors on the paper and not on the table, as they are growing in their abilities to do many new things.



The **TEACHER / PARENT QUESTION SHEET** is a great support for the teacher, but it is also a wonderful way to inform and involve parents in what their children learned in class during the Bible story time. You may want to consider copying this question sheet to the back of the coloring picture, or to one of the other activity pages, so that it can be sent home for parents and children to further discuss the story together. Each question sheet has a list of questions that correspond to the Bible story. Using questions while teaching is a useful tool in discovering the truths found in God's Word.

Listed on this sheet are questions to help guide the teacher and lead the children to the truths contained in the story. This sheet can be used throughout the story time or for review after the story. It is important to prepare the Bible story directly from the Scripture passage. This sheet is intending to supplement and enhance your time of teaching.

More instructions & training for this sheet on page 8.

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH
JONAH 1:1 - 2:10

KEY WORDS FROM BIBLE STORY

Jonah	Fish
Ship	God
Sea	Prayed

FIND THE KEY WORDS IN THE WORDSEARCH. THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH KEY WORD IS BOLD IN WORDSEARCH.

P M I A M J B F
R Y Y L F Z C I
A **G** O D J V M S
Y W B M Z I Q H
E G L J O N A H
D G Y B S J T B
S E A J S H I P
Z R A O B L W O

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Each **WORDSEARCH** contains 6 key words taken from the Bible story. These words are hidden in this simple wordsearch, with the first letter of each word in bold font to help the children find the words easier. Teachers can begin helping the children understand the story by discussing these words with them, as they search for each one. This is a great way to introduce new words (before the Bible story time) that will be in the Bible story, enhancing the children’s overall understanding of the story later on.

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH
JONAH 1:1 - 2:10

MEMORY VERSE:
“Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17

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On the **DOT-TO-DOT** activity page, the children can complete the story illustration by following the dot-to-dot numbers. Children are always learning new things and numbers are one of them. This can be a challenging and fun way to practice their counting, while at the same time completing a picture of the Bible story.

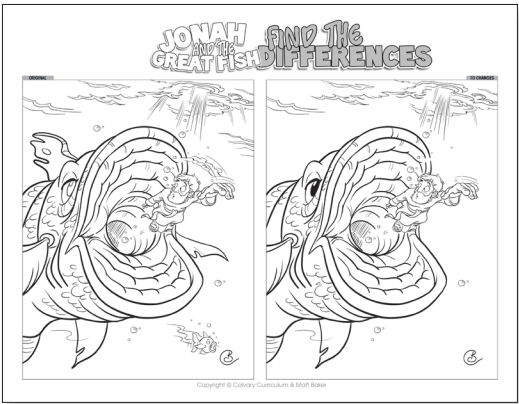
JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH
JONAH 1:1 - 2:10

FILL IN THE BLANKS

“Now the LORD had prepared a great _____ to swallow _____.
And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17

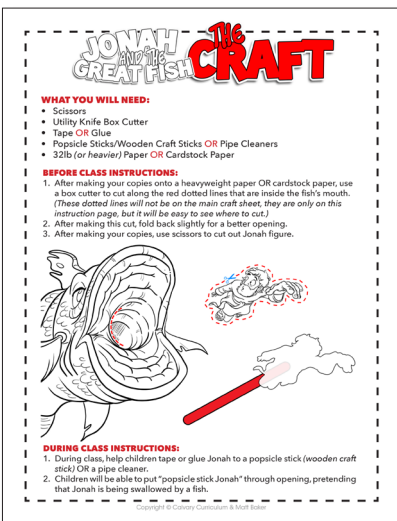
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In the **FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS / MAZE** activity page, older preschoolers/kindergarteners/younger elementary will enjoy writing out the missing word from the memory verse, as well as making their way through the maze from one end to the other. Completing the memory verse gives parents/teachers/helpers another opportunity to talk about Jesus and the Bible story with the children.



The **FIND THE DIFFERENCES** activity page has the coloring picture in two different versions on the same page. The children will look at these two pictures and compare them in order to find anything that is not the same about them. The original picture is marked "ORIGINAL," while the other picture is marked with the NUMBER OF CHANGES it has. This second version will have things missing from it

and things added to it. The children can **circle, color, or number** any part of the picture that is not in the other picture. Help the younger children find the differences by saying, "Who can find the fence that wasn't in the first picture?" or "Okay, look at this picture, it's missing something. What is it missing?"

