

K-3rd

Large Group

November — Week 2

# Large Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### Small Group (10 minutes)

#### Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

### Large Group (30 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

### Small Group (15 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect 1. Bible Story

### Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

→ Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

→ [Devotionals for Kids](#)

→ Parent Cue App and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



### Today's Bible Story

## Jonah

Jonah 1-3

### Bottom Line

**God knows what's best.**

### Memory Verse

**"Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."**

**Isaiah 40:31 (NIRV)**



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

5 MINUTES

# Opener

10 MINUTES

# Worship

20 MINUTES

# Story

## ① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.  
 SLIDE → Theme  
 Optional Video → Theme Loop

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown  
 Optional Video → Theme Intro  
 Optional Video → Theme Loop

HOST: “Hello, everyone! Welcome! I’m so glad that you came today. This month, we’re digging into Bedrock by building confidence in God block by block.

“Placing our trust and confidence in God is something that we learn by doing it! We all need practice. And in today’s story, we’ll meet a guy who REALLY needed some practice. In fact, instead of trusting God, he ran away and found himself in a fishy situation.

“Now, before we launch into our story, we’re going to warm up with a fishing game!

“Have any of you ever gone fishing? If you’ve gone fishing, raise your hand! (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

“Great! Well, whether or not you’ve been fishing before, I need two volunteers who would like to try their hand at fishing. And I need two more volunteers who would like to help line up the fish after they are caught!

→ Select four volunteers and bring them up on stage.  
 (PREFERABLY, SELECT VOLUNTEERS WITH MORE ADVANCED READING SKILLS.) Give the first two magnetic fishing rods.

“Great. Now, you two are fishermen. And you two are going to put our fish in order! See, there are ten special fish scattered around the stage. Each of these fish has one part of our Memory Verse! The verse is Isaiah 40:31! That’s the verse we’re trying to get in our heads and hearts this month. There are numbers on the fish, in case you need help putting them in order!

SLIDE → Memory Verse

“Your job is to put the fish in order on this board so that we can see the whole Memory Verse!

“Use your fishing rod to pick up the fish.

“Okay, fishermen, are you ready? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

5 MINUTES

# Opener

10 MINUTES

# Worship

20 MINUTES

# Story

“Fish liner-uppers, are you ready?” (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

“Then it’s time ... to GO FISH!”

AUDIO → Upbeat Music

→ Assist the fishermen if needed, and help the Memory Verse volunteers line up the verse on the board if needed.

“You all did a fantastic job of catching fish and lining them up! Let’s all read our Memory Verse together (READ THE MEMORY VERSE FROM THE CARD BOARD FISH, OR READ IT FROM THE SLIDE.)

“You can trust God, no matter what. So let’s show God our love and trust as we sing some worship songs. On your feet, everyone! Let’s worship God!”

## ② Worship

→ Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “You guys were awesome in that fishing game! It looked like everyone was having a blast. And that’s what I love about large group — we get to have fun and learn what it means to follow God.

You know, sometimes we do things our own way instead of trusting God’s way — kind of like Jonah. But when we follow God’s plan, that’s when life gets really good. That’s what this first song is about. It’s called This Is Living, because life with God isn’t boring — it’s full of purpose, joy, and adventure!

Let’s stand up and sing this one together!

Video → This Is Living - Hillsong Y & F

WORSHIP LEADER: “That was incredible! You guys brought so much energy and joy to that song. I love how you worship with your whole heart.

You know, in our story today, Jonah learned that even when we mess up, God still loves us and gives us another chance. He knows what’s best for us, and when we talk to Him, He listens.

This next song is all about that — it reminds us that we can ask, seek, and knock, and God will answer. So let’s take a moment, calm our hearts, and sing this one as a prayer together.

Video → Ask, Seek, Knock - Hillsong Kids

WORSHIP LEADER: “God, thank You for loving us even when we don’t get it right. Thank You that You always listen when we talk to You. Help us trust You and follow Your ways, because You know what’s best. We love You. Amen.”

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength.  
They will fly as high as eagles.  
They will run and not get tired.  
They will walk and not grow weak. —Isaiah 40:31

“Let’s say it together!

WORSHIP LEADER: “Those who trust in the LORD”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “Those who trust in the LORD”

WORSHIP LEADER: “will receive new strength.”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “will receive new strength.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “They will fly as high as eagles.”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “They will fly as high as eagles.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “They will run and not get tired.”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “They will run and not get tired.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “They will walk and not grow weak.”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “They will walk and not grow weak.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Isaiah 40:31!”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “Isaiah 40:31!”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Way to go, you guys! God loves you so much that He wants to give you strength as you go through life! God’s strength is like a power-up that fills your heart, so you can face your life stronger. That’s awesome! We’ll try to put that truth in our hearts all month.

“This week we’re going to look at the story of a God-follower named Jonah who learned that following God and His ways is always best. Let’s go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!”

5 MINUTES

# Opener

10 MINUTES

# Worship

20 MINUTES

# Story

## ③ Bible Story

SLIDE -&gt; Theme Background

→ Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit

### INTRODUCTION

→ Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can set their Bible on it and read from it as they use their hands to lead the audience to make the story sounds.

