

Elijah And The Ravens

1 Kings 17

Main Point - God always keeps his promises.

Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide dress up clothes (i.e. chef hats and aprons) and props (i.e. toy kitchen, plastic food, plastic cooking utensils, cups, plates...) for the children to pretend to be cooks.
- Puppets - set up a puppet theatre and provide bird puppets for the children to play with.
- Dress ups - provide King and Queen dress ups. Make the following point as you play with the children: *In today's story, we meet a King and Queen who do not follow the one true God.*

The Birds

Need:

- birds folded from paper (patterns available on the internet)
- valley (can be created from foam blocks)

Instructions:

- Hand children (only a few children at a time) paper birds to throw and see if they can land in the valley.

Conclusion:

- *God used birds to feed a man.*
- *In fact if the birds hadn't brought him food, the man would have died.*
- *The man's name was Elijah.*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *Elijah and the Ravens* (page 5) and the following props:

- plastic figures (Elijah, Ahab)
- birds (can be origami or pipe cleaner birds)
- yellow fabric for the desert
- foam or wooden blocks to shape a valley
- strip of blue material for the creek

Option 2

Read the stories about Elijah being fed by the birds from a good children's Bible (e.g. *The Beginners Bible*, by Karyn Henley, © 1989, Gold 'n Honey Books, "Food From Birds")

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- foam or wooden blocks (to create King's palace, then the valley)

Seat children in a circle with the blocks to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story, and as they do, create the King's palace, then the valley where Elijah ran to hide.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Elijah went to the King. What did Elijah tell King Ahab?*
(God promised that no rain would come)
- *God made lots of promises to Elijah. Let's see how many we can remember?*
(God promised there'd be no rain, he promised Elijah that birds would feed him and the creek would give him water)

- *Did it rain?*
(no, it didn't rain, just as God said)
- *Elijah went to the creek. Show me how God gave him food there?*
(children pretend to be the birds with meat and bread)

Conclusion:

- *God promised it would not rain and it didn't.*
- *God promised to send birds to feed Elijah and the birds came.*
- *God promised water from a creek and the water was always there.*
- *God kept all his promises to Elijah so long ago.*
- *God keeps all his promises to us today.*
- *God keeps every promise he makes.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you that you kept – every promise you made – to Elijah. – Thank you that you keep – every promise you make. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to say thank you to God for always keeping his promises.

Craft Activities

- Birds - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of the side on view of a bird (no wings). Copy and cut one per child on cardboard. Cut out bird shapes and cut along the line indicated for the wing. Fold a rectangular piece of coloured paper as you would a fan (i.e. concertina fashion). Push the concertina paper through the slit to make the wings. Provide feathers and wood glue for the children to decorate the bird.
- Elijah - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of Elijah sitting beside a creek and the title, *God promised to feed Elijah. God showed Elijah*

where to find water and God sent the birds to bring him food.
1 Kings 17 Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide blue cellophane to decorate the creek, scrunched brown paper for the ground around the creek, birds (leaders either cut birds by hand or cut by using a bird shaped craft punch) and crayons to colour in Elijah.

Elijah And The Ravens

1 Kings 17

Elijah was chosen by God to do a special job.
God would talk to Elijah and Elijah would tell the people what God said.

He was God's messenger.

One day, God sent Elijah to speak to the King, King Ahab.

Now King Ahab did not love God.

Instead he followed pretend gods.

God was very angry with King Ahab.

Elijah told King Ahab God's message.

There would be no rain until God decided to send rain.

No rain!

No rain meant the plants would die.

No rain meant the animals would die.

The people would have no food!

And it happened just as God said.

There was no rain.

King Ahab was not happy with Elijah.

Then God told Elijah to go and hide in the desert.

God promised to give Elijah water from a creek.

God promised that birds would bring him food.

And it happened just as God said.

Elijah went into the desert and he came to a valley.

Every morning birds brought Elijah bread and meat.

Every evening Elijah drank water from the creek.

Days went by and still it did not rain, just as God had promised.

And every day the birds came and fed Elijah just like God had promised.

Conclusion:

God promised the rain would not come.

God promised the birds would feed Elijah.

God promised there'd be water in the creek.

And that's exactly what happened!

God makes promises and God keeps promises.

In fact every promise God makes, he keeps.

Elijah And The Widow

1 Kings 17

Main Point - God always keeps his promises.

Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide dress up clothes (i.e. chef hats and aprons) and props (i.e. toy kitchen, plastic food, plastic cooking utensils, cups, plates...) for the children to pretend to be cooks.
- Puppets - set up a puppet theatre and provide bird puppets for the children to play with.
- Dolls house - provide a doll's house complete with furniture and people for the children to play with.
- Dough - make dough with the children (flour, oil, salt and water). **All children are to wash their hands before beginning this activity. Leaders are to wash hands or use food preparation gloves.** Surfaces are to be covered with disposable plastic tablecloths. Provide rolling pins and blunt plastic knives for the children to use as they roll and knead the dough. Send the dough home on individual paper plates covered with kitchen plastic wrap. **Warning: even though the aim is not to eat the dough, check for food allergies before beginning this activity.**

The Birds (repeat)

Need:

- birds folded from paper (patterns available on the internet)
- valley (can be created from foam blocks)

Instructions:

- Hand children (only a few children at a time) paper birds to throw and see if they can land in the valley.

Conclusion:

- *Last week we heard how God sent birds to feed a man.*
- *In fact if the birds hadn't brought him food, the man would*

have died.

- *Can anyone remember his name?*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *Elijah and the Widow* (page 10) and the following props:

- plastic figures (Elijah, Ahab, widow, son)
- birds (can be origami or pipe cleaner birds)
- yellow fabric for the desert
- foam or wooden blocks to shape a valley
- strip of blue material for the creek
- doll's house furniture, jug, bowl

Option 2

Read the stories about Elijah being fed by the birds and the widow from a good children's Bible (e.g. *The Beginners Bible*, by Karyn Henley, © 1989, Gold 'n Honey Books, "Food From Birds" and "A Jar and a Jug")

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- foam or wooden blocks (to create King's palace, then the valley, then the town where the widow lived)

Seat children in a circle with the blocks to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story, and as they do, create the King's palace, then the valley where Elijah ran to hide and

finally the town where the widow lived.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *God made lots of promises to Elijah. Let's see how many we can remember?*
(God promised there'd be no rain, he promised Elijah that birds would feed him and the creek would give him water, he promised that a widow would feed him from her jar and jug)
- *Did it rain?*
(no, it didn't rain, just like God said)
- *Elijah went to the creek. Show me how God gave him food there?*
(children pretend to be the birds with meat and bread)
- *God then sent Elijah to the widow's house. The woman only had a little bit of flour and a little bit of oil to make bread. How was she able to keep feeding Elijah, her son and herself?*
(God made the flour and oil never run out)

Conclusion:

- *Last week we heard that God promised it would not rain and it didn't.*
- *God promised to send birds to feed Elijah and the birds came.*
- *This week, God promised the widow would have food for him and she did.*
- *The flour and oil never ran out.*
- *God kept all his promises to Elijah so long ago.*
- *God keeps all his promises to us today.*
- *God keeps every promise he makes.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you that you kept – every promise you made – to Elijah. – Thank you that you keep – every promise you make – to us. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to say thank you to God for always keeping his promises.

