



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

September 29, 2019

What We're Learning This Week

“JONAH AND THE PROPHET” JONAH

God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. Later, God sent Jesus to His enemies to call us to repentance. Jesus willingly obeyed. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.

Questions to Ask, Conversation Starters, and Helping to Apply The Truths to Our Kids' Lives

Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!

BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

- Continue conversations as a family regarding the lesson from last Sunday, where we learned that God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant so he could see God's protection. God is always with us. Jesus came to earth as the visible image of our invisible God. God's protection from sin and death is given to everyone who trusts in Jesus. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through Jonah. Pray and ask God to reveal Himself to you + for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week.

AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
 1. God called Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell them to stop doing evil things. Jonah didn't want to go, so he got on a boat, hid, and ran away. God sent terrible storms and when the sailors found him, he told them to throw him into the sea, where he was swallowed by a big fish that brought him to Nineveh.

- Why was Jonah fleeing in the first place/why did he not want to do what God had called him to? Are there times where you feel inclined to do the same?
 - How did Jonah respond when he was swallowed by the fish? When God revealed to Jonah his sin and error, how did it change His perspective of God and his perspective of responding to God's calling?
 - Why didn't Jonah want to share God's warning with Nineveh, and why did he eventually do it? How does that shape what we know about how God views people we may view as "enemies"? How does it impact how we should think of other people, even those we disagree with?
2. While he is best known as the man who was swallowed by a big fish when he tried to run away from God, his story continues beyond chapter 2 to reveal what Jonah knew all along: God is "a gracious and compassionate God" (Jonah 4:2). Jonah's account centers around the compassion of God, not only for the people of Israel but for people throughout the earth—even Israel's worst enemies!
- Why is it hard to love people who are unkind or unloving to us? How does that help you understand what Jesus did for us?
 - Is there anyone too sinful for God to forgive?

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Praise God for His compassion and forgiveness, ask Him to reveal any bitterness you may have towards others, and ask Him to remind you of how deeply we have been forgiven by God as we seek to love others.
- Ask each member of your family - adults included - to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.
- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship through modeling/action

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

Our Memory Verse for This Unit

OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED “ELIJAH AND ELISHA”) IS ISAIAH 42:8

- *For our older kids we are doing the full verse:*
 - "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."
- *For our younger kids we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:*
 - "I am the LORD...my glory I give to no other."

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God's Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

What's Coming Up?

- Stay connected by joining the [RLA Kids page on RLA Connect](#)
- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word "Kids" to 323.859.1122. It really helps in preparing for Sunday and the rest of the week!

We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email kids@realityla.com at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well.