

FINDING JESUS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We can never be crabby when we remember God's blessings.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to give their grumpy days to God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Jonah 1 & 2, Jonah Flees from God

MEMORY VERSE:

"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:39 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

With their hard exoskeleton and their sharp claws, crabs have a reputation for being a bit, well "crabby." Kids will learn that even on our crabbiest day, God can come along to turn it around.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for being crabby, and remind us how much we have to be thankful for.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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MEMORY VERSE

“Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:39 (NIV)

“Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God’s love, because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.” Romans 8:39 (NIRV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have the kids read the verse together. Read it normally, then in a whisper, then really, really loud!

SMALL GROUP:

Give all the kids a Bible. Let the kids race to see who can find the verse first. Let the winner read to the group.

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SKIT

BEING CRABBY

ITEMS NEEDED:

A pair of binoculars

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 Men

CHARACTERS:

Captain Nemo - The ship's captain

Gil - The ship's pilot

Sea faring music plays as Gil walks on stage with the binoculars. He peers out over the audience, as if looking out to sea.

GIL: Wow, look at those crabs. They look so huge from up here! I guess it's the magnification on my binoculars, but... well, look at them! They're like giant monsters with giant monster claws! They thought it was safe to go out in the water, but then they came from out of the sea.

Gil starts to hum a scary movie theme song - a real one or a made up one.

GIL: They thought it was safe to go out into the water but then - then came the attack of the Giant Crabs! See Giant Crabs crawl up on the beach with their giant claws!

Nemo enters, scowling.

GIL: See them cut down beach umbrellas and cut volleyball nets in half! See them terrorize unsuspecting sea life lovers! See them—

Gil turns and looks at Nemo through the binoculars.

NEMO: What do you see, Gil?

GIL: A crab, sir! A giant crab! Real ugly one too. But no claws.

NEMO: You're looking at me, Gil!

SKIT

GIL: Sorry, sir! I was just looking at the crabs down there in the water.

NEMO: Crabs?

GIL: Right down on the bottom! Take a look.

Gil gives Nemo the binoculars.

NEMO: Oh yeah!

GIL: You know what I see when I look at them?

NEMO: Something that would taste good with lemon butter?

GIL: No, no, no. I see myself, when I'm feeling crabby. You know, like when you tell me to sweep the deck or scrub the latrine.

NEMO: You don't like to scrub a latrine, do you?

GIL: No one does. But when I get crabby, I think of all the good things God has given me. I have a family. Good health. A good job on a good ship. And a gruff but lovable captain.

NEMO: Grrrrr.

GIL: I mean it, sir. I thank God for you.

NEMO: Yeah, yeah. You're just saying that because it's your turn to scrub the latrine.

GIL: And now that I've had a look at some crabs and remembered that with God I should never be crabby, I am ready to scrub them. Just as soon as I remember what a latrine is.

NEMO: It's the toilet, Gil!

GIL: Oh yeah!

Gil exits.

NEMO: Look at those crabs. Wish I had some lemon butter.

GIL:(*off*) We have some in the galley.

SKIT

NEMO: What's the galley?

GIL: It's the kitchen!

NEMO: Oh yeah!

Nemo exits.

FINDING JESUS

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A plate of broccoli

Hey guys, I brought you all a little treat this morning. I bet some of you could use a snack right now, huh? Well, wait no further because I brought... broccoli.

Set the broccoli out on the table.

What's the matter? Were you expecting something else? Maybe some candy? Some chips? Fruit? Why aren't you excited to eat broccoli?

I bet many of you get a little crabby when you come to the kitchen table and see broccoli. What other things make you crabby at mealtime? Salads? Carrots?

Maybe you're not a fan of green veggies. Maybe you'd rather stick to meat and potatoes. But let's be honest: is this really a reason to get crabby? Mom and Dad work hard to put food on the table. They care enough to give you a balanced meal. Maybe it's not your favorite, but it's a blessing, and one to be thankful for.

