



# WiggleWay

September

## Jonah Running

### Leader Focus – Getting Your Heart Prepared

Today the kids are going to learn about Jonah! Find a quiet moment before the children arrive, and ask God to work through you as you lead His children. Pray for enthusiasm and endurance as you lead today. Take some time during this series to journal on each day of creation.

### Open Play

35 Minutes

As the children arrive have their favorite centers (blocks, books, dolls, Little People, kitchen) open for the children to free play in as they arrive.

Welcome the children as they arrive and let them know how happy you are to see them. A smile goes a long way!

Encourage the children to play together and share toys. Children this age often parallel play, they play next to each other, but not with each other. Also, try to greet the parents and develop a first name basis with them.

### Large Group

10 Minutes

Have the children clean up the areas before you start your group time. Toddlers love to help, give them specific jobs when it is clean up time.

Have the children come sit on the carpet when the toys are put away.

### GATHERING

**God Loves You!** (*finger play*)

One, two (hold up pointer fingers)

This is true. (put hands together like a book)

God loves me. (point to self)

God loves you! (point to others)



### PRAYER

Let's talk to God. Talking to God is called praying.

"Dear God, thank you for sending us messengers like Jonah and Jesus. We love you!  
Amen."



### MYSTERY BOX

**(Items needed: Mystery box with a boat and big fish in it)**

I have two things in this box that will help us with our story today! (Leader will peek in the box and then give the clues. Be dramatic!)

1. One of these things helps you move on water.
2. The other object looks like Nemo!

Have the children guess and reveal the item. (Today I have a boat and big fish in my Mystery Box! Act out the story of Jonah with boat and fish as you read along)



### **STORY (Items needed: Jesus Storybook Bible)**

I have a boat and a fish in my Mystery Box today! Today our story is about a guy named Jonah. Jonah was a prophet of God which means God sent him to people to give them an important message! Jonah did not want to go where God was sending him though, so he tried to run away from God. Let's hear a story from our Bible.

Read pages 160-169 in the Jesus Storybook Bible.

Good listening! Jonah realized that he can't run from God. Like Jonah, God sent another Messenger later to give a message of Good News to the whole world!! Does anyone know who that Messenger is? (JESUS) Yes! Like Jonah, Jesus came to earth to give us a very important message that we are to share with everyone- that Jesus is God's Son and loves you and everyone very much! Jesus has rescued us from the bad that is in us and died and was buried for 3 days like Jonah in the big fish and then was raised to life that we may forever live with Him!

Let's stand up and dance for Jesus! When we sing and dance we are letting God know we love Him.

**Celebration**

**5 Minutes**



### **MUSIC**

**(Items needed: Reach Up High CD, Armor of God CD)**

Play some of the toddlers' favorite song, let them dance for Jesus!

**Activity/Project**

**5 Minutes**



### **Project: Jonah Color Sheet**

Have the toddlers color their Jonah color sheets. As they are working tell them what color they are using, praise their work, and remind them how much God loves them!

**Snack**

**5 Minutes**

The children may stay at the table for their Cheerios. As the children are enjoying their snack, remind them how much God loves them. When the children are finished with the Cheerios, have them throw away their cup and napkin. Thank them for being such great helpers!

As the children finish their snack and get ready to leave, have everyone help clean up. Encourage the children to clean up their messes and sing the clean up song to add some fun to it.