A second time

Everything you need to share Jonah and the Big Fish at home this week: a few minutes for you, a few minutes with your kids, and simple ways to keep the story going at the table, in the car and at bedtime.

Read Jonah 1–3 (and chapter 4, if you have time) before the kids wake up, or during nap time. (Jonah 1–3)

Jonah didn't run because he didn't know God. He ran because he did: he knew God was gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love (4:2), and he didn't want that love going to his enemies.

God could have let Jonah sink. Instead He appointed a fish. What looked like the worst moment of Jonah's life was God's rescue, and inside it Jonah finally prayed.

Then come some of the kindest words in the Bible: the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time (3:1). Not a lecture. A second chance.

You will need a lot of second chances as a parent, and so will your kids. Let them see you receive God's mercy, and let them feel it from you when they come back after running.

REFLECT

Where have you been running from something God asked? Who in your home needs a second chance from you this week?

PRAY

Lord, you are slow to anger and abounding in love. Thank you for second chances. Help me give them freely, the way you give them to me. Amen.

Little Lantern

THIS WEEK WE'RE LEARNING



Jonah and the Big Fish

Jonah 1–3

God gives me a second chance.

"Salvation is from the LORD!" Jonah 2:9

ASK AT DINNER

When has God given our family a second chance?

PRAY

God, thank you for second chances. Help us obey you and forgive others. Amen.

✂ Cut here. One card for the fridge, one for the car.

Little Lantern

CAR-RIDE CARD



On the way

Jonah and the Big Fish · Jonah 1–3

Listen: Play the Listen version of Jonah and the Big Fish on the way.

ASK

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go?
2. What did God send to save Jonah?
3. When do we need a second chance?

"Salvation is from the LORD!" Jonah 2:9

Keep the story going

BEDTIME ROUTINE

Lantern-out in five steps



1. Lights low. Play the Listen version of Jonah and the Big Fish (Little for ages 3–5, Big Kid for 6–9), or read it from the app.
2. Ask one question: “Was there a time today you needed a do-over?”
3. Say the verse together with the motions: “Salvation is from the LORD!”
4. Pray: “God, thank you for forgiving me and giving me second chances. Amen.”
5. Lights out. You can say: “God is with you, even in the dark.”

KITCHEN

Fish crackers

Hide one ‘Jonah’ (a cheese cube or raisin) under a pile of fish crackers. Count three days, then find him!

LIVING ROOM

Blanket fish

Make a big fish from a blanket over chairs. Kids climb inside, pray like Jonah, then get ‘spat out’ onto the couch.

BATHROOM

Bath-time storm

Toss a toy ‘Jonah’ overboard from a floating container ship and let a toy fish ‘swallow’ him.

IN THE CAR

Car-ride story

Play the Listen version, then ask: “Why did Jonah run?” and “What did God give him?”

SIBLINGS

Two ages at once

The older child reads Jonah 3:1 and the little one acts out Jonah finally going to Nineveh.

JONAH AND THE BIG FISH · STICKER CHART

My second-chance week

Each day, do a quick ‘yes, God’ or give someone a second chance. Add a sticker or color a fish!

Monday	Idea: Obey the first time I’m asked	
Tuesday	Idea: Say sorry when I’m wrong	
Wednesday	Idea: Forgive a brother, sister or friend	
Thursday	Idea: Try again when something is hard	
Friday	Idea: Pray for someone who is unkind	
Saturday	Idea: Help without complaining	
Sunday	Idea: Thank God for forgiving me	

“Salvation is from the LORD!”

Jonah 2:9

JONAH AND THE BIG FISH · MINI-BOOK

Make a mini-book

Print the next page on one sheet (landscape, actual size). One sheet folds into an 8-page book kids can “read” to siblings and grandparents.

STEP 1

Fold

Fold the sheet in half the long way, then in half twice more the short way, so you have 8 little panels. Unfold.

STEP 2

Cut

Fold it in half the short way again. Cut along the middle crease from the fold to the center, just one panel deep.

STEP 3

Open

Unfold. Fold the long way again and push the ends together so the cut opens into a diamond.

STEP 4

Flatten

Keep pushing until it flattens into a little book. The cover is on the front. Read it together!

Jonah and the Big Fish

This book belongs to _____

Jonah lived in a little house on a hill.

Jonah went down inside the ship and fell fast asleep.

Jonah knew why the storm had come.

Down, down, down went Jonah.

“Salvation is from the LORD!”

Jonah 2:9

God gives me a second chance.

Jonah walked into Nineveh and told everyone, "Stop being mean!

Then God told the fish to swim to the shore.

JONAH AND THE BIG FISH · TRACING PAGE

Trace the big idea

Trace the letters with a crayon or pencil. Then say it out loud!

GOD GIVES

ME A SECOND

CHANCE.



God gives me a second chance.

Three days in the fish



Jonah was inside the big fish for three days. Roll a ball for each day and put one on each circle. On day three, the fish spits Jonah out!

1 2 3

“Salvation is from the LORD!” Jonah 2:9