Craft Activities

- Jar and Jug - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a jar and a jug and the title, *God said, "The flour and the oil will not run out until the rain comes." And that's exactly what happened. God always keeps his promise. 1 Kings 17* Copy one per child on coloured A4 paper. Provide children with yellow and white circles of paper (made by a hole punch) for the oil (yellow) and the flour (white).
- Widow - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of the widow and the title, *God promised that the widow's flour and the oil would not run out until the rain comes. And that's exactly what happened. God always keeps his promise. 1 Kings 17* Copy one per child on A4 paper. Provide collage material for the children to decorate the woman.

Elijah And The Widow

1 Kings 17

Last week we learnt that Elijah was chosen by God to do a special job.

He was God's messenger.

God sent Elijah to tell King Ahab that there would be no more rain.

And so the rain stopped.

No rain meant the plants would die.

No rain meant the animals would die.

Then the people would have no food!

And it happened just as God said.

Then God told Elijah to go and hide in the desert.

God promised to give Elijah water from a creek.

God promised that birds would bring him food.

And it happened just as God said.

Elijah went into the desert and he came to a valley.

Every morning birds brought Elijah bread and meat.

Every evening Elijah drank water from the creek.

After a while, God told Elijah to go to a town.

There he would find a widow who would give him food and water.

So Elijah went to the town and found the lady just as God said.

She was picking up sticks.

He asked her for some water and bread.

The woman looked sad.

She didn't have any bread, just a tiny bit of flour and oil.

She was just about to make one last loaf of bread for herself and her son.

After that they would starve to death.

But Elijah said that God would take care of them.

The jug of oil and the jar of flour would not run dry until rain fell on the land.

God kept his promise.

The woman's flour and oil didn't run out.

There was enough food for them all, just as God had said.

Conclusion:

The rain would not come, the birds would feed Elijah and the flour and oil would not run out.

God makes promises and God keeps promises.

In fact every promise God makes, he keeps.

The One And Only God

1 Kings 18:16-40

Main Point - There is only one true God.

Play Activities

- Felt boards - provide the children with mini felt boards and appropriate felt pieces of things that are mentioned in today's story about Elijah (i.e. mountain, rectangle bricks to make an altar, water, people, firewood, fire, cows...).
- Imaginary play - provide blocks or shoeboxes for the children to build tall structures. Make the following point as you play with the children: *People used to put one brick on top of another then cook a cow or sheep on top of that to say either sorry or thank you to God.*
- Animals - provide farm animals (include lots of cows) for the children to play with. Make the following point as you play with the children: *People used to cook a cow or sheep to say either sorry or thank you to God. We don't do that anymore. We say thank you by loving and following Jesus.*
- Dress ups - provide dress up clothes/props for the children to pretend to be someone else. Make the following point as you play with the children: *Pretending is fun but we must never pretend with God. We must follow the one true God, not a pretend god.*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

Let's Pretend

Ask children to pretend to be a lion, a kitten, flowers, asleep, etc. As the children play, the leader reacts in fear when they are lions, with smiles when they are kittens, etc.

Conclusion:

- *You are all very good at pretending.*
- *It was silly of me to be frightened of you when you were only pretending to be lions.*
- *Pretending is a fun game.*
- *But when people pretend about God they get into a lot of trouble.*
- *Let's hear about some people who followed pretend gods and not the one true God.*

Story Time**Option 1**

Use the script titled, *The One And Only God* (pages 15-16) and the following series of chalk drawings to retell 1 Kings 18:

Picture 1: Elijah, King Ahab

Picture 2: Baal prophets, add cow on altar

Picture 3: Elijah, cow on altar, add water, add fire

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The One And Only God* (pages 15-16) and the following props to retell 1 Kings 18:

- figurines (Elijah, Ahab and the Baal Prophets, can be homemade)
- mountain made from blocks
- small wooden or foam blocks for two altars
- matchsticks for wood
- plastic cow for sacrifice
- red cellophane or material for fire
- water jug

Option 3

Read the story of Elijah and the Baal prophets from a good children's Bible, (e.g. *The Beginners Bible*, by Karyn Henley, © 1989, Honey and Gold Books)

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- foam blocks to make two altars
- two cows
- blue cellophane cut into strips for water
- red cellophane cut into strips for fire

Seat children in a circle with the props to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story, handing them the appropriate props at the appropriate time to place in the middle to build up a picture of the story.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *In our story today there was a pretend god. Do you know what the pretend god's name was?*
(Baal)
- *Elijah said Baal was only a pretend god. What couldn't Baal do?*
(he couldn't hear them, he couldn't send fire, he wasn't the real God)
- *There is only one true God. What did the one true God send?*
(fire; fire so hot it burnt up the water, the animal and the stones)

Conclusion:

- *There are many pretend gods.*
- *But they cannot hear you.*
- *They cannot answer you.*
- *They cannot save you.*
- *They are only pretend.*
- *There is only one true God.*
- *And he is the Father of Jesus.*
- *Let's pray to the one true God.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you that – you are not a pretend God. – Thank you that you are real. – Thank you that – you heard Elijah's prayer – and sent the fire. – Help us to follow only you. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Remind the children that they can talk to the one true God who hears them and is powerful.

Craft Activities

- Altar - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of an altar with the title, *There is only one true God. He answered Elijah. He sent fire. 1 Kings 18* Copy one per child on A4 cardboard. Provide craft paddle pop sticks for the children to glue on the altar, craft matchsticks for them to glue on the top of the altar to make the firewood, red and yellow cellophane to glue on top of that to make the fire and blue cellophane around the bottom of the altar to make the water.
- Number 1 - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of the number one with the title, *There is only one true God. 1 Kings 18* Copy one per child. Provide collage materials (coloured crepe paper, cellophane, doilies, mini patty pans, confetti/glitter) for the children to decorate the number one.
- Cow - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil titled, *There are many pretend gods but there is only one true God. And the one true God sent fire from heaven. 1 Kings 18* Copy one per child on A4 paper. Provide collage material to decorate the cow.

