

God Calls, We Run — God Pursues

Week 1 Take-Home: Jonah 1

This week in Sunday School, your child learned about Jonah being called by God, running away, and discovering that God's love and presence are never far away. This story helps children learn that obedience matters, but so does God's mercy.

Below are simple ways to reinforce this lesson together at home.

Big Idea for the Week

God calls us to follow Him, even when it feels hard — and He never stops loving us when we run away.

Bible Verse to Focus On: “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” — Psalm 139:7

Tip: Say this verse together at bedtime or on the way to school. Ask, “What do you think this verse means?”

Prayer

Pray Over Your Child (for the week)

Lord, thank you for loving my child with a love that never lets go. Help them to hear your voice, trust you, and follow you even when it feels difficult. When they make mistakes, remind them that you are near and that your mercy is always greater. Shape their heart to love what you love. Amen.

Prayer to Pray With Your Child

God, thank you for loving me.
Thank you that I can't run away from you.
Help me listen to you and trust you.
When I'm scared or don't want to obey,
remind me that you are good.
Amen.

Family Conversation Starters

- What was Jonah asked to do?
- Why do you think Jonah ran away?
- Has there ever been something you didn't want to do, even though it was the right thing?
- How do we know God still loved Jonah?

Simple Family Activity

"Which Way Should We Go?"

Stand in two directions in the room. Label one direction "Listening to God" and the other "Running Away." Read simple scenarios (telling the truth, being kind to someone you don't like, helping when asked). Have your child walk toward the direction they think fits, then talk about it together.

Living the Lesson This Week

Choose one small way as a family to practice listening to God:

- Pray together before making a decision
- Help someone without being asked
- Speak kindly when it would be easier not to

Remind your child: God doesn't just care about what we do — He cares about our hearts.