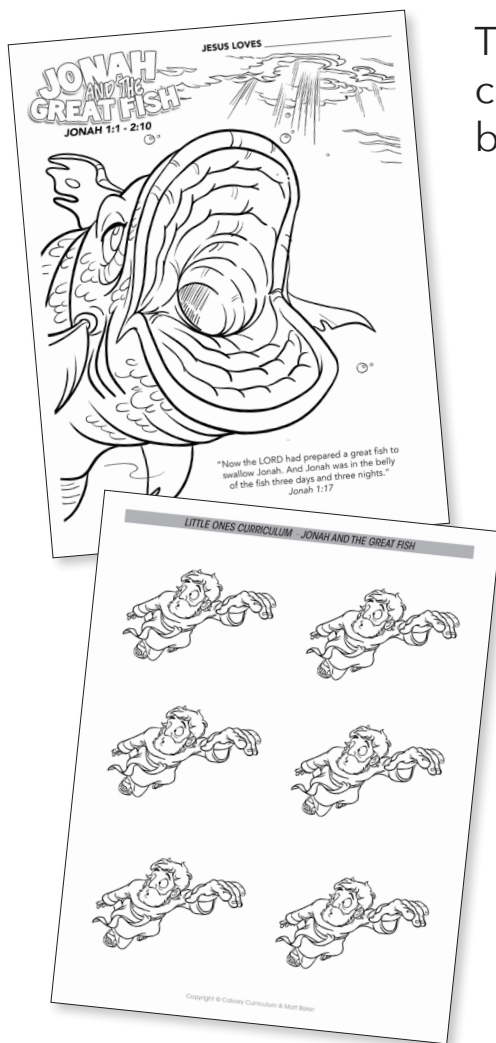


There are at least three pages for each **CRAFT**. The first page is the **CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS** and it is not necessary for each child to receive this page. If the ministry leader is preparing the craft, they will need this page. Teachers and helpers in class will find this page helpful as well, as they instruct the children in making their crafts. These step-by-step craft instructions are divided into three sections:

1. "WHAT YOU WILL NEED" - There will be a few items needed in order to complete the craft and this section will list those. Necessary items may include scissors, tape or glue, wooden craft sticks (popsicle sticks), etc.

2. "BEFORE CLASS INSTRUCTIONS" - This section gives direction in those things that need to be prepared or done before class, in order to make the different parts of the craft ready for the children to put together. Preparation may include cutting out smaller pictures or taping or gluing something. This preparation may be done by the leader, teacher, helper, or another volunteer.

3. "DURING CLASS INSTRUCTIONS" - This section will instruct the teacher in what the children can do while in class to complete their craft. The children will enjoy completing their craft by most often taping or gluing a smaller part(s) of the picture to their craft sheet. They can then color their craft too.



The **KID'S CRAFT SHEET** is the page that the children will receive, color, and make into their craft by adding an object to it (*see description below*).

AND

The **ADDITIONAL CRAFT ELEMENTS SHEET** will have any necessary images for completing the craft. Once this page has been copied, the illustrations on it will need to be cut out and prepared before class, so that each child can complete their craft. The reason for having more than one image on this page is so that only a few copies will be needed for an entire class. Some crafts will require using a heavier weight copy paper or cardstock paper, so be sure to read through the craft instructions to know when that is needed.