The One And Only God

1 Kings 18:16-40

A long time ago there lived a King named Ahab.
King Ahab was a bad King.
He loved a pretend god named Baal.
God was angry with King Ahab.
So God sent his messenger, Elijah to King Ahab.
Elijah said, "Let's see who is the one true God."
So Elijah, King Ahab, all of Baal's messengers and all the people of Israel walked up the mountain.
When they reached the top they stopped.
Then Elijah called to the people, "There is only one true God. Let us see who is the one true God."
And all the people of Israel agreed.
So the messengers of Baal put a cow on top of a pile of rocks.
They cried out to their pretend god Baal, "Baal, send fire. Baal, send fire."
(pause)
Nothing happened!
So the messengers of Baal cried out again, "Baal, send fire. Baal, send fire."
Nothing happened.
So the messengers of Baal cried out again, "Baal, send fire. Baal, send fire."
Still nothing happened.
So Elijah said, "Shout louder. Maybe Baal is too busy. Maybe Baal is on holidays. Or maybe Baal has gone to sleep. Shout louder!"
So the messengers of Baal shouted louder, "Baal, send fire!"
And louder, "Baal, send fire!" and louder, "Baal, send fire!"
(pause)
But there was no fire.
There was no answer.
There was no one there.
(pause)
Then Elijah stepped forward.
He also put a cow on top of a pile of rocks.
Elijah then told two helpers to fill large water jars and pour water all over the animal, all over the wood and all over the rocks.
Everything got wet!
Then Elijah told them to do it again.
Then Elijah told them to do it again.

Everything got very, very wet.
The stones, the wood and the cow all got very wet.
Then Elijah prayed, "God, let everyone here know that you alone are God."
Suddenly fire fell from heaven.
The fire was red hot.
The fire burnt up the cow, the fire burnt up the rocks, and the fire burnt up the water!
Nothing was left.
Everything was burnt up.
When the people of Israel saw what God had done they cried out, "Elijah's God is God. There is only one true God."

Conclusion:
A pretend god is not real.
A pretend god can't hear, or see, or speak or do anything.
It's just pretend.
Children, we must never pretend about God.
There is only one true God.
And we must follow him.

Esther

Esther 3-7

Main Point - One person is willing to die so that all God's people are saved.

Imaginary Play

- Imaginary play - provide dress up clothes (i.e. chef hats and aprons) and props (i.e. toy kitchen, plastic food, plastic cooking utensils, cups, plates...) for the children to pretend to be cooks.
- Palace - provide blocks for the children to create a palace and some figurines to be the King and Queen in the palace.
- Dress ups - provide King and Queen dress up clothes. Make the following point as you play with the children: *In today's story, we meet a King and Queen who do not follow the one true God.*

Memory Game

Need:

- collection of objects mentioned in the story: crown, sceptre, goblet, food.

Instructions:

- Tell the children that each of the above objects is part of today's story.
- Discuss each object, (i.e. what they think it is).
- Ask the children to close their eyes.
- Remove an object (put it behind your back).
- Ask the children to look and see if they can remember which object is missing.
- The child who guesses correctly gets to hide the next object.
- Play until all children have had a turn at hiding an object.

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *Esther* (pages 21-22) as a guide and the following props:

- doll's house for the palace
- King, Queen, Haman, Mordecai figurines
- doll's house furniture: table set with food
- sceptre (can be made from a pipe cleaner)

Option 2

Use the script titled, *Esther* (pages 21-22) as a guide and the following chalk drawings:

Picture 1: Queen Esther, Mordecai in the dirt praying

Picture 2: Queen Esther, King with sceptre outstretched

Picture 3: Queen Esther, King, Haman, add fear on Haman's face

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- tea set
- plastic food and drink cups

Seat children in a circle with the props to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story, handing them props as they do so. The aim is to set up a tea party as a group by the end of the discussion.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What was Esther's secret?*
(she was a Jew)
- *Who hated Mordecai? Why?*
(Haman, because Mordecai would not bow down to him)
- *Haman decided not only to get rid of Mordecai, but all the Jews as well. What did he do?*
(he had a new law made that meant that all Jews would be killed)
- *How did Esther save God's people?*
(she went to the King, uninvited, asked him to a special meal, then revealed Haman's plan)
- *Esther took a big risk going to the King when she was not asked. She could've been put to death. What did the King do to show he liked Esther?*
(held out his sceptre)

Conclusion:

- *The Jews were in serious trouble.*
- *Haman was out to kill them all.*
- *But Esther risked her life to save her people.*
- *God loves to save his people.*
- *He has not sent a Queen to save us. He has sent his one and only son, Jesus.*
- *Jesus not only risked his life, he died so that we could be saved.*
- *What a wonderful Saviour we have in Jesus!*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Father God, – you love to save your people. – Thank you so much – for saving us. – Thank you for sending Jesus, – your one and only son, – to die to save us. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to thank God for sending Jesus to die to save them.

Craft Activities

- Queen's crown - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a Queen's crown and the title, *Esther was willing to die to save her people. Jesus willingly died to save us. Esther 3-7* Copy on A4 cardboard, one per child. Provide wood glue and sparkle craft (beads, glitter, confetti) to decorate the crown.
- Necklace - provide plastic tubing and craft material that can be threaded (e.g. silver patti pans with hole punched in the them, pasta dyed with food colouring) to make a beautiful necklace a Queen would wear. **Warning: check for allergies before giving children coloured pasta.**
- Crown - cut a cardboard crown for each child. Provide collage material for the children to decorate the crown (i.e. gold and silver paper, star stickers and tinsel). Staple crowns for the children to wear home.

Esther

Esther 3-7

A long, long time ago, God's people, the Jews, lived in Persia.
Persia had a King.
His name was Xerxes.
Esther was his Queen.
But Esther had a secret. ('Shhhhh!')
Esther was a Jew.
There also lived a very powerful man named Haman.
Haman hated the Jews.
Haman hated the Jews because of a man named Mordecai.
Mordecai was Queen Esther's cousin.
Mordecai had refused to bow down to Haman.
So Haman hated Mordecai.
And Haman hated all the Jews.
Haman came up with a plan to get rid of Mordecai and all the Jews.
He did not know that Esther was a Jew. ('Shhhhh!')
Haman went to the King and asked him to write a law.
The law said that soon all Jews - men, women and children – would be killed.
When Mordecai heard about the law he was very upset.
He tore his clothes.
He fell to the ground.
He put dirt on his head.
All the Jews did the same.
Then Mordecai told Esther she had to go and see the King.
Esther was the only one who could save them!
But Esther had a problem.
She could only go and see the King if the King asked her to come.
And he'd not asked her to come in a long time.
If she went and saw the King without being asked, the King could have her killed.
So, if Esther went - she could be killed.
But if she didn't go - all her people would be killed.
Esther got dressed and went to the King.
The King looked up... and he smiled.
He held out his special gold sceptre to her.
Esther was safe.
Then Esther invited the King and Haman to a special meal.
Haman was excited.

A meal with the King and the Queen!
And so the special meal was prepared.
Queen Esther, the King and Haman sat down to eat.
While they were eating the King was so happy with Esther he
promised to give her whatever she asked.
Queen Esther asked that both she and her people be allowed to
live.
The King became angry!
He demanded to know who was going to killed his Queen!
Esther pointed at Haman.
Haman was terrified.
He did not know that Esther was a Jew.
Haman was punished.
And Esther and all the Jews were saved.

Conclusion:
Esther was willing to die, to save her people.
Jesus was not only willing to die to save us, he **did** die to save us.
God loves to save his people!

Dream On

Daniel 2

Main Point - There is only one God who knows everything. We can trust him.

Play Activities

- Dress ups - provide King and Queen dress up clothes for the children to play with.
- Sleeping dolls - provide the children with dolls, doll's clothes and doll's cradles. Make the following point as you play with the children: *Talk to the children about the dreams we have when we are asleep.*
- Dolls house - provide a dolls house, furniture and people to set up multiple bedrooms. Make the following point as you play with the children: *Talk to the children about the dreams we have when we are asleep.*

Sleeping Kings

Instructions:

- Have all children lie on the floor pretending to be a sleeping King.
- Select a child to be Daniel to walk around and see if they can spot a King who is awake (i.e. a King who moves).
- That King is out.
- Last remaining sleeping King becomes the next Daniel.

Conclusion:

- *Today's story is about a King who went to sleep and had a strange dream.*
- *Only Daniel, with God's help, could help the king.*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

Introductory Activity

Need: box with a pillow and a crown inside.

Ask:

- *Tell me what is inside this box.*
- *You can't? It's impossible, isn't it?*
- *Tell me what I am thinking.*
- *You can't? It's impossible.*
- *Tell me what I dreamt last night.*
- *You can't? It's impossible.*
- *Why can't you tell me?*
- *It's impossible to say what's inside this box, what I am thinking or what I dreamt last night.*
- *I need to show you or tell you.*
- *Then you'll know.*
- *But, there was a King who wanted his wise men to tell him what dream he had had.*
- *What he asked was impossible.*
- *Or, was it?*

Show:

- Show the children the pillow and the crown.
- Pass the objects around for the children to hold.

Conclusion:

- *Today's story is about a King who had a dream.*
- *A dream that worried him.*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *Dream On!* (pages 27-28) as a guide and the following chalk drawings:

Pictures 1: King asleep

Picture 2: King and wise men, add question marks, add Daniel, add tick

Option 2

Use the script titled, *Dream On!* (pages 27-28) and retell Daniel 2 using the following props:

- wear a crown, when talking about the King
- pick up a scroll, when talking about the wise men

- pick up a spear, when talking about the soldiers
- throw a long piece of material over shoulder when talking about Daniel

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group to retell the story using the following props:

- doll's house furniture: bed, chairs
- figures: King, Daniel, wise men

Seat children in a circle with the props in the centre.

Encourage the children to retell the story, manipulating the props as they do so.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *We can have good dreams and we can have bad dreams. What sort of dream did the King have?*
(a bad dream)
- *Sometimes God used dreams in the Bible to tell people things. The King had a dream. He wanted his wise men to help him understand what his dream meant. But he wanted them to first tell him what the dream was. Could they tell him?*
(no, they didn't know what the dream was)
- *The King was going to kill all the wise men, including Daniel. What did Daniel do that saved them all?*
(he asked God to help him, and God did, God told Daniel what the dream was and what the dream meant)

Conclusion:

- *The King could've killed Daniel, but Daniel trusted God.*
- *Daniel trusted the one true God.*

- *The God who gives us dreams.*
- *The God who knows our dreams.*
- *The one and only God.*
- *The God and Father of our Lord Jesus.*
- *The God who rules.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – you know everything. – You know what we think, – what we are going to say – and you know our dreams. – You are the one true God. – The one and only God. – Please help us to follow you. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to talk to God about something that only they and God know. For example: something they are looking forward to, and then thank God that only he knows what is going to happen.

Craft Activities

- Dream - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a child asleep with a dream cloud coming from the child's head and the title, *We have dreams when we are asleep.* (across the top), *In Daniel 2, only God knew what the King saw in his dream. God showed it to Daniel so he could help the King understand his dream.* (across the bottom) Make copies on A4 paper, one per child. Provide colouring in pencils for the children to draw a picture of a dream they have had.
- Crown - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a crown and the title, *In Daniel 2, only God knew what the King saw in his dream. God showed it to Daniel so he could help the King understand his dream.* Copy one per child on A4 cardboard. Provide collage material for the children to decorate the crown.

Dream On!

Daniel 2

King Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon.
One day, King Nebuchadnezzar woke up.
He was worried.
He had had a bad dream.
A very bad dream.
He called all his wise men and said, "I've had a bad dream. A very bad dream. I want to know what my bad dream means."
Then all the wise men said, "Tell us your dream and we will tell you what it means."
But King Nebuchadnezzar shook his head and said, "No! I will not tell you the dream. I want you to tell me what my dream was, and then tell me what it means."
But the wise men said, "Tell us what was in your dream first and then we will tell you what it means."
But King Nebuchadnezzar shook his head again and said, "No! I want you to tell me what my dream was, then tell me what it means."
The wise men cried, "No one can do what you have asked. That's impossible!"
This made the King very angry. King Nebuchadnezzar then made this order, "Find all the wise men. Kill them all!"
So the soldiers went and found all the wise men, including Daniel. The soldiers brought Daniel to the King.
Daniel asked, "Please give me time to find out about your dream."
The King agreed.
Daniel went home.
Daniel prayed.
He begged God to tell him about the King's dream.
That night, God told Daniel.
And Daniel thanked God.
The next morning Daniel went to the King.
Daniel said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "No wise man could tell you your dream. But my God knows all things. My God told me your dream and what it means."
So Daniel told the King the dream he'd had.
Then Daniel told the King what the dream meant.
The King fell down in front of Daniel.
The King said, "Daniel, your God is the true God. He is the Lord of all. For only you, Daniel, were able to tell me my dream."
Then the King made Daniel ruler over all of Babylon.

Daniel was put in charge of all the wise men.

Conclusion:

The King wanted to kill Daniel and all the wise men.

But Daniel trusted God.

God looked after Daniel.

There is only one God who knows everything and is all-powerful.

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

Main Point - There are many pretend gods but only one true God.

Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide blocks or duplo to create a very tall statue. Make the following point as you play with the children: *It's very silly to think a statue is god: it can't talk, or move, or listen.*
- Dress ups - provide King and Queen dress up clothes. Make the following point as you play with the children: *In today's story, the King got it wrong and he threw three men who loved God into a hot fire. But in the end he got it right.*
- Musical instruments - provide percussion instruments and some music for the children to play with.

Statues

Instructions:

- Select a child to stand at one end of the room with his/her back to the rest of the group.
- Line the rest along the opposite side of the room.
- Children have to creep up on the child.
- Every time the child turns around and calls out *Statue!* they have to become a statue (freeze).
- Anyone caught moving has to go back to the beginning.
- Any child who makes it all the way to the child and taps him/her, without being caught, is the next child in.

Conclusion:

- *When you become a statue, you freeze.*
- *You don't talk.*
- *You don't move.*
- *You don't do anything.*
- *Why?*
- *Because you are a statue.*
- *Some people make statues and then treat them as if they were god.*

- *But they're not.*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Fiery Furnace* (pages 33-34) as a guide and the following props.

Props:

- large golden statue (can be a sporting trophy)
- plastic or wooden figurines (King, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, plus one)
- a box on its side or wooden frame for a furnace
- strips of cellophane (red, orange and yellow) for the fire

Note: you may like to give a few children party trumpets to blow as the signal to bow down in front of the statue.

Option 2

Read the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from a children's Bible (e.g. *The Beginner's Bible*, by Karyn Henley, ©1989 Gold 'n Honey Books).

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- enough blocks to make a tall statue, one set per group

Seat children in a circle with the blocks to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story.

Hand children blocks each time they contribute to retelling the story and together build a tall, tall statue in the centre of the group.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What did the King make?*
(a huge gold statue)
- *What did the King want everyone to do?*
(when they heard the music they had to bow down and pray to the statue)
- *What did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego do when they heard the music?*
(they didn't bow down)
- *What did the King do?*
(got angry, threw them in the hot fire)
- *What did God do?*
(God saved them)

Conclusion:

- *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down to the statue.*
- *The statue could not talk.*
- *It could not listen.*
- *It could not save them.*
- *The statue was not God.*
- *It just stood there.*
- *There's only one true God.*
- *He is the God who saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.*
- *And he is the one who saves us through Jesus.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you – that you are – the one true God. – You saved – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. – You sent Jesus – to save us. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to pray for friends and family to follow the

one true God.

Craft Activities

- Fiery Furnace - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a fire with the title, *The King made the fire ten times hotter. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down to the pretend god. They followed the one true God. Daniel 3* Copy one per child on A4 paper. Cut strips of yellow and red cellophane for the children to decorate the fire.
- Painting - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of four men surrounded by a structure (i.e. furnace) with the title, *There are many pretend gods but only one true God. He is the God who saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He is the God who saves us. Daniel 3* Option #1 copy one per child on A4 paper. Provide cellophane strips to glue over the figures. Option #2 copy one per child on A3 paper. Provide a red paint wash for the children to paint over the figures.
- Fire page - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil with the words *One True God!* in bubble writing. Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Carefully burn the edges of each page (before the children arrive). Provide craft material to decorate each letter.

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon.
King Nebuchadnezzar forgot that there is one true God.
He built a very, very, very big statue.
It was made of gold.
It was very, very, very big.
He put the statue where everyone could see it.
Then King Nebuchadnezzar called all the people of Babylon to come to his statue.
All the people came to the King's statue.
Then the people were told...
"When you hear the music playing, you must bow down in front of the golden statue. If you don't bow down, you will be thrown into the hot, hot fire."
The music began to play.
Everyone bowed down to the King's pretend god.
Everyone, except three men - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were different from all the people around them.
They loved God.
They would not bow down to a pretend god.
King Nebuchadnezzar became very angry and said, "If you do not bow down to my statue you will be thrown into the hot, hot fire. Then what god will save you!"
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, "God can rescue us if he wants. But even if he does not, we will not bow down to your statue."
King Nebuchadnezzar was furious!
He ordered the fire be made seven times hotter than usual.
It was so hot that the soldiers who threw them in were killed.
King Nebuchadnezzar thought that that was the end of them.
But God would not let the fire burn Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
So when King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the hot, hot fire, he saw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walking around in the fire, and some one else as well.
The other person looked very special, like the Son of God.
King Nebuchadnezzar jumped to his feet.
He called them out of the hot, hot fire.
The fire had not burnt their clothes or their hair.
They didn't even smell of smoke.

And the King praised God and told the people that Shadrach,
Meshach and Abednego's God is God.
No one saves like him!

Conclusion:

There are many pretend gods but there is only one true God.
The one true God is our God.
We read about him in the Bible.
He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus.

Daniel In The Lions' Den

Daniel 6

Main Point - Daniel followed God, not man.

Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide wooden or foam blocks to create a lions' den and plastic lions to fill it.
- Duplo - provide a zoo duplo set and build a lion enclosure.
- Imaginary play - provide the children with animal suits, tails, masks, etc. to play with (try to ensure there are lion costumes available).
- Jigsaw puzzles - provide jigsaws of lions for the children to do.
- Picture books - provide picture books about lions for the children to read.

The Lions Are Coming

Instructions:

- Seat all children along one wall. They are the lions.
- Select one child to be Daniel and have him/her sit near the opposite wall to the lions.
- The child playing Daniel turns his/her back on the lions.
- As soon as Daniel's back is turned the lions creep along the ground towards Daniel.
- Daniel can turn around at any time.
- As soon as Daniel turns, the lions have to freeze like a statue.
- If Daniel catches a lion moving, that lion has to go back to the starting line.
- The lion who manages to creep up to Daniel and tap him/her on the back becomes the new Daniel.

Sleeping Lions

Instructions:

- Have all children lie on the floor pretending to be sleeping lions.
- Select a child to be Daniel to walk around and see if they can spot a lion who is awake (i.e. a lion that moves). That lion is out.
- Last remaining sleeping lion becomes the next Daniel.

Guess The Lion

Instructions:

- Seat the children in a circle.
- Select a child to be Daniel.
- Daniel moves to the centre of the circle and crouches, hiding his/her eyes with his/her hands.
- Leader points to a child, who moves into the circle, places hands on the back of Daniel and roars like a lion.
- Daniel then has to guess the name of the child playing the lion.
- If he/she guesses correctly he/she continues to be Daniel and another child is selected to roar like a lion.
- If he/she fails to guess correctly, the child playing the lion becomes the new Daniel.

Conclusion:

- *What animal are you scared of? Why?*
- *Why are lions so scary?*
- *Who wasn't scared of the lions in today's story?*
- *Let's remember what happened.*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *Daniel in the Lions' Den* (pages 40-41) as a guide and the following props:

- blocks to make a lions' den
- lions
- Daniel, Rulers, King figures
- Lions' mane

Option 2

Read the story of Daniel and the lions from a children's Bible (e.g. *The Beginner's Bible*, by Karyn Henley, ©1989 Gold 'n Honey Books; or *Read Aloud Bible Stories Volume 3*, by Ella Lindvall, ©1985 Moody Press).

Option 3

Use the pictures from the *See With Me Bible* by Denis Jones (© 2005 Zonderkidz), and the script titled, *Daniel in the Lions' Den* (pages 40-41) as your guide.

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- blocks to make a lions' den
- lions
- Daniel figure

Seat children in a circle with the props to one side.

Encourage the child to retell the story and hand them the appropriate props to place in the centre to build up a picture of the story as they do.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What was the King's new law?*
(pray only to him for 30 days)
- *What did Daniel do when he heard about the new law?*
(thought about the lions, but prayed anyway, he followed

God)

- *What happened to Daniel?*
(thrown to lions, lions didn't touch him, God shut their mouths)
- *Who saved Daniel? How?*
(God did, he shut the lions' mouths)

Conclusion:

- *Daniel had a choice.*
- *To bow down and pray to the King or to pray to God.*
- *And even though the lions would eat him, Daniel chose to follow God.*
- *Daniel obeyed God, not the King.*
- *Like Daniel, we have a choice.*
- *To follow God or follow what people say?*
- *Let's pray that, like Daniel we will follow God by following Jesus no matter what.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Thank you God, – that Daniel chose – to follow you. – Help us – to be like Daniel. – Help us – to follow only you. – Help us – to follow Jesus. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to think about times when they are scared. Ask the children to pray, asking God to help them follow him even when they are scared.

Craft Activities

- Paper plate lions - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil with lion faces. Copy and cut one face per child. Cut strips of yellow crepe paper. Provide glue and brushes for the children to attach the crepe paper around the edge of a paper plate. Have children glue the lion face in the middle of the paper plate.
- Lion manes - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a lion mane. Copy on A3

cardboard and cut one per child. Provide yellow and brown crepe paper strips for the children to attach to the mane. When dry, the children can hold the mane up to their faces and roar like a lion.

- Lion - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a lion with the title, *Daniel thought about the King's law. And Daniel thought about the lions. But Daniel kept on praying to God. Daniel 6* Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide crepe paper strips to glue around the lion's mane.

Daniel In The Lions' Den

Daniel 6

I need your help to tell today's story.

Every time you hear the word **lions** (hold up a lion's mane to face), you have to roar. (practise a few times)

(pause)

Now to our story.

Daniel was a very good ruler.

Daniel was a very honest ruler.

So King Darius gave Daniel an important job.

This made the other rulers jealous.

They wanted to get rid of Daniel.

So they watched him.

But Daniel wasn't lazy.

Daniel never lied or cheated.

They could not find any way to trap Daniel.

So they all put their heads together and they came up with a plan!

They went to King Darius.

They bowed very low and said, "Oh, King Darius, live forever!

Everyone in Babylon has agreed that for thirty days everyone should pray only to you. If they pray to anyone else, throw them to the **lions!**" (hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar)

King Darius liked that very much.

So he wrote down the new law.

The law was read out.

"For thirty days pray only to King Darius. That's me! If you pray to anyone else, you will be thrown to the **lions.**" (hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar)

Daniel heard about the new law.

He thought about the **lions.** (hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar)

But Daniel would not pray to King Darius.

Daniel got down on his knees and prayed to God.

And Daniel kept on praying.

He prayed in the morning.

He prayed at lunchtime.

He prayed at night.

The King's law did not stop Daniel's praying.

The **lions**...(hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar)

did not stop Daniel's praying.

But the jealous rulers were watching.

The jealous rulers grabbed Daniel.

They dragged Daniel to the King.
The rulers bowed down to the King and said, "Oh, King Darius.
Daniel pays no attention to you! He still prays three times a day to
his God."
When the King heard this he was very upset.
The King liked Daniel.
He did not want to throw him to the **lions**. (hold up a lion's mane to
face, children roar)
But there was no way he could change the law.
The King said to Daniel, "May your God save you!"
So Daniel was taken out, and Daniel was thrown into the **lions'**
(hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar) den.
Then all the rulers went home.
Daniel looked around.
The **lions** (hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar) heard
Daniel fall in.
The **lions** (hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar) looked at
Daniel.
The **lions** (hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar) smelt
Daniel.
But they didn't eat Daniel.
God shut their mouths.
The next morning the King ran to Daniel.
He called out, "Daniel, Daniel, was your God able to save you?"
Daniel called back, "My God saved me! He sent an angel and shut
the **lions'** (hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar) mouths."
The King was so happy.
He ordered that Daniel be lifted out of the den.
Daniel didn't even have a scratch on him.
Then King Darius said, "Daniel's God is the living God. Daniel's
God is the one who saves. He has saved Daniel from the **lions**."
(hold up a lion's mane to face, children roar)

Conclusion:
Daniel followed God - the one true God.
The one and only God.
The God who saves.
Daniel followed God - not man.
Children, who do you follow?
Are you like Daniel?

Jonah Runs

Jonah 1:1-16

Main Point - You can't run away from God. God is everywhere.

Play Activities

- Water play - set up water play, include boats and fish.
Warning: never leave children unsupervised around water.
- Imaginary play - provide a variety of sea creatures and plastic boats for the children to play with on a blue piece of material.
- Fishing game - provide a magnetic fishing rod and fish set for the children (these are commercially available). You can also make a set using a string attached to a long cardboard roll with a magnet on the end of the string as a fishing rod and cardboard fish with large paper clips on each one. **Note: never leave children alone with this equipment.**
- Jigsaw puzzles - provide jigsaw puzzles of boats and fish for the children to play with. Make the following point as you play with the children: *In today's story, there's a big boat and there's an even bigger fish. Does anyone know what Bible story has a man being swallowed by a big fish?*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

The Jonah Journey

Need:

- equipment for a simple obstacle course (e.g. a tunnel to crawl through, a large tub to step in/sit down in/step out of, witches hats to walk around...)

Instructions:

- Set up a simple obstacle course for the children to travel through.

Conclusion:

- *Today we're going to hear about a man named Jonah.*
- *Jonah tried to run away from God.*
- *Jonah fell asleep on a boat.*
- *Then Jonah went down, down, down into the sea.*
- *And everywhere Jonah went, God was there.*
- *God is everywhere!*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *Jonah Runs* (pages 46-47) and the following props:

- blocks to build the city of Nineveh
- road
- sea (material)
- boat
- figures (Jonah, Captain)
- fish

Option 2

Use the script titled, *Jonah Runs* (pages 46-47) and the following chalk drawings:

Picture 1: Jonah running

Picture 2: boat, add Jonah asleep, add waves

Picture 3: Jonah being thrown overboard, add fish

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group to retell the story using the following props:

- blocks to make a road
- blue material or cellophane for the sea
- boat

- Captain, Jonah
- fish

Seat children in a circle with the props to one side.

Encourage the child to retell the story and hand them the appropriate props to place in the centre as they do.

Ask the children to hold onto the sea and make the boat go up and down in the storm.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What had God told Jonah to do?*
(go and tell the Assyrians in Nineveh to stop doing bad things)
- *What did Jonah do?*
(Jonah said 'No!', ran in the opposite direction, got on a boat)
- *What did God do?*
(sent a big storm)
- *Can you run away from God?*
(no, God is everywhere)

Conclusion:

- *If you go to the top of a high mountain, God is there.*
- *If you swim down to the bottom of the deep sea, God is there.*
- *If you are snuggled in your bed in the dark, God is there.*
- *It doesn't matter where you are, or where you go, God is there.*
- *God is everywhere!*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – we know – that you are everywhere. – In our rooms, – at our pre-schools, – in our cars, – everywhere! – Please help us – to obey you. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children say sorry to God about times when they have disobeyed him.

Craft Activities

- Newspaper sailor hats - make a hat for each child. You need one sheet of newspaper (tabloid size) per child. Fold the newspaper sheet in half (down the natural fold each sheet has). Turn the sheet so that the fold is at the top. Fold both top corners to the middle till they meet. This will form a point (the top of the hat). Pick up the bottom flap of the top sheet only and fold up. Turn the hat over and repeat. The hat is now ready to decorate. Provide children with paper fish shapes and crepe paper seaweed strips to glue on the hats.
- Foot sponges - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil titled, *You can't run away from God. Jonah 1* Copy one per child on A3 paper. Have them print footprints all over the paper using a foot shaped sponge (or you can roll non-toxic paint on children's foot for them to print their own). **Warning: check for any allergies to paint before beginning this activity.**
- Boat - fold a square piece of paper to make a boat (i.e. fold all four corners into the middle, turn the square over and fold up one corner into the middle). Purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil with clouds and sea titled, *You can't run away from God! Jonah 1* Copy one per child on A3 paper. Glue the boat onto the stencil. Have the children add cotton wool for clouds, blue paper (shredded tissue paper or cellophane) for water.
- Rain painting - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a boat and the title, *You can't run away from God. Jonah 1* Copy one per child on A3 paper. Provide the children with non-toxic blue paint and a paintbrush. Turn the paintbrush upside down. Ask the children to dip the wooden end into the paint and then paint rain (blue dots) all over the picture.

Jonah Runs

Jonah 1:1-16

A long time ago there lived a man named Jonah.
One day God said to Jonah, "Jonah! Go to Nineveh. Tell the Assyrians to stop doing bad things. I am very angry with them."
Jonah listened to what God said.
But Jonah said, "No!"
Jonah turned and ran.
He ran and he ran and he ran, till he came to the sea.

But... you can't run away from God!

Jonah found some sailors and got onto their boat.
The boat set off across the sea.
Jonah was very tired and fell asleep.
But God had not finished with Jonah.

You can't run away from God!

God sent a wind.
The wind blew black clouds across the sky.
The wind blew and blew and blew.
The wind made big waves.
Suddenly rain began to fall.
The sky was now black and the wind blew harder.
Thunder roared and lightning flashed.
But Jonah slept.
Big waves splashed onto the boat.
The sailors were scared.
The Captain threw boxes over the side of the boat.
But it didn't help.
The storm got worse and worse.
The sailors were really, really scared.
But Jonah slept.
The Captain woke Jonah up.
Jonah looked around.
The sailors were terrified.
Jonah told the Captain, "This storm is because of me. I am running away from God. God who made the land and the sea."

But... you can't run away from God!

Jonah told the sailors to throw him into the sea.
The sailors had no choice.
They threw Jonah overboard.
As soon as they did, the storm stopped!
Everything was still.
Then the sailors looked at each other and said, "Jonah's God is
God. God of the land and the sea."
All the sailors feared God.
They all made promises to God.

Conclusion:
Children, Jonah ran away from God.
But... You can't run away from God!
Because God made the land and the sea.
God is everywhere.

The Assyrians Repent

Jonah 3

Main Point - God commands all people everywhere to turn and follow him.

Play Activities

- Imaginary play - set up duplo or small wooden blocks in the shape of a large city. Provide wooden toy people and animals for the children to retell the story.
- Dress ups - provide Bible Time clothes of kings, nobles and commoners to dress up as the people of Nineveh.
- Blocks - provide large foam blocks for the children to create the city of Nineveh.

The Jonah Journey

Need:

- equipment for a simple obstacle course (e.g. a tunnel to crawl through, a large tub to step in/sit down in/step out of, witches hats to walk around...)

Instructions:

- Set up a simple obstacle course for the children to travel through.

Conclusion:

- *Today we're going to hear about a man named Jonah.*
- *Jonah tried to run away from God.*
- *Jonah fell asleep on a boat.*
- *Then Jonah went down, down, down into the sea.*
- *And everywhere Jonah went, God was there.*
- *God is everywhere!*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Assyrians Repent* (page 52) and the following props:

- block city of Nineveh
- Jonah, people, King (need a removable crown)
- newspaper clothes to put on King and people

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Assyrians Repent* (page 52) and the following felt shapes:

- sea, boat, fish
- city of Nineveh
- Jonah, people, King (need a removable crown)
- newspaper clothes to put on King and people (need blu tac to attach)

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- blocks to build a big city, one set per group

Seat children in a circle with blocks to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story and as they do give each child who speaks some blocks to build up the city.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Jonah did eventually go and warn the Assyrians. What did the King do?*
(put on rags, stopped eating, begged God to forgive them, sent a message to all the people to do the same)

- *What did the Assyrians do?*
(put on rags, stopped eating, begged God to forgive them)

Conclusion:

- *The Assyrians repented.*
- *They said sorry for all the bad things they had done.*
- *They stopped going their way and decided to go God's way.*
- *God was kind to them.*
- *God promises to be kind to us, when we repent.*
- *We need to stop going our way and doing what we want to do.*
- *And go God's way.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – help us – to be like the Assyrians. – To turn from going our own way. – And to turn – and go your way. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to say sorry to God for going their own way.

Craft Activities

- Newspaper clothes - hand each child one sheet of newspaper (Sydney Morning Herald size). Instruct the children to fold the sheet in half (down the natural fold of each sheet). Turn the sheet so that the fold is at the top. Have them carefully tear or cut (with child safe scissors) a neck hole from the folded side of the newspaper. The newspaper is now ready to wear. Simply pull it over child's head. **Warning: check for allergies to newsprint before beginning this activity.**
- Crown - cut crowns from yellow cardboard, one per child. Provide stickers, cellophane squares and brightly coloured scraps of paper for the children to decorate the crown. Link: *remind the children that everyone had to say sorry to God, even the King.*
- Messenger's loudspeaker - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a

loudspeaker. Copy and cut one per child from A4 cardboard. Have the children decorate the loudspeaker with collage material. Roll up into a cone shape and staple.

- Sad/happy face - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of an outline of a head. Copy and cut one per child from cardboard. Children are to draw a sad face on one side (Assyrians facing God's judgement) and a happy face on the other side (Assyrians experiencing God's kindness). Decorate with collage material. Attach a paddle pop stick to the bottom for a neck.

The Assyrians Repent

Jonah 3

Remember what God told Jonah to do?

God said, "Go to Nineveh. Tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things. I am very angry with them."

At first Jonah said, "No!"

But a storm, some sailors and a big fish changed everything.

Again God said to Jonah, "Go to Nineveh. Tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things. I am very angry with them."

This time Jonah said, "Yes."

Jonah obeyed God.

Jonah took a deep breath.

Jonah went to Nineveh.

Jonah walked through the city.

It took Jonah three whole days to walk through the city of Nineveh.

All day long Jonah cried out, "In forty days God will destroy this city."

The people of Nineveh stopped.

They stared at Jonah.

They believed Jonah's message.

They sent a messenger to go and tell the King.

When the King heard the message, he was very upset.

He got up from his throne.

He took off his crown and royal robes.

He put on old clothes and lay down in the dirt.

Then the King told the messenger to tell all the people to put on old clothes and beg God to forgive them.

So the messenger ran to tell the people.

And the Assyrians... put on old clothes, they stopped eating, they stopped doing bad things, and they fell to the ground and cried out to God, "God forgive us!"

When God saw that they had stopped doing bad things and had turned to him, he was kind to them.

He did not destroy them.

Conclusion:

The Assyrians heard the warning and turned back to God.

God was kind to them.

God commands all people, everywhere to turn back to him.

And if we do, he will be kind to us.

Jonah Spits The Dummy

Jonah 4

Main Point - We must show the same kindness to others that God has shown to us.

Play Activities

- Playdough - provide garlic crushes or playdough equipment, which the children can use to push playdough through to create worms.
- Felt boards - provide the children with small felt boards and felt shapes of the entire story of Jonah for them to create scenes. Felt pieces: boat, sea, Jonah, sailors, large fish, seaweed, land, city, large crowd, king, clothes (rich ones and rags), hill, worm, vine, sun.
- Blocks - provide wooden or foam blocks for the children to build the city of Nineveh.
- Gardening - provide gardening dress ups (gloves, hats..) and equipment (wheelbarrows, watering cans, plastic pants...) for the children to pretend to be gardeners.

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

Drop The Leaf Game

- Purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a leaf. Copy and cut out of cardboard.
- Play drop the leaf in the same way you would play drop the hankie (except that you drop a leaf).

Conclusion:

- *Today we'll hear how God was kind to Jonah.*
- *He sent a vine to keep the sun off Jonah.*
- *But Jonah did not want to be kind to the people of Nineveh.*

Introductory Activity

Bring a worm or grub in a glass jar to show the children.

Conclusion:

- *Worms love to eat plants.*
- *There is a worm in our story that ate up an entire vine!*
- *And someone was not happy about it!*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *Jonah Spits The Dummy* (page 58-59) and the following felt shapes and retell Jonah 4.

Felt shapes:

- Jonah
- city
- hill
- vine
- worm
- sun

Option 2

Use the script titled, *Jonah Spits The Dummy* (pages 58-59) and the following props and retell Jonah 4.

Props:

- a pillow for a hill
- wooden blocks and people to make the city of Nineveh
- a puppet or soft doll for Jonah
- a vine (string and crepe paper leaves)
- a worm (use a stocking worm, see craft activities)
- sun (use a paper plate sun, see craft activities)

Memory Verse

Acts 17:30

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- blocks to build a big city and a hill
- Jonah figure
- a vine (can be home made: string and crepe paper leaves)
- a worm (can be home made: a stocking worm, see craft activities)
- sun (can be home made: a paper plate sun, see craft activities)

Seat children in a circle with props to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story, handing them the appropriate prop to place in the centre at the appropriate spot in the story.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Show me how Jonah felt after God forgave the Assyrians.*
(angry faces)
- *The sun was hot on Jonah. What kind thing did God do for Jonah?*
(sent a vine to grow and shade him)
- *Show me how Jonah felt about the vine.*
(happy faces)
- *What happened to the vine?*
(the worm ate it)
- *Show me how Jonah felt when the vine was eaten up and then the hot wind began to blow.*
(angry faces)

Conclusion:

- *God was kind to Jonah.*
- *He made a vine grow to shade him.*
- *Jonah was happy about the vine.*
- *God was kind to the Assyrians.*
- *But Jonah was only happy about God's kindness to him.*
- *He didn't care about the Assyrians.*

- *God wants us to be happy about his kindness to us and his kindness to others as well.*
- *Even when God is kind to people we don't like.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you – for saving the Assyrians. – Thank you – for saving us – even though – we don't deserve it. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to pray for someone they find hard to like or who has hurt them. Pray that they will hear about Jesus and turn and follow him.

Warning: there may be children who have been hurt by adults. Keep your 'Child Protection' eyes and ears open.

Craft Activities

- Worm (4 year olds only) - provide each child with half a grey, black or brown stocking (i.e. one leg of a stocking). Have them scrunch up newspaper and stuff the stocking to make a worm. Glue eyes (foam shapes) on using either non-toxic wood glue or a glue gun (**leaders only**).
- Vine - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a vine with the title, *God made a vine grow to shade Jonah from the hot sun. Jonah 4* Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide green crepe paper for the children to decorate the leaves on the vine. Or provide vines from the garden to glue on. **Warning: check for allergies to plants before doing this activity.**
- Sun - provide each child with a small paper plate. Provide yellow crepe paper for the children to decorate the paper plate as a sun. Attach a paddle pop to the bottom of the sun for the children to hold.
- Jonah on the hill - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 3*. Find the stencil of a hill with the title, *Jonah was angry that God had been kind to the Assyrians. He sat*

on a hill. Jonah 4 Make one copy per child on A3 paper. Provide the children with a soft sponge wrapped in an onion bag or a sea sponge. Children can dip the sponge into non-toxic green paint and print grass on the hill. Provide a man shaped playdough cutter and some non-toxic black paint for them to print a Jonah character on the hill.

Jonah Spits The Dummy

Jonah 4

Jonah had done what God told him to.
He'd told the people of Nineveh to turn and follow God.
And they did!
So God was kind to them.
He did not punish them.
This made Jonah angry!
Jonah said to God, "I knew it! I knew this would happen! I knew you'd be patient and kind! I knew you would forgive them! I knew it! I knew it! I knew it! Oh, I wish I was dead!"
God said, "You have no right to be angry!"
But Jonah marched out of the city of Nineveh.
He went and sat on a hill to see what would happen to the city.
It was very hot on the hill.
God was kind to Jonah and he made a vine grow.
It grew and grew and grew, till it shaded Jonah from the hot sun.
Jonah was happy about the vine.
The next day God made a worm.
The worm chewed up the vine so that it withered and died.
Then God made a hot wind blow.
The sun beat down on Jonah.
Jonah was hot.
Jonah didn't feel too good.
Jonah wanted to die.
Then God said to Jonah, "You have no right to be angry about the vine."
Jonah said, "But I am angry. So angry I could die!"
But God said, "You liked the vine even though you did not water it or make it grow. It came one day and was gone the next. Shouldn't I like the people of Nineveh? They were blind to me. I made those Assyrians! Shouldn't I be kind to them?"

Conclusion:

Children, Jonah was angry because God was kind to the people of Nineveh. Jonah was wrong to be angry.
But God is kind to people who don't deserve it.
He forgives and loves people even when they've done the wrong thing.
And God has been kind to us, even though we've done the wrong thing.

So, we must learn to show the same kindness to others that God has shown to us.