



SMALL GROUP GUIDE [MS] | CHILD [NOV. 9]

SCRIPTURE | Jonah 1 - 4

BOTTOM LINE

We are all children of God.

MEMORY VERSE

I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. Jonah 4:2

LIFE APP

Look through Jesus' eyes to see each other more clearly.



- Tonight the kids will be challenged to see each other through Jesus' eyes. When we do that we will see each other as children of God.
- The kids will be challenged to maintain a simple spiritual practice of covering their eyes and then saying "God, help me see X as your child."

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT |



Jonah was called by God to go to a people to preach a message of forgiveness to His children in Nineveh. The trouble was that Jonah hated these people and he was angry because he knew that God would forgive them. The truth is that God calls us to serve and love a lot of people we don't like. Yet, God calls us to see everyone-including ourselves-as His children. That is easier said than done, so we need some help. When our vision gets blurry, we can turn to Jesus as our "corrective lens" to look through to get a clearer picture of people. When we do that, enemies and people far from us become brothers, and the family of God grows bigger and more connected.

JUST FOR FUN

- See Just For Fun page.



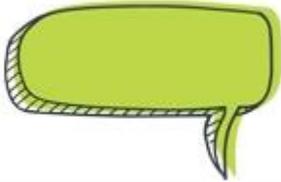
"Like Jonah, God calls you to love your neighbor even when you don't like them. What broken relationships do you sense God leading you to these days?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who are the people that God calls Jonah to go to? What does God ask Jonah to do while he is there? (Ninevites, ask them to repent)
- Why is Jonah upset about going to Nineveh? Why is Jonah upset with God? (He sees them as enemies. His nation and Nineveh fight each other in battle. He knows God will have compassion for them.)
- Who are the Ninevites in your life? Who has God called you to love that you choose to ignore or hate?
- Jonah took a boat away from God's call. How do you avoid doing what God wants you to do?
- What happened when the Ninevites heard what Jonah had to say? (They turned towards God and changed how they lived.)
- Do you think that people could have a change of heart if you went to them to show them God's love?
- What are some of the labels and layers that get thrown on us that keep others from seeing us the way that God does? What does it mean to you to be considered a "child of God" no matter what anyone else says?
- What do you think would happen if we really treated people like they were that valuable? Would it change anything for you, personally?



When we are baptized, the pastor makes the sign of the cross on our foreheads and says these words: You are a child of God, marked with the cross of Christ, and sealed by the Holy Spirit forever. That means that no matter what labels people put on you or how they see you, God, the one who put breath in your lungs, sees you as His child. On your phone, find a picture of yourself and add a filter of your choice. If you want, you can then add the text “child” somewhere on the picture to remind you of who you are.



EXTRAS
