



Explorer Emblems

Men of the Bible

JONAH Program Enhancements:

Changeling I

When God told Jonah to preach to the city of Nineveh, Jonah got on a boat headed the other way. God sent a tremendous storm to help Jonah reconsider, and when Jonah was thrown overboard, he was swallowed by a fish that must have been as large as a whale. By rearranging and using the letters in the following words, see how many new words you can make:

JONAH

STORM

WHALE

Changeling II

When Jonah finally obeyed God's command to preach to the people of Nineveh, the people repented, and God spared the city. By rearranging and using the letters in the following words, see how many new words you can make:

PREACH

REPENT

NINEVEH

Changeling III

Jonah was disappointed when the people of Nineveh repented in response to his preaching, and he went outside the city and sat sulking under a vine. When a lowly worm ate the vine and caused it to wither, God helped Jonah put things in perspective. By rearranging and using the letters in the following words, see how many new words you can make:

VINE WORM WITHER

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Quattro Quote

Put the four-letter blocks into the puzzle to form a verse from Jonah.

ACET	BETH	DOLS	EIRS	EITT
FORF	HATC	HEGR	HOSE	LING
RTHL	TOWO	WHOC	ESSI	OULD

T _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _

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ANSWER: "THOSE WHO CLING TO WORTHLESS IDOLS FORFEIT THE GRACE THAT COULD BE THEIRS." JONAH 2:8

Teaching Tips:

This could be an excellent time for a field trip to a local aquarium to see different kinds of fish. Looking for fish large enough to accommodate a human is a fun way to view fish. Be prepared for questions relating to this “fact” and how a human could survive. This tends to be the biggest question and most difficult question to answer in the children’s minds. You will want to be sure of the answer yourself before it arises.

The other aspect of the story to emphasize would be the fact that even though Jonah was a reluctant prophet, God still used him and his message to bring people to repentance. This shows that God prepares the way for his message and knows when people are ready to repent. He frequently is waiting for us to do our part even though we may think that our efforts are useless.

Additional Information:

The local library and encyclopedias would have information on different kinds of fish large enough to accommodate a human. While many believe that a whale swallowed Jonah, the Bible clearly states that it was not a whale but a “big fish.” Commentaries are another source of information. You will find as many opinions as commentaries.

The book “Who’s Who in the Bible” by Joan Comay and Ronald Brownrigg is an excellent resource with a great deal of information.

Devotional:

We all know that Jonah was told to go to Nineveh and disobeyed God. We are familiar with the fact that he was sailing to Tarshish when a storm arose and he was thrown into the sea.

We also know that a great fish, not a whale, swallowed Jonah and he stayed in the belly of the fish for three days until he agreed to do God’s will. When he arrived in Nineveh, he pronounced God’s judgment on the city if they did not repent. The people heard his words and repented of their sin and turned back to God. Jonah was angry that these sinful people could be forgiven by God. He went outside of the city and sat down. (Read Jonah 4:5-11)

Jonah was again angry that his shade was taken away. He was very selfish and more concerned about his own comfort than he was that 120,000 people could have been destroyed by God.

God loves everyone and the Bible tells us that He is not willing that anyone should perish. God loves everyone, even those who we may think are not worthy of His love. There may be those who think we are not worthy of God’s love. Thank God that He loves us no matter what we do or who we are.

We, like the people of Nineveh need only to repent and turn to God. Repentance does not mean feeling sorry that we were caught doing something wrong. Repentance means we are sorry that we have done something wrong and we pledge not to do it again.

JOSEPH Program Enhancements:

Rather than having the boys simply write down the answers to the questions on page 46 of the handbook, open discussion may help the boys to understand and share their own answers in a non-threatening way.

Some possible discussion questions:

Why should we forgive someone? See Luke 6:27-38 What does forgiveness mean?

- forgetting what a person has done against me.
- if someone hurts me, I will ignore it.
- let someone know when they hurt me.
- forgiving someone only when they apologize.
- forgiving someone because they have forgiven me in the past.
- forgiving someone until I get what I want from them.
- forgiving someone because I have no power to get back at them.
- I don't have to forgive myself until I have been caught.

Teaching Tips:

Role playing of the story of Joseph's brothers coming to him looking for food by different boys could prove to be interesting. Being in a position of power (as Pharaoh's administrator) has different effects on people. Try role playing just this portion of the story and asking the boys playing Joseph what their reactions would have been. Write them down on a blackboard and see if there are any differences.

Additional Information:

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Devotional:

Joseph went through a series of experiences that made him the person he was. He began life as his father's favorite and knew it. He held it over his brothers heads and taunted them with it.

This caused them to throw him into the pit. While there, he had a life changing experience. He realized that his attitude had almost cost him his life and that he was lucky to be alive. He felt fortunate that he was alive and was willing to become a slave.