Don't forget to write, or have the children write, their **NAME** on the top of each page they receive in class. Show them that it says **"JESUS LOVES _____."**

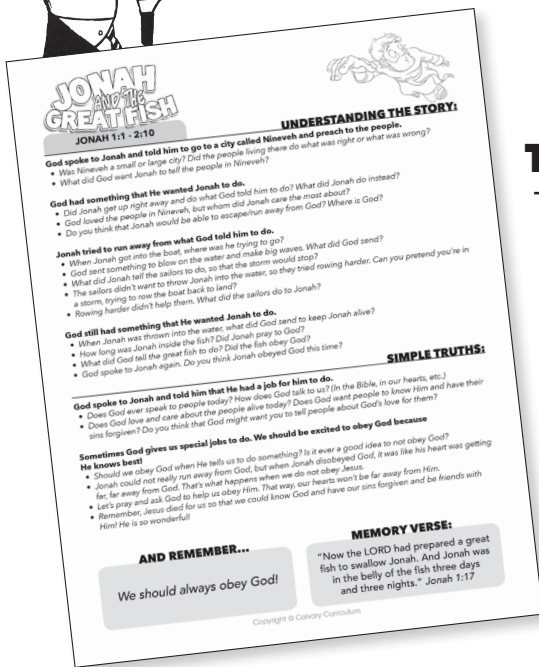
POINTING THEM TO JESUS: _____

It should be our desire to always allow the story to point the children to Jesus. The volume of the book testifies to Jesus and we want to impress upon each child's heart that the Bible is about JESUS...His love, His power, His salvation, and His plan. Our goal in teaching the little ones should be to lead them to Jesus, the only One who can save their souls, change their lives, and take them to heaven one day. This world needs Jesus and every boy and girl that walks into your class needs Jesus.

There are many ways to lead the children to the Lord and one clear way is through the Bible story. Some Bible stories are very obviously about Jesus, while others (often Old Testament stories) may not immediately seem so, as much. But, the whole Bible is centered around Jesus, and even if Jesus isn't as obvious in the story, we can always point the children to the ways God was involved and working in each story. We always want to bring every story back to Jesus and at the end of most of the question sheets will be a section focusing on this. It may be as simple as encouraging the children to talk to Jesus, thanking Him, or asking Him for help. Other times, there may be questions that could lead to a child wanting to receive Jesus as their Savior. Follow as the Lord leads.



HOW TO USE THE TEACHER / PARENT QUESTION SHEET



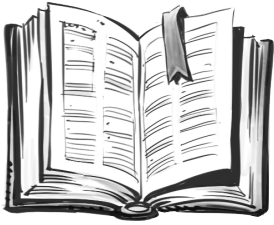
TEACHER / PARENT QUESTION SHEET:

This page is primarily comprised of questions. It is our prayer that each list of questions will help to lead the children in discovering the truths of the story and ultimately leading them to know God better through His Word.

The **TEACHER / PARENT QUESTION SHEET** can be used in several different ways. Here are a few examples and ideas that you may want to use to incorporate into your ministry with the little ones:



1. The question sheet can be used during the teacher's preparation time at home.
1. Each question is intended to help lead to a greater understanding of the passage being learned.
2. These questions can be interspersed throughout the teaching time to encourage involvement from the children and to help guide the teacher as he/she teaches the story.
3. This question sheet can be used during a time in class specifically set aside for questions and answers, after the children have heard the Bible story.
4. This list of questions can be used during a game or activity as a Bible story review.
4. After a child answers one of the questions, they receive a turn at the game or activity.
5. These questions can be copied to the back of the coloring picture (or any other activity page), and be sent home with the child, giving the parent the opportunity to see what was learned in class and the option of following up with their child after church is over.



CAN I TELL THE STORY STRAIGHT FROM THE QUESTION SHEET, OR DO I NEED A BIBLE?

The **TEACHER/PARENT QUESTION SHEET** is not intended to replace the use of a Bible. Teachers should use their Bibles to prepare before class, as well as to teach from during class. Each question sheet does not contain the story as a whole, so a Bible is needed in order to know the complete passage. Also, by having an open Bible while teaching, you are setting an important example for each child as they watch their teacher value and honor God's Word enough to open it and to learn from it.

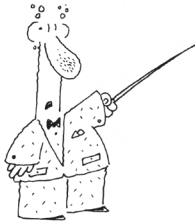
BENEFITS TO USING QUESTIONS:

Questions are a valuable teaching tool and can be very helpful for both teacher and student. If you choose to use questions throughout your teaching time, you may find that asking certain questions helps you to perceive what the children *do* understand and what they *do not* understand. If you ask them a question such as, "Do you know what *this* word means?" and they do not answer you or they say "no," you can then further explain the meaning to them.