That's how it is with God. God doesn't always give us our way, and we have a tendency to get crabby about that. But when we remember all the blessings God has given us - including his son Jesus - there's no good reason for us to get crabby.

Don't be a crab. Give your frustrations, your disappointments, and your grumpy moments to Jesus. You won't be crabby for very long.

FINDING JESUS



LARGE GROUP GAME

EAT LIKE A CRAB

ITEMS NEEDED:

Chopsticks
Gumdrops
Plastic Cups

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. Have them sit at a table with six gumdrops in front of each of them. The players will race to see who can place all 6 gumdrops in their cup first by using only the chopsticks. They can use one pair, or they can have a pair for each hand if they like, but they cannot use hands or fingers. First one to get all 6 gumdrops in their cup wins.

VARIATION:

You can also make this a beat the clock challenge, with one player racing to get a certain number of candies in their cup before time runs out.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Don't be a crab. Give your crabby days to God, and remember all he's given you to be thankful for.

FINDING JESUS

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We can never be crabby when we remember God's blessings.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to give their grumpy days to God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Jonah 1 & 2, Jonah Flees From God

INTRO:

Is there a creature on Earth crankier, meaner looking, or more intimidating than a crab? There aren't many, I can assure you. Take a close look at a crab, and what do you see? First off, you see claws. Big claws. Giant claws that keep predators away and can snag prey to eat. Look past those claws and what do you see? You see a hard shell designed to keep would be attackers at bay. That hard shell isn't going to keep every predator away, but it'll protect the crab long enough for him to bring those big nasty claws around to defend itself.

Of course, crabs aren't exactly dangerous and deadly. There are far bigger and more dangerous animals in the sea and on land than a crab. They're not going to eat you like a shark, but they can do just enough damage with their pinching claws to ruin your day.

Sometimes when a person is in a bad mood, we say they are "crabby." Crabby people gripe and groan. They are usually upset about little things and they want everyone to know. Maybe they didn't get their way when Mom and Dad chose a restaurant. Maybe Mom and Dad said, "clean your room" and turned off the TV. Maybe a friend did something unintentional that hurt your feelings. Whatever the reason, we put on our armored shell, we put on our claws and we pinch anyone who gets too close.

The good news is, crabby people's problems are usually small, like a crab, and they can quickly turn around when we give our problems to God.

Today's Bible story actually takes place under the sea. At least, part of it does. There aren't any real crabs, but there's one crabby prophet at the center of this story. God told him to do something he did not want to do, and he was not happy about it. But God quickly stepped in to get Jonah's attitude turned around.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ JONAH 1 & 2

MAIN POINT:

It's not often you see an adult act like a pouting child, but isn't that what Jonah does here? God says, "Go to Ninevah!" Jonah says, "No!" He pouts. He sticks out his claws. He puts on his shell, and he runs away. He gets on a boat headed the other way. You can't get to Ninevah by boat! Jonah was really, really crabby.

Then God sent a fish. The fish swallows Jonah, and Jonah spends three days in time out in the belly of this fish. It's only then that Jonah gets his attitude right. Jonah didn't want to go to Ninevah, but Jonah knew he had no right to be crabby at God. God had blessed Jonah and his people. He wanted Jonah to share God's love with the people of Ninevah. Jonah changed his attitude because he saw all the good God had done for them. How could he be selfish and say no when God had given him so much?

We all get crabby from time to time, but when we stop to count our blessings, it's hard to keep our claws out for very long.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Some days we just feel crabby. We may be tired or lazy. Or things may not be going our way. It's easy to get crabby when Mom says, "Pick up your Legos." But can we really justify being crabby when Mom asks us to do something so simple?

What has Mom done for you? What right does Mom have to say, "Pick up your Legos?" Well first of all, she gave you life. She gave you a home with food, clothes, and other nice things. And you know what we can count as one of those nice things? Legos! Those Legos she's asking you not to give up but put away safely? That's all Mom and Dad, guys.

