

# LESSON 17 | God IS Forgiving

**Bible Basis:** Jonah 1:1 – 3:10

**Bible Verse:** 1 John 1:9: “But God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure.”

**Bible Point:** God forgave Jonah and the people of Nineveh. God forgives me too.

**Resource:** *The Beginner’s Bible*

- “Jonah and the Big Fish” (pages 257 – 264)

## How to use This Page

This week, you can read the selected story listed above in *The Beginner’s Bible* several times to help your child remember it. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed as a drama to help your child remember the Bible lesson. The Extra Mile provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

### TABLE TALK

1. Why do you think Jonah disobeyed God the first time God told him to go to Nineveh? (*He didn’t like the people of Nineveh, and he didn’t think they deserved to be forgiven.*)
2. When was the last time you disobeyed God or your parents? Did you ask for forgiveness?
3. What do you think it was like for Jonah to live inside a fish for three days?
4. Why do you think God forgives us when we disobey? Why do you think God wants us to forgive others? (*Because God loves us and he wants what’s best for us. God knows that when we don’t forgive each other, it only hurts our own hearts. When we forgive others, we’re showing them God’s love. Forgiveness helps us to live at peace with one another.*)

### LIVING FAITH

Have your child act out the Bible story from this week as you read the story from *The Beginner’s Bible*. The story of Jonah has a great “lead” role for your child to take on! Have your child dress the

part by using a robe or an old towel with a hole cut in the middle to fit over the head. Use a rag or paper cutout for a beard. Your sofa can become a boat. Place some cushions or pillows below the sofa to represent water (Jonah will love being tossed into it!). To create a large fish, use the underside of a table draped in blankets or two laundry baskets to form its belly.

When you come to the place(s) in the story where a Bible character speaks, instruct your child what to say. You can also read the story aloud while your child acts it out. If possible, have your child perform the Bible drama for other family members in person, via Skype, or using a video camera.

### EXTRA MILE

- Play “Belly of the Fish” to challenge your child’s memory. Decorate a large bowl or container with craft eyes, paper, and anything else you can find to make it look like a fish. Place three or four different small objects inside the fish, and let your child look at them for several seconds. Close the container or turn the bowl upside down over the objects and ask your child to name what is inside. Repeat with different objects, adjusting the number so it is a fun challenge.
- Instill an attitude and habit of forgiveness in your child by making a “Forgiveness Board.” When your child has disobeyed or has been hurt by someone else, write the offense on a small dry-erase board or piece of laminated paper. When your child is ready, talk about the incident, what your child is feeling, and what God says about the situation. When your child decides to ask for forgiveness, or to grant forgiveness to someone