When teaching preschoolers, one of the most helpful things to remember is that they still have very limited vocabularies. Because of this, we want to use simple words that a young child is more likely to know and understand. When we do need to use words that they do not know, it's important that we explain them to the children. So, questions help you as the teacher to know if the children understand what is being taught, as well as to help lead them to the rich truths in the Bible story.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW A CHILD MIGHT UNDERSTAND OR MISUNDERSTAND CERTAIN WORDS:

- *One kindergartener asked his teacher, "Why was Judas scary?" This boy recognized some words the teacher had said, "Judas Is...cari...ot." He did not know that Judas Iscariot was a person's name.*
- *One girl could only go to church occasionally and although she was in 5th grade, she did not know whom the Philistines were. She found herself confused and wondering, "What is a Philistine?" "What does that word even mean?"*
- *A common word in the Bible is "arose." "He arose and followed Jesus." If a child does not already know that "arose" means to get up, they may think of a flower called a "rose."*
- *If the children do not first know that a "multitude" is a "big crowd of people," they may misunderstand the Bible story, because they did not know that one word or others like it.*



We don't need to treat our teaching time as a vocabulary class, but when there is an important word that needs to be explained, it will be helpful to the children if you can tell them what that word means in a way that they can understand.

THE TEACHER/PARENT QUESTION SHEETS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN SECTIONS:

Section 1 - UNDERSTANDING THE STORY:

When studying a Bible passage, it's important to first know what the passage says in order to know what it means and how it applies to our lives today.

Most questions listed beneath **UNDERSTANDING THE STORY** are simple questions that can easily be answered by looking directly at the story itself. These simple observations will give a more thorough understanding of the story, in order to make clear and appropriate applications later on.

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH
JONAH 1:1 - 2:10

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY:

God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to a city called Nineveh and preach to the people.

- Was Nineveh a small or large city? Did the people living there do what was right or what was wrong?
- What did God want Jonah to tell the people in Nineveh?

God had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- Did Jonah get up right away and do what God told him to do? What did Jonah do instead?
- God loved the people in Nineveh, but whom did Jonah care the most about?
- Do you think that Jonah would be able to escape/run away from God? Where is God?

Jonah tried to run away from what God told him to do.

- When Jonah got into the boat, where was he trying to go?
- God sent something to blow on the water and make big waves. What did God send?
- What did Jonah tell the sailors to do, so that the storm would stop?
- The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah into the water, so they tried rowing harder. Can you pretend you're in a storm, trying to row the boat back to land?
- Rowing harder didn't help them. What did the sailors do to Jonah?

God still had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- When Jonah was thrown into the water, what did God send to keep Jonah alive?
- How long was Jonah inside the fish? Did Jonah pray to God?
- What did God tell the great fish to do? Did the fish obey God?
- God spoke to Jonah again. Do you think Jonah obeyed God this time?

SIMPLE TRUTHS:

God spoke to Jonah and told him that He had a job for him to do.

- Does God ever speak to people today? How does God talk to us? (In the Bible, in our hearts, etc.)
- Does God love and care about the people alive today? Does God want people to know Him and have their sins forgiven? Do you think that God might want you to tell people about God's love for them?

Sometimes God gives us special jobs to do. We should be excited to obey God because He knows best!

- Should we obey God when He tells us to do something? Is it ever a good idea to not obey God?
- Jonah could not really run away from God, but when Jonah disobeyed God, it was like his heart was getting far, far away from God. That's what happens when we do not obey Jesus.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him. That way, our hearts won't be far away from Him.
- Remember, Jesus died for us so that we could know God and have our sins forgiven and be friends with Him! He is so wonderful!

AND REMEMBER...
We should always obey God!

