

Animated Toddler & Preschool

Week 2: Online

BIG IDEA

God loves me even when I feel ashamed.

BIBLE

Jonah Swallowed by a Fish: Jonah 1:17–2:10

SCRIPTURE | Jonah 1:17–2:10 (Jonah Swallowed by a Fish)

- **Do you have a favorite cartoon you can watch over and over again? Why do you love it so much?**
- Cartoons and animations are really cool because we can see feelings and emotions in an exaggerated way in a story. **Do you know what the word "exaggerated" means?** It's what happens when you take something and make it bigger, larger, or worse than it actually is.
- Let's look at how much easier it was for Olaf to act out the words because he could exaggerate all the actions!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this clip](#) from "Frozen 2" before you tell the Bible story. For the Scripture readings, feel free to use an easy-to-understand Bible translation of your choice. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- **Would you like to exaggerate a few feelings with me?**
 - Let's be sad.
 - Let's be happy.
 - Now, let's be grumpy.
- **Okay, how about this one: What do you think an ashamed face looks like?**
- Ashamed is when you know you did something you weren't supposed to do and you're embarrassed about it. It makes us want to hide, cover our faces, or even cry.
- When we know we did something wrong, it's normal to feel ashamed. But the good news is, we don't have to hide or stay ashamed . . . because God doesn't want us to!
- That reminds me of a story from the Bible about a guy named Jonah.
- God told Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh and tell them to stop doing bad stuff. God wanted the people of Nineveh to say they were sorry and start listening to God.
- But Jonah didn't want to do it, so he ran the other way. He got on a boat hoping to get away from God!
- Then, the boat Jonah was on ran into a huge storm.
- Everyone on the boat wondered why this was happening, but Jonah knew. He knew trying to run from God was wrong.
- Jonah felt ashamed for disobeying God. So, he told everyone on the boat what he did and that the storm was his fault. Then, he told the people on the boat to throw him off the boat and into the water.
- The people didn't want to do it, but the storm kept getting worse and worse. So, they threw Jonah off of the boat.
- Splash! The moment they threw Jonah into the water, the storm stopped!
- But God didn't leave Jonah out in the big sea. God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Jonah prayed. And this is what he said . . .
- *[Read Jonah 1:17-2:09.]*
- In his prayer, Jonah thanked God for saving him and promised he would tell others about how good God was.
- Jonah wanted another chance and he got one. The big fish spat Jonah out onto the beach. He was on land again!

- And this time, Jonah did what God told him to do. Jonah got up and went to Nineveh where he told the people about their mistakes. He told them they could fix them by praying to God and not doing those bad things anymore. Jonah knew better than anyone that God gave second chances!
- So, the people in Nineveh did just that. They all changed because of what Jonah told them!

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- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create two speech bubbles (or get [these](#)) out of poster board and write "God loves me" on one and "even when I feel ashamed" on the other. Invite volunteers to hold up each speech bubble and freeze in a funny, cartoon pose. Have the volunteers unfreeze and say what's in their respective balloons when the kids yell, "Animate!"
- Let's all say the Big Idea together: **God loves me even when I feel ashamed.**

VIDEO | Animated, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).


PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before prayer time each week, play this emoji music video, "[Jesus Loves Me](#)," and have kids sing along.
- God, remind me that you love me even when I feel ashamed. Thank you for taking away my shame and giving me another chance. Help me to be brave and tell others about how good you are. Amen.

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you ask questions and review the story, mix up with your hands the ingredients to make homemade slime (using a recipe like [this one](#)). Then, pass the slime around the circle, allowing each kid to squish it, imagining it's the slimy, gooey fish guts Jonah must've had all over him when the big fish spit him out.
- **What mistake did Jonah make?**
- **What did Jonah do after the fish spit him out on the beach?**
- **Who can you go to when you feel ashamed?**
- I'm so glad **God loves me even when I feel ashamed** and gives me new chances to try again all the time!

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 15:13a (NIV)

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- **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."**
 - **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Kids will practice and learn the memory verse this week by listening to [this song](#) multiple times until they're able to sing along. Consider adding simple hand motions to go along with the song to help with learning.*

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BIBLE: Jonah Swallowed by a Fish: Jonah 1:17-2:10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17

