

Small Talk

AUGUST 2011

Memory Verse:

"God's way is perfect."
Psalm 18:30, Nlrv

Key Question:

Why should you do what God says?

Basic Truth:

God loves me.

Bottom Line:

God knows what's best for me.

BIBLE STORY SUMMARIES:

WEEK 1

Numbers 13-14

Moses sent 12 spies, including Joshua and Caleb to spy out the Promised Land. They came back with a good report but only Joshua and Caleb trusted God.

WEEK 2

Jonah 1:1-17

God told Jonah to take a message to Nineveh. Jonah told God no and got on a boat. He was running from God, but God knew he was on that boat.

WEEK 3

Jonah 1:17-3:3

God sent a storm to get Jonah's attention. Jonah was thrown into the sea. God sent a great fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah sat in the belly of the fish and prayed to God. The fish spit out Jonah onto dry land.

WEEK 4

Jonah 3:1-10

God made the great fish spit Jonah out onto dry land. God told Jonah again to go to Nineveh. Jonah obeyed God and took His message to Nineveh. The people of Nineveh repented and loved God.



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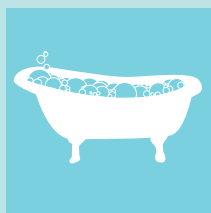
PLAY TIME

Play a game of "Which Is Best?" this month with your child. As you go about your day, ask your child, "Which Is Best?" in certain situations. Some examples: Which is best, sharing your toys or keeping them all to yourself? Which is best, helping daddy or letting him do it by himself? Look for as many "Which Is Best?" moments as you can this month. They're everywhere! After your child chooses the "best" choice, say the Bottom Line for the month with your child. **God knows what's best for me!**



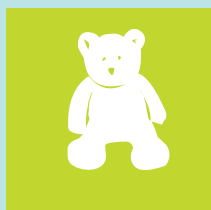
CAR TIME

Download this month's song, "Who Knows Best?" from www.AmberSkyRecords.com. Play the song several times, singing along with your preschooler. Encourage your child to say, "God knows what's best for me!" As you get in and out of the car and at random times during your outing, continue to ask your child, "Why should you do what God says? God knows what's best for me!"



BATH TIME

Bath time is a great time to review the story of Jonah. Grab a container that floats in water to be your boat and a small plastic action figure to be Jonah. Draw eyes on a plastic cup and use it for the BIG fish. Act out the story using the toys. First, God said GO and Jonah said NO. Jonah got on a boat and sailed away. Next, God sent a storm to get Jonah's attention. Jonah was thrown into the water! God sent a BIG fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah prayed to God from inside the fish and said he's sorry. The fish spit out Jonah and this time, when God said GO, Jonah said YES, SIR! Jonah took God's message to Nineveh.



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child and pray with him. "Dear God, it makes me feel SO good inside that you know what's best for me and (name of child) and (name other family members). Help us to always do what you say. We love You, God. Thank You for loving us and always watching out for us. Amen."

IMAGINE THE END:

Your child is learning daily the difference between a good choice and a bad choice. It's the perfect time to point him to the BEST choice. The best choice will always be doing what God says. Choices will be a part of your child's life forever. Right now, you are there to help him make the best choices, but that won't always be the case. The day will come sooner than you want it to when your child will be at school, on the playground, considering a purchase, on a date—YIKES! And no, you will not be there to help him make the best choice, but God will. We want your preschooler to know that he should do what God says, because God knows what's best for him. And we want you to have the peace of knowing that your child is seeking to obey God. Yes, that is an "Imagine the End" that should give every parent a little sigh of relief.

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

Okay, parents. Let's admit it. We've all been a "Jonah" at some point in our lives. God said (fill in the blank) and we said no. Maybe that's where you are right now. You're in the middle of running. Maybe you just surrendered and you're tired of running—and the consequences that come from running. Or, maybe you're on the other side of an obedient choice and you are SO glad you did what God said, even though you did not want to do it. Wherever you are today, there's good news. God loves you. Boy, does He love you. And not only does God know what's best for you, He wants what's best for you. It's never too late to stop running and tell God yes. There will never be a better example of obedience to God, for your child to follow, than you.