MEMORY VERSE:
"Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:17

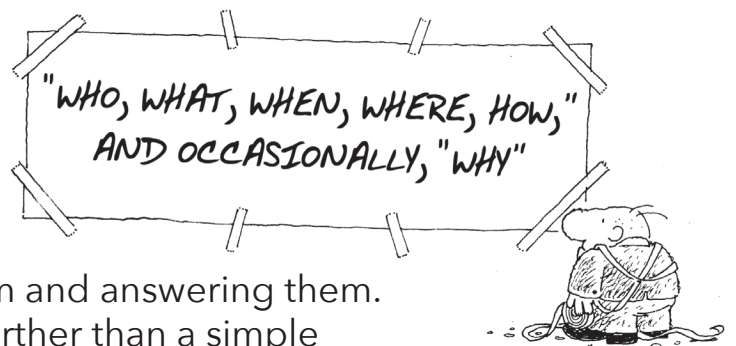
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Some of the questions in this section are to help the teacher identify the words that the children do not understand. This is a big part of teaching young children, because if they do not understand key words, they may miss a significant amount of the story. On occasion, you will notice that a word definition is already written out for you. This will give you a head start, but there will be other words not explained on the sheet. It will be helpful to the children if you explain the meanings of those words to them.

Many of the questions in this section are simple "who, what, when, where, how," and occasionally, "why" questions.

We can learn a lot from a passage just by asking these basic questions and spending a little time thinking about them and answering them.

We hope that these questions will lead further than a simple "yes/no" answer, but that they will lead to discussing each Bible story in a meaningful way.





DO I NEED TO ASK EVERY QUESTION ON THE LIST?

Do not be overwhelmed by thinking that you have to ask and answer every question on the list. The questions are there to be helpful. It's likely that you will not have enough time in your class to cover every question with the children. The questions are written in a sequential, chronological order, and it would be wonderful to have enough time to discuss the story using each question, but that will not be possible in many cases with this young age and the restraints of time.

We have to remember not to overwhelm the little ones with *too* much information. Depending on the time restraints and the age of the children, you will probably want to choose a few questions to ask during class. Remember, there are several ways this question list can be used. You may find it effective to use a portion of the questions during the Bible story time and another portion during an activity later on in class.

Even if you don't cover the whole list in class, it may be helpful to consider each question on the list during your preparation time before you teach.

WHAT IF THE CHILDREN DON'T ANSWER THE QUESTIONS?

If you give the children enough time to think about your question, they may try answering it, but if they do not answer, go ahead and answer the question that you asked so that they can hear the answer. The point is for everyone to know and understand the Bible and Jesus more fully. The question sheet is not intended to be a "test" sheet. It is there to help draw us into the story and to draw out truths from the story. Also, be aware that the questions you ask are in reference to what you have already taught the children. If you ask them a question from the list about a certain detail in the Bible story, but you did not talk about that detail, they will probably not know the answer.

IS THERE AN ANSWER KEY TO THE LIST OF QUESTIONS?

The Bible will be your answer key to the **TEACHER / PARENT QUESTION SHEET**. This curriculum does not have a separate answer key because the questions in it are based on the Bible story itself, resulting in most of the questions naturally being answered directly from the Bible. This is another reason that it is important to know the story from the Bible, so that you can know the answers and guide the children to them as well.

Remember, it's so important to first know what the Bible actually says (*observations*), before jumping to any applications. It is wise to spend time looking at exactly what is said in the passage; this is an important step in understanding the story and will naturally lead straight to the following section.

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH
JONAH 1:1 - 2:10

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY:

God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to a city called Nineveh and preach to the people.

- Was Nineveh a small or large city? Did the people living there do what was right or what was wrong?
- What did God want Jonah to tell the people in Nineveh?

God had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- Did Jonah get up right away and do what God told him to do? What did Jonah do instead?
- God loved the people in Nineveh, but whom did Jonah care the most about?
- Do you think that Jonah would be able to escape/run away from God? Where is God?

Jonah tried to run away from what God told him to do.

- When Jonah got into the boat, where was he trying to go?
- God sent something to blow on the water and make big waves. What did God send?
- What did Jonah tell the sailors to do, so that the storm would stop?
- The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah into the water, so they tried rowing harder. Can you pretend you're in a storm, trying to row the boat back to land?
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God still had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- When Jonah was thrown into the water, what did God send to keep Jonah alive?
- How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish? Did Jonah pray to God?
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- God spoke to Jonah again. Do you think Jonah obeyed God this time?

SIMPLE TRUTHS:

God spoke to Jonah and told him that He had a job for him to do.

