



TELL

- So as a way to demonstrate Jonah's bad behavior, we're going to play a game called "God says/Jonah does."
- This game will be sort of like Simon says. I'll start out as God (watch out!) and I'll tell you to do something.
- Then, like Jonah, you have to do the OPPOSITE of what I say! Whaddya think? Think you can do it? If you don't do the opposite, then you're out for being TOO OBEDIENT! Just kidding. You can keep playing.

DO the "God says/Jonah does" game

- God says "Stand Up" (the kids should all be seated or lying down)
- God says "Sit down" (the kids should stand up)
- God says "Take a step forward" (the kids should take a step backward)
- God says "Take a step backward"
- God says "Walk towards the door"
- God says "yell"
- God says "whisper" Etc.

If the kids are enjoying the game, let them take turns being God. But not for too long. Always leave them wanting to do more of the activity.

ASK

- How did it feel to do the opposite of what you were told to do?
- Bonus Question! Why do you think Jonah did not want to do what God told him? (the people in Nineveh were Israel's enemies. They might have killed him. – This is not mentioned in the story that is read to the class)
- After the large fish spit Jonah out onto the beach, what did God tell Jonah to do? (Chapter 3 verse 2: The exact same thing – go to Nineveh and tell them God's word).

- Why do you think God would ask Jonah to do the same thing after Jonah had been so disobedient? (God's giving Jonah a second chance).
- Does God give anyone else a second chance in this story? (Yes, the people of Nineveh.)

TELL

- We're going to now play a game of second chances.
- We're going to play a game of freeze tag.
- One person will be IT and another person will be NOT IT.
- The IT person tries to tag everyone else (but can't tag NOT IT). If you get tagged, then you're frozen.
- After you are frozen and the NOT-IT person then tags you then you are no longer frozen.
- If the IT person can get everyone frozen before NOT IT can unfreeze just one person, then IT wins.
- The NOT-IT person helps you have a second chance.
- We'll play for a little bit and then switch who is IT and NOT IT.

DO Freeze Tag

ASK

- Why do you think God gave the people in Nineveh a second chance? (because that's who God is)
- Do you get do-overs at home, school, or in sports?
- God forgave the people of Nineveh. How many times will God forgive us? (as many as it takes)
- Does anyone play piano or sports? Do you have to practice to get things right? Sometimes we need a chance to do things again and again to learn the right way to do them, don't we?

TELL

- We're going to play a game now where we'll have to practice to get better at it.
- We're going to practice throwing Jonah into the mouth of the large fish.
- The large fish is this cut up milk gallon jug. (if you have extra time, pass out markers to the kids to draw eyes and more teeth on the large fish milk jugs)
- Jonah are these bean bags/hackey sacks.
- Choose a partner.
- One of you gets the large fish (cut up milk jug). The other gets a couple of Jonahs.
- Stand about 10 feet apart and by throwing underhand, try to get Jonah into the large fish.
- See how many you can get in a row.
- In a few minutes, we'll switch roles.

DO Jonah Catch Activity

DISMISS FOR SINGING

Suggested Variations for age groups

None.