

The Christ of Jonah

- AIM: 1) Study the life of Jonah
2) Identify the spiritual insights contained in Jonah
3) Discuss ways of God's mercy in the lives of the Ninevites and our lives

VERSE: I cried out to the Lord because of my afflictions and He answered me.
Jonah 2:2

References: The Book of Jonah "Open Bible"

Introduction:

Firstly – it is better for the Sunday School teacher to start by “Brainstorming” about the Book of Jonah to discover what the Girls/Boys know about that chapter in the old testament.

After doing that the servant can start by either:

- (a) Allowing the Boys/Girls to read the 4 chapters
- (b) Allowing the Boys/Girls to get them involved in a play [ie. Choose a personality for Jonah, another for God, another for the mariners, another for the King of Ninevah (give them time to read the chapter then perform the play).

Secondly: It is also suggested that [either after reading the Book of Jonah or after the students perform the play] for the Sunday School teacher to summarize the 4 chapters to reinforce the events and back up the students if they missed a point or another.

The following paragraphs can help as a summary line for the Book of Jonah.

{Paste here “THE BOOK OF JONAH”} article.

Last but not least it is essential to draw the attention towards : “The Christ of Jonah”

It is important to inform them that Jonah is the only prophet whom Jesus listened to Himself ..
But He answered and said to them “an evil and adultress generation looks after a sign, and a sign will be given to it ??? the sign is the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the giant fish, so will the Son of Man be 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Ninevah will rise in the Judgement with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here”.

{Put bible reference here}

So Jonah's experience is a type of death, burial, and Resurrection of Christ.

Finally, it is indispensable to talk about God's mercy and ask the students for other examples of God's mercy throughout the Old and New Testament starting from :

- (1) Saving Lot and his family
 - (2) Forgiving David despite his sin
 - (3) Forgiving Matthew, the adultress woman, St Peter, St Moses the Black.
- (You can come up with more examples).