- Does God ever speak to people today? How does God talk to us? (in the Bible, in our hearts, etc.)
- Does God love and care about the people alive today? Does God want people to know Him and have their sins forgiven? Do you think that God might want you to tell people about God's love for them?

Sometimes God gives us special jobs to do. We should be excited to obey God because He knows best!

- Should we obey God when He tells us to do something? Is it ever a good idea to not obey God?
- Jonah could not really run away from God, but when Jonah disobeyed God, it was like his heart was getting far, far away from God. That's what happens when we do not obey Jesus.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him. That way, our hearts won't be far away from Him.
- Remember, Jesus died for us so that we could know God and have our sins forgiven and be friends with Him! He is so wonderful!

AND REMEMBER...

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MEMORY VERSE:

"Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:17

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Section 2 - SIMPLE TRUTHS:

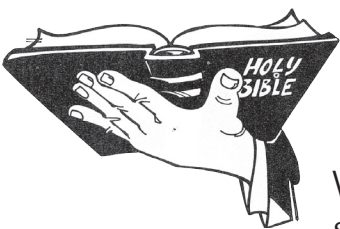
After we have discovered what a passage says, and made the words understandable for the children, the meaning and application will come very naturally, as the Lord has already been speaking to the listener's hearts.

All questions listed under **SIMPLE TRUTHS** are questions that are based on observations (*what the passage says*) that were made during the time spent discovering the facts and events of the story.

There may be several application questions asked, that are based on several observations made, or this section may focus on one main application, based on one very important observation. Many times there will be encouragement to take these simple truths, which led to the application, and turn them into prayer. Encouraging and leading the children to take what they learned from the story and to then respond to God by talking to Him about those things can be very impactful.

If the Lord leads you to emphasize another truth from the story that is not highlighted on this sheet, follow as the Holy Spirit leads you. He knows exactly what each person needs most to hear. This curriculum is intended to supplement your ministry while still allowing you freedom to be led by the Lord.

The question sheet is not intended to tell teachers exactly what to say; that is a work of the Holy Spirit. But, we do pray that you will find it helpful, as the Lord guides you in how this curriculum could be used to bless and enrich your time with the children.



WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT I CAN PREPARE FOR TEACHING THE BIBLE STORY?

We believe that the Lord will lead you by His Spirit as you are seeking Him, looking to Him, and being faithful with the ministry He has called you to. The flock that God has called you to be an overseer of is important and precious to God.

One of the greatest preparations that can be made is for us to be abiding in Jesus, reading the Bible every day and praying every day! Ministry is an outflow of what God is doing within each of us. *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”* (Acts 20:28) As we take heed to ourselves, that we are abiding in Jesus and in His Word, He will use us to minister to others.

As well as staying close to Jesus, there are several things that we can do to prepare for teaching. Each teacher will do things a little differently, but here are a few ideas that would be worth considering:

- 1 : Pray for understanding for yourself and for the children whom you will be teaching. *“And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.”* (Luke 24:45)
- 2 : Read the story several times. It’s important to be familiar with the passage! *(Reading the passage out loud as you prepare, can be helpful, as you will be telling it out loud to the children later on.)*
- 3 : Look at what came *before* the story. Context is very important when teaching the Bible. Something significant may have happened before the story that is important to mention. (Example: if the story is “Crossing the Red Sea,” it would be important to explain a little bit about what happened before this story, while the Israelites were still in Egypt, etc.) Also, you may have children present one week who were not there the previous week, so reminders and review are always helpful and good for everybody.
- 4 : Thoroughly know the story. When you know the story well and you are less dependent upon reading it, it will help make the story flow more naturally as you tell it. If you are interested in learning more about memorizing a passage, the instructions on pages 15-16 of this guide will be helpful and encouraging.
- 5 : Look at the list of questions offered in this curriculum and ask them to yourself. Consider the answers by looking at what the Scripture says. Pray through whatever the Lord speaks to you.
- 6 : While preparing, look for key words children may not understand. Think of simpler words that mean the same thing that could be used instead. Also think about how to explain other words that the children will need to learn in order to understand the story.
- 7 : Listen to your favorite Bible teacher teach the portion of Scripture that you are preparing to teach. This can be a blessing to you and enhance your own understanding of the passage.