STORYTELLER: “Hey, friends! I’m so, so glad you’re here today! You’re coming in to something amazing—we’re going through key stories in the entire Bible from cover to cover this year!”

“Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him! So as we go through all of these true stories in the Bible this year, we will learn about Him!”

### GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: “We’re going to go through God’s Big Story together! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)”

SLIDE -&gt; God’s Big Story

“Each week, we’ll look at a story from God’s Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we’ve been in the Bible as we journey along. (GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)”

“Let me bring you up to speed on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far!”

“So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made everything! He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn’t anymore! It was so sad.

“And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

“But God didn’t want to leave things that way! So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!”

“God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Many years later, Abraham’s great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

"After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (AND ONE QUEEN) followed. Sadly, the nation of God's people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

"During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. God would guide and direct the prophets to tell others about Him and His heart.

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story."

### SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're continuing right along through the Bible in the book of Jonah. (HOLD UP BIBLE.)

"Jonah lived during the time when the nation of God's people was split into two nations. There were a lot of different kings and a lot of different prophets during that time—Jonah was a prophet. Prophets spoke messages from God to different people. And most prophets spoke the same message from God: 'Come back to Me! Come back to Me!'

"God actually sent the prophet Jonah to deliver that message to the people of Nineveh, who were really, really mean. That's the story we're going to look at today!

"To tell Jonah's story in the Bible, I'm going to need some help from all of you! There are all sorts of wild sounds in this story. So when we need a special sound, I'll hold my hands up like this, and ask you to make the sound!

→ Raise both hands high.

"But when I do this with my hand—

→ Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.

"then it's time to stop the noise and be super-quiet. Let's try that. Everyone, bark like a dog!

→ Raise both hands while kids bark.

"You all are a wild pack of dogs! And stop!

→ Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

“Suuuuuuper quiet. You guys got it! Okay, let’s go!

### JONAH RUNS AWAY

STORYTELLER: “One day, God spoke to Jonah.

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 1:2 (NIRV) and read.

“Go to the great city of Nineveh. Preach against it. The sins of its people have come to my attention.”

“Now, Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria—the big, bad villain of Jonah’s day. Everyone make your best super-villain entrance sound!

→ Raise both hands high.

“Duh, bum bad um bum bah dum!

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign.

“Very scary! As you can imagine, Jonah was NOT excited about traveling hundreds and hundreds of miles away from home into the heart of enemy territory.

“In fact, Jonah decided to RUN AWAY from God. Brilliant move, right? Everyone make a speedy WHOOSH sound, like someone’s running fast.

→ Raise both hands high.

“WHOOOOOOOSH!

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign.

“Instead of heading northeast toward Nineveh, Jonah went to the harbor at Joppa and hopped on a boat heading for Tarshish ... pretty much as far as you could go in the opposite direction.

“Jonah went below deck for a nap. But while Jonah was sleeping, God sent a wild wind that made a mega-storm. Let’s make some wind noises!

→ Raise both hands high.

“Whoooooooo ... Okay, keep that going now, but a little softer while I tell more of the story.

“The sailors panicked as the ship creaked, and they cried out to the false gods they worshipped. Finally, the captain hauled Jonah out of bed and said:

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 1:6b (NIRV) and read.

→ Keep one hand raised for sound.

“How can you sleep? Get up and call out to your god for help! Maybe he’ll pay attention to what’s happening to us. Then we won’t die.”

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

“The whole time, the storm was still raging and the wind was still blowing—whooooooooo!—and the waves were getting higher! At last, Jonah confessed that he was running away from God!

“The terrified sailors asked Jonah how to make the seas calm down.

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 1:12 (NIRV) and read.

→ Keep one hand raised for the wind sound.

“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” [JONAH] replied. “Then it will become calm. I know it’s my fault that this terrible storm has come on you.”

“The sailors didn’t want to do this, but the storm got even WORSE. WHOOOOOOOO!

→ Raise both hands high to prompt the kids to make a louder sound.

“So at last the sailors took Jonah and threw him overboard.

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign. Wait for complete silence.

“Right away, the sea became calm!

“But God wasn’t done with Jonah. So God brought about a pretty wild plot twist ... by sending a giant fish to swallow Jonah whole! Let’s hear your best gulp!

→ Raise both hands high.

“GUUUUUULLLLP!

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign.

### JONAH IN THE BELLY OF THE FISH

STORYTELLER: “Whoa. For three days and three nights, Jonah was stuck in the belly of that fish. I bet it was super-stinky and super-icky. Maybe he could hear the fish’s giant tummy rumbling. Let’s hear those tummy rumbles.

→ Raise both hands high.

“Ruuuuuumble. Guurpleburble!

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign.

“And during this time, Jonah finally cried out to God.

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 2:1, 6 (NIRV) and read.

“When I was in trouble, I called out to the LORD. And he answered me.