Moms and Dads do a lot for us, and they don't ask much in return. So when Mom and Dad tell you to pick up those Legos, pick up the Legos. Be thankful, and remember all the blessings God has given you.

The same goes for when God tells us to do something. When God challenges us to try something new, many of us put out our claws and say, "No!" I don't want to serve at church. I don't want to go on a work trip. I would rather sit back and let someone else do it.

What has God done for us? God gave us the world we live in. He gave us Jesus so we could have a relationship with him. He gave us our families. He gave us this church. Every good gift comes from God. So how can we get crabby when God calls us to do something?

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Jonah was crabby. He didn't like the Ninevites, and he didn't care what happened. He forgot that God had forgiven him. He forgot that God wanted to forgive others as well. Jonah went to Ninevah, and the people were saved because Jonah put away his claws and did what God asked.

When you're feeling crabby, turn to God. Don't wait for a big fish to come along and straighten you out. Go ahead and give those crabby feelings to God. You won't be feeling crabby for very long!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for being crabby, and remind us how much we have to be thankful for.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

FINDING JESUS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What makes you crabby in the mornings?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Romans 8:39

Give all the kids a Bible. Let the kids race to see who can find the verse first. Let the winner read to the group.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Read the story of Jonah again and have the kids act out the story as you do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Jonah 1-2

What did God tell Jonah to do?

What did Jonah do instead?

How did God stop Jonah?

Why did God want Jonah to preach to the people of Ninevah?

Why did Jonah change his mind?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for our crabby days, and teach us to count our blessings.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

FINDING JESUS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What makes you crabby in the mornings?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Romans 8:39

Give all the kids a Bible. Let the kids race to see who can find the verse first. Let the winner read to the group.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids create and perform a skit about Jonah.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Jonah 1-2

Why was Jonah so crabby?

What did Jonah do instead of obeying God?

Why did God want Jonah to preach to the people of Ninevah?

What real reason did Jonah have to be crabby?

Why should we give our crabby days to God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for our crabby days, and teach us to count our blessings.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

FINDING JESUS

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Sometimes we get crabby and there's nothing we can do about it.

FALSE

Jonah was crabby because he didn't want to go to Ninevah.

TRUE

God let Jonah pout, and when Jonah was through, then God let him off the hook.

FALSE

It's okay to be crabby with Mom and Dad if they deserve it.

FALSE

God can turn our crabby days into happy ones.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: CRABS



IN THE CAR:

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

Today we talked about crabs and the times we just feel crabby. Sometimes kids are crabby with their parents or even with God, but when we count our blessings and give our crabby days to God, he can turn us around. Jonah 1 & 2, Jonah Flees From God.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

When someone is feeling crabby this week, encourage them to pray about it. Why do they feel crabby? Do they have a reason to be grouchy? What blessings can you count to help you get out of that grumpy mood?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why was Jonah crabby with God?
- How did God turn Jonah's crabby mood into a good one?
- How can God help us turn our crabby days around?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

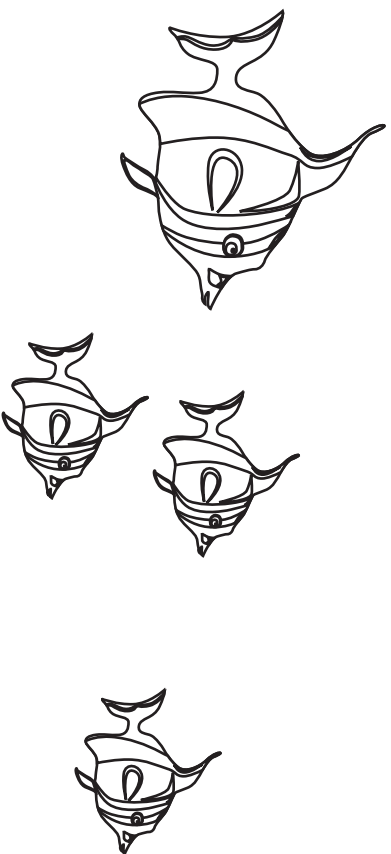
"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:39 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