UNDERSTANDING THE STORY:

God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to a city called Nineveh and preach to the people.

- Was Nineveh a small or large city? Did the people living there do what was right or what was wrong?
- What did God want Jonah to tell the people in Nineveh?

God had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- Did Jonah get up right away and do what God told him to do? What did Jonah do instead?
- God loved the people in Nineveh, but whom did Jonah care the most about?
- Do you think that Jonah would be able to escape/run away from God? Where is God?

Jonah tried to run away from what God told him to do.

- When Jonah got into the boat, where was he trying to go?
- God sent something to blow on the water and make big waves. What did God send?
- What did Jonah tell the sailors to do, so that the storm would stop?
- The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah into the water, so they tried rowing harder. Can you pretend you're in a storm, trying to row the boat back to land?
- Rowing harder didn't help them. What did the sailors do to Jonah?

God still had something that He wanted Jonah to do.

- When Jonah was thrown into the water, what did God send to keep Jonah alive?
- How long was Jonah inside the fish? Did Jonah pray to God?
- What did God tell the great fish to do? Did the fish obey God?
- God spoke to Jonah again. Do you think Jonah obeyed God this time?

SIMPLE TRUTHS:

- God spoke to Jonah and told him that He had a job for him to do.
- Does God ever speak to people today? How does God talk to us? (In the Bible, in our hearts, etc.)
- Does God love and care about the people alive today? Does God want people to know Him and have their sins forgiven? Do you think that God might want you to tell people about God's love for them?

Sometimes God gives us special jobs to do. We should be excited to obey God because

He knows best!

- Should we obey God when He tells us to do something? Is it ever a good idea to not obey God?
- Jonah could not really run away from God, but when Jonah disobeyed God, it was like his heart was getting far, far away from God. That's what happens when we do not obey Jesus.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him. That way, our hearts won't be far away from Him.
- Remember, Jesus died for us so that we could know God and have our sins forgiven and be friends with Him! He is so wonderful!

AND REMEMBER...

We should always obey God!

MEMORY VERSE:

"Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:17

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What is the "AND REMEMBER..." section about?

This section is about the main point (or one of the main points) in the Bible story. **It's a summary statement of what the story taught us.** It's just a way of summarizing the story in order for the parents to know, and the children to remember, what was learned in class.



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How should I use the "MEMORY VERSE"?

Depending on the set-up, age, and schedule of your class, you may find some or all of the following ideas to be helpful:

INCORPORATE YOUR MEMORY VERSE INTO AN ACTIVITY OR GAME, SUCH AS...

- **"Duck, Duck, Goose"** - Have children sit in a circle. Start the game by the teacher being "it." Walk around the circle tapping each child on the head for each word you say in the memory verse. The child whose head you tap, on the last word of the verse, chases you around the circle and then you sit down in their spot. They then repeat the game. Have the children say the verse together as the tapper goes around the circle.
- **"Pass the Object"** - Have the children sit in a circle. Select a soft object to use as the "potato." Pass the object around the circle saying one word from the memory verse for each child the object is passed to. The child holding the object on the last word is the winner.
- **"Rhythm Verse"** - Get a rhythm going with the Bible verse, and have the children clap to a beat while saying the verse, or make up a tune and sing the memory verse.
- Say the verse altogether while holding different positions or doing different movements, such as sitting on the floor, standing on one foot, touching your head/nose/toes, marching, jumping, turning around. Bring variety to the activity such as whispering the memory verse.

HELPING THEM MEMORIZE:

Most of us have been told the importance of memorizing Scripture, but we are often faced with the frustration of not knowing how to memorize with success.

Page 16 gives instructions for how to easily hide God's Word in your heart. What is listed on *this* page is an adaptation of those instructions. The original memorizing instructions (*on Page 16*) were written for someone who can read their memory verse(s) on their own. Because most children cannot read at this young age, the following is the appropriate modification to accommodate anyone who is non-literate (*whether child or adult*).

