

Jonah: Part 2



Text: Jonah 3 and 4

Focus statement: God's mercy includes everyone.

Visuals:

Globe or mounted world map with pictures of persons from various cultures attached, candles of differing dimensions and colors. Place items on a coarse, heavy cloth.

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to worship: Come. Worship the God whose mercy extends to everyone.

Prayer: SJ 142

PRAISING

Song suggestions:

HWB 397 *God loves all his many people*

HWB 87 *Great is the Lord*

HWB 145 *There's a wideness in God's mercy*

SS 113 *I will stand in the congregation*

OFFERING

LISTENING TO GOD

Children's time:

"It's not fair!" is a common refrain from children. Share a story from your childhood about not being treated fairly. How do we feel when things do not seem fair with our sisters or brothers?

Read or tell a story about unfair treatment, such as *Bully Bill* by Joy Birky (Herald Press); or for older children, "Peace Chief" in *Plant a Seed of Peace* by Rebecca Seiling (Herald Press). Remind the children that God's love is for everyone, even those who don't treat us kindly.

Song: HWB 72 *When all thy mercies*

Scripture reading: Jonah 3 & 4 (Use the Reader's Theater in *Connect*, p. 130-131).

Sermon seeds: (See *Connect* and *Youth* for additional inspiration.)

Are we willing to give those who have done something wrong a second chance? NFL player Michael Vic was given a second chance by the Philadelphia Eagle's coach Andy Reid because of what Reid went through with his sons. (Or use a more current example.) Jonah knew the Assyrian's history of violent oppression and worshipping many gods. He did not think they deserved God's mercy. "Let's not get smug about the rotten old sinners in Nineveh. We all need to go through the repentance door if we want to be hugged by God," Adrian Plass (quoted in *Connect*, p. 71). Don't give up on wayward friends and children. Everyone needs God.

RESPONDING TO GOD

This is a good Sunday to extend an invitation for salvation.

Song of response: SJ 92 *Just as I am* (Or play “Change my heart O God” from the Gather 'Round CD.)

Prayers of the people

SENDING

Song: SS 57 *Go, my friends, in grace*

Benediction:

Luke 1:50, followed by a simple phrase like, “God’s love be with you” in several languages.

Session Nine

Jeremiah’s call



Text: Jeremiah 1:1-10

Focus statement: God knows and blesses us.

Visuals: Bible (This is a good Sunday to involve a variety of ages in the worship service. You may also want to consider having a parent/child dedication or blessing of mentors and youth mentees.)

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to worship:

God has called us here, just as he has called each of us to follow him. God has called us with the loving promise to forgive, bless, and empower us to live faithfully. Praise the God who knows each of us intimately and meets us here in this time of worship.

Prayer: *Words for Worship 2, 29*

PRAISING

Song suggestions:

SJ 38 *Beloved, God’s chosen*

SJ 34 *Loving Spirit*

SS 37 *Firstborn of Mary*

SS 39 *Will you come and follow me*

HWB 389 *Take my life*