While a slave, a woman asked him to do something that he knew was wrong. It would have

been easy for him to do it, and no one would have known. Instead, he chose the right way, which was also the hard way and ended up in prison because of someone else's lies. While there he did what he could to help others by interpreting dreams

This attitude of working with what he had brought him to Pharaoh's palace. He was in a position of great power where what he said was law. He could have easily had his revenge on the woman who lied about him. But he didn't. He could have easily had his revenge on his brothers who had thrown him into the pit and then sold him into slavery. But he didn't.

We are all given opportunities for revenge or forgiveness at many times in our lives. If we are unwilling to forgive, we are saying that we are better than God! God, being all powerful could take revenge whenever and wherever He wants. God, being perfect in every way wants to forgive those who ask. He says that our sins will be removed from us as far as the east is from the west. He forgives us when we ask, who are we not to forgive those who ask?

MOSES Program Enhancements:

There is a song you could use to teach the boys the Ten Commandments. It is entitled "The Perfect Ten" and should be available at Bible book stores.

Here's a simplified list of the Ten Commandments which can be used for memorization:

- #1 You shall have no other gods before me.
- #2 Do not make any idols.
- #3 Do not misuse the name of the Lord.
- #4 Remember the Sabbath day.
- #5 Honor your father and mother.
- #6 Do not murder
- #7 Do not commit adultery.
- #8 Do not steal.
- #9 Do not lie.
- #10 Do not covet.

Teaching Tips:

Varying teaching styles is a must for an active group of boys. There are many videos which can be used showing various points of Moses' life. Even the movie "The Ten Commandments" with Charlton Heston would be a welcome break for the boys. Following along in the Bible as the movie plays may be interesting to see how accurate the moviemakers were.

Additional Information:

The role of Moses in the life of the Israelite nation is tremendous. It is not limited to the delivery of the 10 commandments to the Israelites. Nor should we limit ourselves to this aspect of his life. Familiarity with the major events of Moses' life is a necessity. Highlights of his life are as follows:

- Birth and placement in the basket in the Nile river.
- Finding of the basket by Pharaoh's daughter.
- Nursing and raising by his own mother in Pharaoh's court.
- Realization of Jewish heritage and murder of Egyptian taskmaster.
- Shepherd.
- Burning bush experience.
- Moses 7 excuses why he couldn't do what God wanted him to do.
- Moses and Aaron go before Pharaoh.
- The plagues.
- The Passover.
- Pharaoh let the Israelites go.
- Pharaoh pursues the Israelites.
- Pharaoh destroyed.
- Wandering in the wilderness with the pillar of fire and smoke.
- Provision of water, manna and quail.
- Arrival at the promised land - seeing the promise land and death.

The book "Who's Who in the Bible" by Joan Comay and Ronald Brownrigg is an excellent resource with a great deal of information.

Devotional:

The Ten Commandments are not just a list of do's and don'ts.

NOAH Program Enhancements:

This would be another opportunity to take a field trip with the boys. Many locations have zoos with a n area where the children can get up close with the animals. Seeing, touching, smelling the animals will help them to imagine being on an ark with all those animals.

If you have a large enough area, it will be fun to lay out the boundaries of the ark. Many commentaries can give you the approximate dimensions. It is estimated that a cubit is

around 15" long. This could be a good project to do the conversion and then lay out the ark on the floor/ground. This will help in imagining what Noah was dealing with.

Additional Information:

The book "Who's Who in the Bible" by Joan Comay and Ronald Brownrigg is an excellent resource with a great deal of information.

Commentaries will give their opinion whether this story is "real" or a fable. Be prepared for this question to come up especially if you visit a zoo and lay out the ark. Our doctrine book addresses the authority of the Scriptures.

Devotional:

What would you do if God spoke to you? How would you know it was God? How did Noah know it was God? The Bible tells us that Noah was a righteous man which means he always did what was right. He always did what God wanted him to do. He knew God's voice because he spent so much time with God.

Can you imagine what Noah's friends and neighbors said when they saw him building an ark? Especially when Noah told them that God told him to build an ark because He was going to flood the earth and kill them all. The people around Noah were not like him. They were not listening to God, they had never listened to God. Basically Noah was all alone, building the ark with his family and being teased by those around him for doing what God told him to do.

There are times when we as Christians are doing what God wants us to do and people make fun of us. We may tell them that we know that what we are doing is what God wants us to do. They ask us how we know what God wants us to do. God gives us rules to live by in His Word, the Bible.

They also make fun of us because we live differently from them. We may not go out and build an ark, but if we live as God wants, people will notice. If you have pressure from friends and family to live your life differently, remember Noah. No matter what other people said or did, Noah knew what God wanted him to do and did it. Keep the faith!