



10 MINUTES

**BIBLE STORY**

God knows what is best for everyone.

**JONAH**  
**JONAH 1:1-3:10**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"God . . . knows everything."

**1 JOHN 3:20, NIV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who knows what's best for you?

**BOTTOM LINE**

God knows what's best for me.

**BASIC TRUTH**

God loves me.

**LARGE GROUP**

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**WORSHIP**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "God's Way," included in your monthly files; and "Just The Way I Am," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; Optional Dance Moves Video for "God's Way," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "Just The Way I Am," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

*Worship Leader enters.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hey, everybody! My name is [your name], and I'm SO excited to see you today! When I ask, '**Who knows what's best for you?**', I want you to say, '**God knows what's best for me!** **Who knows what's best for you?**'"

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "**God knows what's best for me!**"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "You've got it! Let's sing together.

*Lead children in singing, "God's Way," this month's worship song.*

"God's ways are better than all the rest! And the Bible teaches us that 'God . . . (hold open palm with thumb to forehead and pull down) knows (touch head with fingertips) everything (spread arms out);' 1 John 3:20. (Open hands like a book.) Let's say our memory verse together.

*Lead children to say the memory verse with the motions.*

"Great job! God knows what's best for us because God knows everything! And God loves us just the way we are. Sing this with me.

*Lead children in singing, "Just the Way I Am."*

"Great singing! Tell me, **who knows what's best for you?**"

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "**God knows what's best for me!**"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Yes, **God knows what's best for me.** Thanks for worshipping with me today, friends. **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

*Host enters as Worship Leader exits.*



WEEK  
**THREE**  
SEPTEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
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## INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Backpack

*Host enters, wearing the backpack.*

**HOST:** "Hello, friends! I'm [your name]. I'm going to my auntie's house. I'm all packed and ready to go. But I was thinking, wouldn't it be more fun if we went on a safari in the jungle? We would see monkeys! Make a monkey sound with me. (*Lead children to make monkey sounds.*)

"Oh, that was SO fun! That would be so awesome to see monkeys swinging in the trees. OR, I know! We could go swimming in the ocean! Pretend to swim with me.

*Lead children to pretend to swim.*

"Or we could go to Antarctica where it is SO COLD! We can waddle with penguins. Stand up and waddle like a penguin with me!

*Lead children to waddle like a penguin.*

"There are so many places we could go! (*not too sad or frustrated*) But I'm supposed to go to my auntie's house. In our Bible story today, there is someone who wants to go somewhere else, too! And I can't wait for you to hear it! I'll be back soon."

*Storyteller enters as Host exits with backpack.*

## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Red poster board, thick black marker, painter's tape, scissors, inflatable boat, and Bible; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

**WHAT YOU DO:** Cut a large heart out of the poster board. Draw buildings across the heart to represent a city. Tape the heart to a wall on one side of your storytelling area. Set the boat on the other side of your storytelling area.

*Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, everyone! I'm [your name], and I'm so excited to tell you a true story from the Bible.

*Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.*

"If you're ready to hear the story, on the count of three yell, 'Tell me a story!' Ready? One, two, three!"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Tell me a story!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Today's true story from the Bible begins with a man named Jonah. What was his name?"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Jonah!"



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**STORYTELLER:** "Yes!

*Prop up the boat or have volunteers hold it up.*

"God had a special job for Jonah.

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)*

"God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh (*point to the heart*) to tell the people who lived there to do what God says and love one another. Where did God tell Jonah to go?"

*Walk over and point to the sign.*

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Nineveh."

**STORYTELLER:** "Yes! Nineveh is **THAT** way. (*Point to the heart.*) But Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh. Jonah had a choice to make. Should Jonah do what God says and go to Nineveh? Or should he run away and get on a boat? (*Walk to the boat.*) What do you think? (*Pause.*)

"Well, Jonah got on a boat!

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)*

"He ran away. Jonah didn't do what God said. Everyone, say, 'Oh, no, Jonah!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Oh, no, Jonah!"

**STORYTELLER:** "God loved Jonah and knew what was best for him and the people in Nineveh. So, God sent a big storm while Jonah was on the boat. Let's make a storm! Everyone pat your legs to make the sound of raindrops. (*Demonstrate.*) Good!

"Now faster. (*Demonstrate.*) It rained harder and harder. Now wave your arms to make the wind. The boat moved this way and that way! Everyone on the boat was scared! Okay, you can put your arms down now.

"Jonah knew that God sent the storm for him, so he wanted to get off the boat to keep the other people safe. Jonah told the men to help him get in the water and the storm would stop.

"While Jonah was in the water, God sent a big fish to swallow him!

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)*

"Jonah was safe inside the fish's big belly. But inside of a fish's belly is NOT where Jonah wanted to be. Jonah chose to pray and talk to God. (*Make prayer hands.*)

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 04)*

"Jonah told God he was sorry and that he would do what God said because God knows what's best. Everyone, say, 'Yay



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for Jonah!"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Yay for Jonah!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Three days went by. Let's count them. (*Hold up fingers as you count.*) One day, two days, three! Then God made the fish spit Jonah out on the beach. Everyone, say, 'WHOA!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "WHOA!"

*Stand between the heart and the boat.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Then God told Jonah again, 'Go to Nineveh!' What do you think Jonah did? Did he go THAT way to Nineveh? (*Point to the heart poster.*) Or did he stay on the beach? (*Point to the other side.*)"

*Walk to the heart.*

"Yes! Jonah did what God said and went to Nineveh.

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 05)*

"And it was amazing! The people in Nineveh believed in God, and they ALL chose to do what God said because God knows what's best.

"God knew what was best for Jonah. God knew what was best for the people in Nineveh. And God knows what's best for us, too. **Who knows what's best for you?**"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "God knows what's best for me!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Yes, **God knows what's best for me.** [Transition] Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

## PRAYER

**STORYTELLER:** "God, thank You for loving us and ALWAYS knowing what's best. Help us listen and follow You. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

"Great listening, friends! See you next time."

*Host enters wearing backpack as Storyteller exits with Bible.*



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## OUTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Backpack from Intro Sketch

*Host enters, wearing the backpack.*

**HOST:** "Wow! Jonah didn't go God's way at first, but he learned that **God knows what's best for me!**

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "Got it!"

**HOST:** (*Give two thumbs up.*) "Good! Going to my auntie's house is the best way to go today. I don't want to miss out on my auntie's apple pie. And I could tell my cousins the story of Jonah, so they know God's way is the best for them, too! **[Transition]** And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

*Host dismisses small groups and exits.*