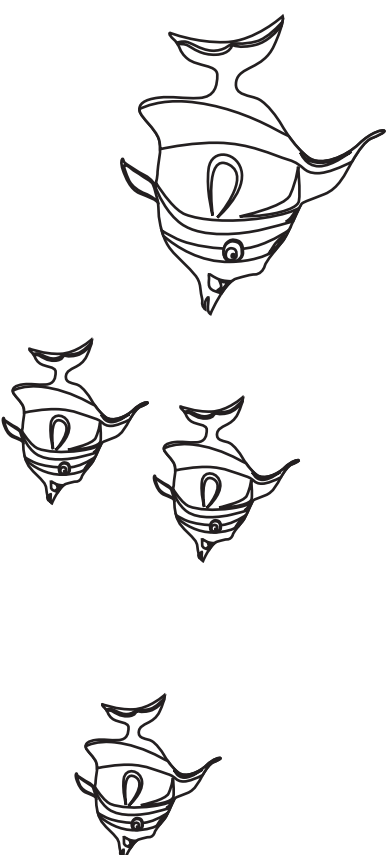
What you need to know:

How often do you get crabby with your kids? With your spouse? With God? Ask God to make you mindful of all the blessings he's given you, and give your crabby times to God as well!



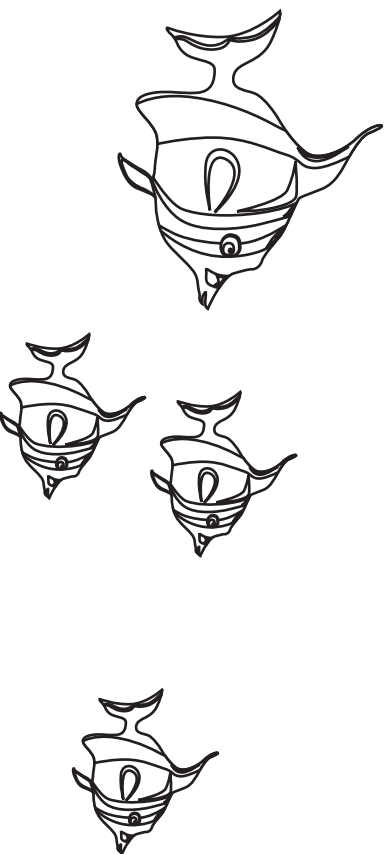
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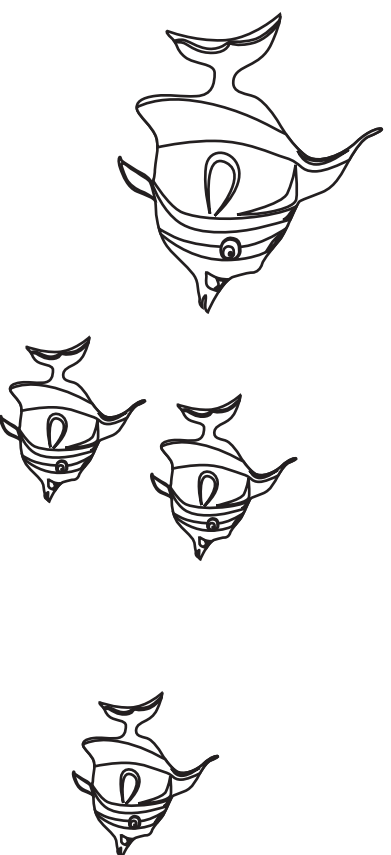
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- Romans 8:39 (NIV)

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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make a crab claw craft, where they draw two halves of a crab claw on construction paper, cut them out, color and decorate them, and then fasten them together with a metal brad.