



## OPENING

### Welcome

[5 min]

### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids wave at three people they're not sitting near.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids say "yadhtrib yppah" ("happy birthday" backward).

Collect the offering.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll learn that God shows mercy even when we don't. *Mercy* is another word for *forgiveness*. That means when someone does something wrong, God says "I forgive you" to the person even though he or she doesn't deserve it. In the Bible, we'll read about a man named Jonah who didn't want to forgive some people for the wrong things they did. Jonah ran away, and he ended up inside the belly of a big fish. That fish must've been really big to fit Jonah inside of it! Let's talk about some other really big animals we've seen.**

### Share

Share about the largest animal *you've* ever seen in person.

In small groups, have kids share about the largest animals *they've* ever seen.

After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

### Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **You've seen a lot of big animals. Let's look at the Bible now to see what happened to Jonah when he was inside the belly of a very big fish. The Bible is one way God talks to us. The Bible helps us understand what it means that God shows mercy even when we don't. Let's listen to God as we hear from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God that he shows mercy even when we don't.



## MUSIC VIDEO

### The Lord Is Merciful (Psalm 145:8)

[10 min]

### Supplies

- "The Lord Is Merciful" (Psalm 145:8) (watch or download [here](#))
- "You Forgive Me" (watch or download [here](#))
- "No Matter How I Feel" (watch or download [here](#))

### Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



## Supplies

- “Journey With Jonah” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

## Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

## Discuss and Watch “Journey With Jonah”

Say: **Jonah's story is hard to imagine happening! I bet none of *you* has ever been in a fish's stomach! But...what if you *could* be with Jonah?**

Ask: • **If you could meet Jonah, what would you ask him?**

Say: **Let's go on a journey with Jonah.**

Watch “Journey With Jonah.”

Ask: • **What would you do if your Bible started leaking water like Lucas' did?**

- **What did Lucas learn from his journey with Jonah?**
- **What's something you can learn from Jonah's experience?**

Say: **Jonah learned about God's mercy. God shows mercy even when we don't. We can learn from Jonah's example and forgive other people.**



## Supplies

- empty food boxes (such as cereal boxes, cracker boxes, and macaroni and cheese boxes) (1 per child)
- clean and flat trash (such as candy wrappers, snack wrappers, receipts, labels from bottled drinks, and labels from canned goods)
- individually wrapped candy (optional)
- glue sticks
- duct tape
- scissors
- clear packing tape
- adhesive Velcro

## Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



## Tip

- This craft requires a lot of food packaging, but it's easy for families to bring. Send out a notice a few weeks ahead, and have families bring you their boxes and clean trash. You'll have plenty!

## Make Second-Chance Storage Boxes

Set out supplies. Show kids your sample. Say: ***Mercy means giving people a second chance, even if they don't deserve it. We're going to give some trash a second chance as storage containers! We have different sizes, so think about what you might want to store in your box. It could be pencils, jewelry, video game controllers, snacks, or even your Bible! Get a box that's the right size for what you want to store.***

Have kids follow these instructions to make storage boxes.

- Make sure the box is closed.
- Use duct tape to secure all the flaps and corners.
- Lay the box flat, and cut the top on three edges so it can open straight up.



## Supplies

- “God Shows Mercy” handout (1 copy per child) (download [here](#))
- crayons
- *Friends With God Story Bible* (optional) (order [here](#))

## Pray

Say: **Today we learned that God shows mercy even when we don’t. We learned how God showed mercy and forgave the people in Nineveh even when Jonah didn’t want them to be forgiven. God forgave Jonah even when he didn’t deserve it.**

Without sharing a name, tell about something someone did that hurt *you* recently.

Ask: • **Tell about something that hurt you or your feelings.** Before kids begin to share, encourage them to share more about the thing that hurt them than the person who did it.

Say: **It’s not easy to show mercy or forgive people when they hurt us. You might not want to forgive the person who hurt you. But God shows mercy even when we don’t. God wants us to forgive the people who hurt us, too. Let’s ask God to help us forgive the friends who hurt us.**

Lead children in asking God for help to forgive the people who hurt them.

## Color a Picture

Say: **God can help us show kindness and love to the people who hurt us. We can forgive them, and we can also show them mercy by giving them something nice.**

Give each child a “God Shows Mercy” handout. Point out and read aloud “God Shows Mercy” inside the heart, and then encourage children to each color a picture for the people who hurt them. After kids have finished, read aloud “Give this to someone I need to forgive” where it’s written at the top of the page. Say: **You made these nice pictures for the people who hurt you. Now you can show mercy by giving the pictures to the people. You can forgive them, and God will help you. Remember, God shows mercy even when we don’t, and God wants us to forgive others who hurt us.**

If you have extra time, spend some time reading today’s Bible story, “In Deep Water—by Jonah,” from the *Friends With God Story Bible*.

Thank the children for joining you at church, and invite them to come back next week to join all their friends as you all learn more about God’s love and mercy.