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

When I was deep in the place of the dead,  
I called out for help.  
And you listened to my cry. ...  
I sank down to the bottom of the mountains.  
I thought I had died  
and gone down into the grave forever.  
But you are the LORD my God.  
You brought my life up  
from the very edge of the pit of death.”

“At the end of three days, God made that fish swim to shore and spit out Jonah on dry land! So ... fish spit up. I have a feeling this is gonna be really gross, but ... let’s hear your best giant fish spit up!

→ Raise both hands high.

“Bleeeeeuuuuuch!

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign.

“Whoa. Okay, that’s as much fish spit up as I can take. Whew! But ... being spit up by the fish was still WAY better than being stuck inside the fish!

JONAH GOES TO NINEVEH

STORYTELLER: “God spoke to Jonah once more:

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 3:2 (NIRV) and read.

“Go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce to its people the message I give you.”

“And this time, Jonah listened to God! He made the epic road trip to Nineveh. Let’s hear a speedy whoosh in the RIGHT direction.

→ Raise both hands high.

“Whoooooosh!

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign.

“When Jonah got to Nineveh, well, the city was so large it took three whole days to cross!

“Jonah began by going one whole day into the city. As he went, he announced:

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 3:4 (NIRV) and read.

“In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed.”

“This was terrible news. But the people of Nineveh actually LISTENED. The message even reached their king, who put aside his royal robes and sat down in the dust in misery. The king sent out a message to the whole city:

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 3:8b-9 (NIRV) and read.

“All of you must call out to God with all your hearts. Stop doing what is evil. Don’t harm others. Who knows? God might take pity on us. He might not be angry with us anymore. Then we won’t die.”

“And would you believe it? The people did just as the king commanded. They turned to God and stopped doing wrong things. Let’s hear your best cheer!

→ Raise both hands high.

“Yay! Woohooooo!

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign.

“Because of this, God showed great mercy, and did not get rid of the city of Nineveh. And Jonah was thrilled, right? Actually, no. Jonah sulked because God had chosen to show love to even the enemies of his people! Let’s hear your best pouty whine.

→ Raise both hands high.

“Booohooo. Waaah. Poooor me.

→ Put one hand forward to make a “stop” sign.

“Wow. That’s enough. You all are reaaaaally good at that.

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “See, Jonah thought that everyone in Nineveh should be punished. He thought God should pay them back big time! Jonah thought he knew what was best. But God is good and kind, and He is always working for good. So that means God always knows what is best ... even if it means showing mercy to your worst enemy. That’s why it’s so important for us to remember that—

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] “God knows what’s best. Say that with me.”

→ Host enters and joins in.

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “God knows what’s best.”

### GOD’S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: “Let’s take a look at the progress we made in God’s Big Story this week!

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

“This week, we’re up here on the path of God’s Big Story after this picture of David being anointed and before this picture of Daniel. We’re on the path, journeying along in God’s Big Story!”

“This week, we talked about Jonah. Jonah was a prophet who lived during the time when God’s kingdom was split in two—the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. Jonah lived in the northern kingdom of Israel, but God wanted him to speak to the people of Nineveh. God’s message was what He often said: ‘Come back to Me! Come back to Me!’ Sadly, the northern kingdom of Israel that Jonah lived in never came back to God. And it was destroyed. But God didn’t give up on His promise! He wants us to be His close friends again! So He faithfully saved a remnant, a small group of people mostly from the southern kingdom of Judah. And from this little remnant that God protected, many, many years later would come Jesus! And Jesus would rescue us all!”

“Let’s put the next image on our timeline!”

SLIDE -> Week 2 Timeline Image

If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.

“This week we talked about Jonah!”

### WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “See, Jonah knew all about God ... but he sure didn’t live like Him. He thought he knew better than God, and he disobeyed Him. Jonah didn’t really believe the truth that God knows what’s best.

“God wanted a whole group of people to live better lives, and He gave Jonah a chance to deliver that message. But Jonah didn’t think the Ninevites deserved God’s kindness, so at first, he disobeyed.

“What Jonah disregarded is that God is good, and that means He is always being good. Jonah should have obeyed God because His ways were good. We can always trust that God’s ways are good too, and we can follow them, even if we don’t understand them.

“Sometimes it’s really hard to follow God’s ways. But if you need help, just ask God! When you choose to follow Jesus, God’s very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, comes to live inside you! He can help you when following God’s ways are hard. You can ask, ‘God, I need Your help being kind.’ Or, ‘God, I need Your help not to yell because I’m angry.’ Or, ‘God, I need Your help to be loving.’ Whatever you need, ask! God loves to help you!

“God made you and loves you more than you can imagine! He wants to help you follow His ways because they are best.

“Let’s ask Him to help us follow Him well right now!”

SLIDE -> Week 2 Timeline Image

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

### ③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for giving us a chance to learn about You through the Bible. You are kind and loving and good. Help us to listen for Your voice and do what You say, instead of running away like Jonah. We want to follow You our whole lives. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.  
AUDIO -> Play high-energy music as the kids exit.  
SLIDE -> Theme  
Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop