

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

We can trust God no matter what.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that a follower of God trusts Him.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Jonah 1:1-2:10, Jonah and the Fish

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*“Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before.” Colossians 2:7 (NirV)*

**SUMMARY:**

God gave instructions for Jonah to preach to the city of Nineveh, but Jonah was consumed with his own desires and went his own way. It wasn't until God sent a fish to swallow him up, that Jonah learned how to trust in God. Use blue bricks to construct the great fish that consumed Jonah.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Give us the faith to trust in you.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before.” Colossians 2:7 (NirV)*

*“Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:7 (NIV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Read the verse in a normal speed with the kids. Then read it super slow. Then read it super fast!

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

## SKIT

### TRUST THE LADDER

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

A ladder  
Blue building blocks

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 M

#### CHARACTERS:

Drew - A construction worker  
Clyde - Drew's supervisor

*A ladder is on stage next to a stack of blue building blocks. Clyde and Drew enter.*

CLYDE: Great work on the wall, kid, it looks terrific.

DREW: Thanks, boss. You said if we obeyed the plans, it would turn out great. You were right. So what's next?

CLYDE: Next, we're gonna make a whale.

DREW: A whale?

CLYDE: That's right, a big, blue whale.

DREW: That sounds amazing!

CLYDE: It will be. The plans call for this one to be big. Very big.

DREW: Awesome!

CLYDE: We're gonna be using those blue building bricks over there on the top.

DREW: Cool.

# SKIT

CLYDE: And you're gonna use that ladder to install them.

DREW: Oh no! No way!

*Drew tries to run off. Clyde catches him.*

CLYDE: Hey, where are you going?

DREW: The better question is where am I NOT going, and I am NOT going on that ladder!

CLYDE: Are you afraid of heights?

DREW: And falling from heights, and ladders that aren't safe.

CLYDE: It's a perfectly safe ladder. I was on it yesterday.

DREW: Then you build the whale!

CLYDE: Drew, you have to trust me!

DREW: If God wanted me to reach that high, he would have made my legs longer.

CLYDE: Drew, you trust God, don't you?

DREW: God? Sure, I trust God.

CLYDE: If God gave you directions that were a little scary, would you follow Him?

DREW: Well yeah. I think so. I mean, He wouldn't ask me to do something if He wasn't prepared to go with me.

CLYDE: Drew, I'm not asking you to do anything I wouldn't do. I want you to be safe. I inspected the ladder myself, and if it wasn't safe, I wouldn't ask you to climb it.

DREW: Really? Okay, boss. If you say it's safe, I'll trust you.

CLYDE: Thanks, buddy.

DREW: I know it's a little scary, but I will be safe if I trust in God.

CLYDE: That's the spirit!

## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

A blindfold

Candy Blox candy (looks like a LEGO brick, can be found on Amazon)

*Bring one kid up front and blindfold them. Tell them you are going to give them a piece of candy, and ask them to eat it. Hand them a Lego-type candy. Let them feel the candy. Ask them what it feels like. Ask if they trust you enough to take a bite. If they do take a bite, ask them why they took the bite. If they refuse, take off the blindfold and show them the candy. Then ask why they refused.*

It isn't easy to trust things we cannot see. If I didn't tell you that candy was candy and not a plastic LEGO, you might never have known it was something sweet.

God asks us to trust Him. He wants us to trust that His way is the best way so we will follow Him. That's a tough thing to ask us to do. We've all put our trust in people who have let us down – people we can see and look in the eye. If it's hard to trust flesh and blood, how can we trust a God we cannot see?

God gave us the stories of Jonah and other heroes of the faith to show us He is always faithful. When we trust God with a little, we will see He is faithful. The more we trust, the greater our faith will grow. If you've never trusted God with anything, talk to God in prayer this week and ask Him to help you trust Him. He is faithful. He will not let you down!

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### FLYING FISH

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Two buckets

A bag of Swedish fish

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game, and give each one a bucket. Have an adult leader stand five feet in front of the players with their back to them. Have the adult leader toss the Swedish fish over their heads, back at the players, while the players try to catch the fish in their bucket. The player who catches the most fish wins. Fish that hit the ground are out of bounds and do not count.

#### VARIATION:

Instead of having the adult leaders stand with their back to the players, set up a free standing blind or curtain on stage and have the adult leader stand on the opposite side from the kids.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT?

God wants us to trust that He will not let us down.

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

We can trust God no matter what.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that a follower of God trusts Him.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Jonah 1:1-2:10, Jonah and the Fish

### **INTRO:**

Last week when we started this series I told you about an \$800 LEGO set with the Star Wars Millennium Falcon. This LEGO set has 7,541 pieces, and it's taken LEGO master builders a week to assemble. That's a lot of hard work – and a great act of trust.

Why is it a great act of trust? Because the LEGO builders who spend \$800 on this set are trusting that all 7,541 pieces are in the box. They trust that the directions they are given are accurate. They trust that they're not going to spend a week building a spaceship only to discover they've been building a Batmobile. And they trust that every one of the 7,541 pieces, big or small, is going to be in that box.

If you didn't trust the box, if you didn't trust the brand, you wouldn't buy the LEGOs, would you? It doesn't matter if the LEGO kit costs \$800 or \$8, if you didn't believe in LEGO, you wouldn't spend the money.

We all put our trust in things like this every day. We trust that Mom remembered to put the Fudge Round in our lunch box. We trust that our teachers will only test us on the material they covered in class. We trust our teammates in sports to play their position and guard their man so we can do our job as well. We place our trust in other people daily. Most times they come through, but sometimes, they let us down.

Maybe that's why it's so hard for some to trust God. We're used to broken promises and dropped balls. We've had our trust broken by people we see so many times, it's hard to trust someone we cannot see, no matter how many promises He makes. Still, God asks for our trust, and if we want to fulfill the plans He has for us, like we discussed last week, He needs our trust.

Today we're using blue bricks to remind us of a story about a whale.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

The whale is just one part of a much larger story. This is the story of a man who was afraid to trust God – a man named Jonah.

## **READ JONAH 1:2-2:10**

### **MAIN POINT:**

God wanted someone to preach to the wicked city of Ninevah. Ninevah was very sinful, and God wanted to give them one more chance to turn from their sin. He knew their hearts, and He knew that the right man could preach to them and save them from destruction.

Jonah was the man God chose for the job. Jonah might have been a great preacher, but he was a man of little faith in the beginning of this story. He knew how wicked the Ninevites were, and he was afraid to go where God called Him.

Jonah tried to run from God, but God would not let Him get away. God wanted to prove He is trustworthy. He proved it to Jonah, and he proved it to the Ninevites, who repented of their sin and were spared from punishment.

God is worthy of our trust. He needs us to trust Him so He can fulfill His work in our lives.

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

Last week we talked about God's Word, the Bible. We compared it to the instructions in the LEGO box, and we told you that we need to be obedient to God's instructions. The challenge with following God's Word versus following the LEGO box is that the LEGO box shows us the big picture. We can see the fire station, the airplane, the Millennium Falcon. We know what that LEGO kit will look like.

God didn't show Jonah what was going to happen in Ninevah. He said, "Go to Ninevah and tell them to repent." That's it! God knew the big picture, but he wanted Jonah to trust Him. Jonah finally found the trust, and God did a miracle. He saved an entire city from sin because of one man's trust.

God doesn't let us see the big picture very often either. He wants us to trust Him so that he can show his faithfulness. The more we trust, the more God proves Himself to be faithful, the more faithful we will become.

Jonah didn't want to trust God at first. He wanted to do things his way. God set him straight with a giant fish. God isn't going to send a fish after us, but He wants us to learn from Jonah and the other heroes of the faith in the Bible. God wants us to choose His way. He wants us to trust that obeying God is better than following the crowd.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

If we want God to build us into faithful disciples, we have to be willing to trust Him with everything. The more you trust, the more you will see you can trust Him, and the greater your faith will become. You can trust in God because He sees the big picture. You can trust Him because He loves you!

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Give us the faith to trust in you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

Is there a restaurant you do not trust because they always get your order wrong?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

#### **Colossians 2:7**

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Bring in a big bucket of LEGOs for every group. Have each group work together to build a whale as best as they can.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### **Read Jonah 1:1-2:10**

Who was Jonah?

What did God tell Jonah to do?

What did Jonah do instead?

When did Jonah learn to trust God?

Why do we need to trust God?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for being a God we know we can trust.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

Is there a restaurant you do not trust because they always get your order wrong?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

#### Colossians 2:7

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Bring in a big bucket of LEGOs for every group. Have each group work together to build a whale as best as they can.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### Read Jonah 1:1-2:10

What did God tell Jonah to do?

Why did Jonah run away instead?

How did God set Jonah back on the right track?

Why do we need to trust God?

How can we build up our faith so we can trust God more?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for being a God we know we can trust.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### FILL IN THE BLANK

The city of \_\_\_\_\_ was a very wicked city.

NINEVAH

God told \_\_\_\_\_ to go to Ninevah and preach.

JONAH

When Jonah ran away, God sent a big \_\_\_\_\_ to set him on the right path.

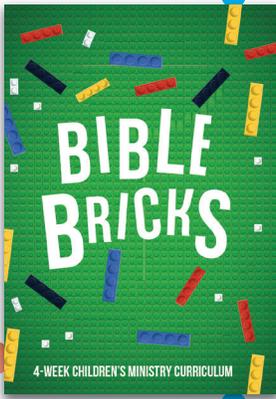
FISH

Jonah learned to \_\_\_\_\_ God, and he preached in Ninevah.

TRUST

When we trust \_\_\_\_\_, we will see that He is always faithful!

GOD



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Bible Bricks Lesson 2

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BUILD TRUST



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

God gave instructions for Jonah to preach to the city of Nineveh, but Jonah was consumed with his own desires and went his own way. It wasn't until God sent a fish to swallow him up that Jonah learned how to trust in God. Use blue bricks to construct the great fish that consumed Jonah. Jonah 1:1-2:10, Jonah and the Fish



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Try to keep count of how many acts of trust you and your kids do this week. Did you trust the drive thru attendant to give you the correct meal before you left the restaurant? Did you trust that someone packed a good lunch in your lunch box? Did you trust someone to meet you at a restaurant for dinner?



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why was Jonah afraid to trust God?
- Why did God send the whale to swallow Jonah?
- Why is it important to trust God?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

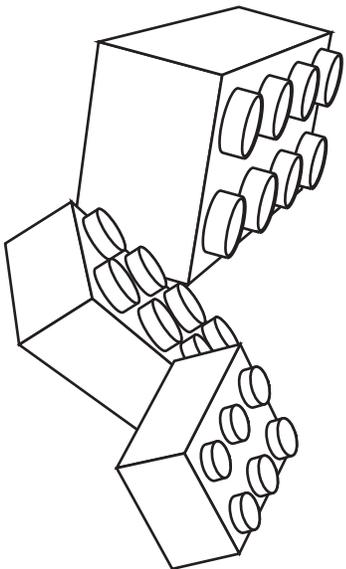
*"Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before." Colossians 2:7 (NirV)*



#### PARENT TIME:

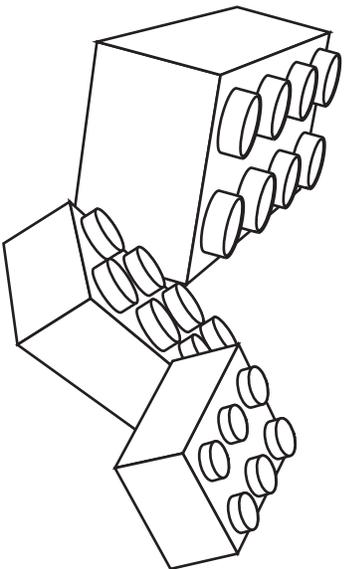
What you need to know:

Last week we talked about obeying God's Word. It takes trust to become a faithful, obedient follower. Ask God to give your kids the courage to trust God so that their faith will grow every day.



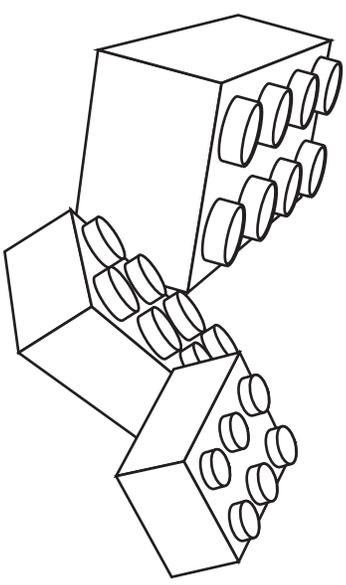
"Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before."

- Colossians 2:7 (NIRV)



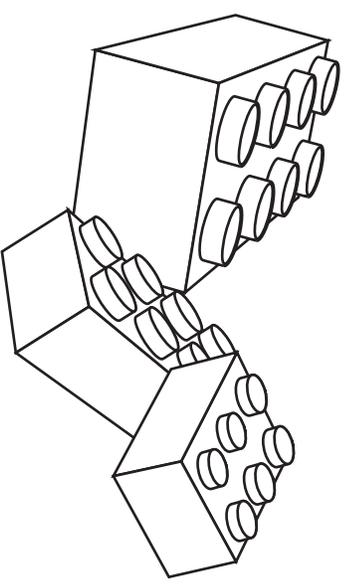
"Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before."

- Colossians 2:7 (NIRV)



"Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before."

- Colossians 2:7 (NIRV)



"Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before."

- Colossians 2:7 (NIRV)

## CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give each kid a blank sheet of paper, and a blue piece of construction paper. As with last week, the kids will cut out squares from the blue paper and use those squares to make a large fish on the blank page, gluing them on one at a time.