1 : *Have children close their eyes and listen closely*

2 : *You (teacher/helper/parent) read the Bible verse OUT LOUD to children*

3 : *Have the children say OUT LOUD as many words as they can remember from the Bible verse. (If you have them keep their eyes closed while repeating what they remember, it will help them to concentrate and remember more.)*

CONTINUE TO REPEAT THESE STEPS: children close eyes, you read OUT LOUD to them, and they say OUT LOUD whatever they can remember from the Bible verse.

The children say what they remember OUT LOUD, altogether at the same time, even though they will be remembering different parts of the verse than the child next to them.

Include the Scripture reference during memorizing time.

Keep repeating the above steps until the verse is memorized! Some people memorize more quickly than others. The end result is what matters, not how long it takes to get there! Be encouraging to each child as they are learning their new verse.

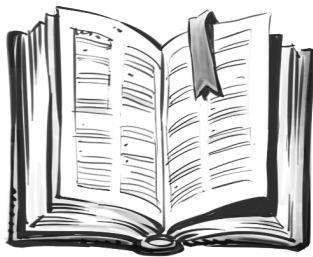
(Another option is for the teacher/helper/parent to read OUT LOUD one phrase at a time of the Bible verse, instead of reading the whole verse at once. Have the children say OUT LOUD that one phrase after you. Learning the verse one phrase at a time may be helpful for the younger children. They can learn the Bible verse phrase by phrase, until they know each part and can say the whole verse.)

It's always our hope and prayer that parents would continue discipling their children throughout the week. We know that this is not always the case, but when it is, it is wonderful for parents to be involved with their children, helping and encouraging them in memorizing Scripture.

God's Word does not return void, it's profitable in all areas, it imparts wisdom, it reveals God's heart, it teaches us how to really live, and it draws us to our Savior, Jesus. Time spent memorizing God's Word will be a lifelong blessing. You can experience this blessing and help others experience it too!

Whether you want to memorize a single verse, or an entire Bible story, the following instructions have proven to be very effective, while remaining simple and easy. If you are aiming to memorize a larger portion of Scripture, such as a Bible story, you may want to divide the Bible passage into smaller sections when you first begin memorizing that passage. If you are memorizing a twenty-verse story, you may want to memorize it in two or three sections to begin with. If the story is shorter, follow the instructions on this page, reading through the entire story each time, and not breaking it down verse by verse.

Memorizing takes time and effort, but it is well worth every minute you devote to it. Do not get discouraged as you begin this process. The results of knowing God's Word in this way are priceless!



- 1 : Open your eyes and open your Bible
- 2 : Read your Bible verse(s) OUT LOUD
- 3 : Close your Bible and close your eyes
- 4 : Say as much as you can remember OUT LOUD

REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT!



Keep repeating these four steps until memorized! Each time you go through the passage, remember to also include the Scripture reference. Work on memorizing every day, if possible! Even a few minutes makes a big difference. Once you have learned your verses, don't forget to review, review, and review! Whether you are memorizing for your own benefit, or because you want to know from memory the Bible story you plan to tell the children, you will find great blessing in having the words of Scripture within your heart and mind.



WHY ARE THE STUDIES IN A RANDOM ORDER?

AND

WHY ARE THEY NOT ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY?

The **LITTLE ONES CURRICULUM** is designed to give young children an overview of key and foundational stories from the Bible; it is not designed to take them chronologically, verse-by-verse, through the Bible. Our desire is that, by the time these children reach the younger elementary ages, they will be prepared to use the older **Children's Curriculum**, which will take them on a more thorough journey through the Bible verse-by-verse. For the children who have experienced the **LITTLE ONES CURRICULUM** during their preschool/kindergarten years, they will have become familiar with many of the Bible's main characters, stories, and its central message of God's love.



The current **LITTLE ONES CURRICULUM** is a one-year plan, which allows the children to hear many stories from the Gospels, as well as significant Old Testament stories. These stories have not been arranged chronologically because, for a young child, a consciousness of time having a chronological order is not often grasped, nor would it be necessary. We want the children to regularly hear stories about Jesus, while still receiving foundational Old Testament stories, and having them intermixed gives that balance especially for any child who cannot attend church every week. The one-year schedule of the **LITTLE ONES CURRICULUM** can be repeated several times in the preschool/kindergarten ages and even into 1st grade.