



Welcome to Jonah and the Whale.

We are really grateful to the Lost Sheep team for allowing us to use the Lost Sheep powerpoint and retelling of the Jonah story. Manningham Uniting pays for a subscription to be able to use Andrew's wonderful books. This means we can show the powerpoints in church and in our recorded services whilst we are living with COVID-19.

Please, if you are part of a different church, visit this website and ask your church to purchase a subscription to Lost Sheep books. If you are an individual who isn't part of our church – you're always welcome! – please visit the website to buy the book or offer a donation to support the work of Lost Sheep books.

<https://www.lostsheep.com.au/>

Andrew has been so generous with his time and talents during COVID-19.

Alternatively, you could always grab your Bible and look up the story in the book of Jonah – yes, there's so much to learn from Jonah and how he reacted to events that there is a whole book dedicated to the story. After the story there are lots of activities plus Messy Science with Sharon and Messy Kitchen with Fee.

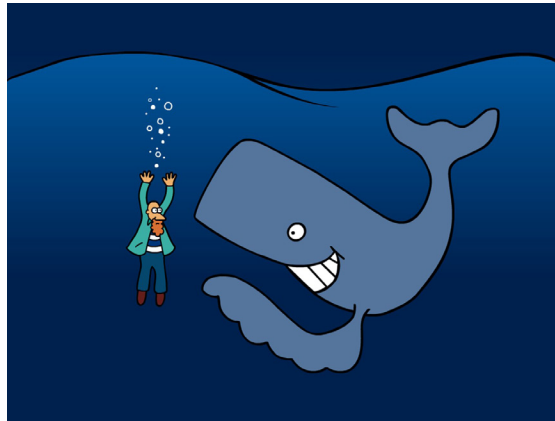
All of the activities for this Messy Church use things that you'll have at home or in the garden – or you'll be able to find alternatives. You won't need to print out anything and you won't need to go and buy anything.

There'll be another Messy Church@Home in a few weeks' time when we'll be looking at creation.

All the best,
Fee, Sharon and Rev Claire

JONAH AND THE WHALE

Click here to watch the The Lost Sheep version of Jonah and the Whale - read by Fee <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4512>



SOMETHING TO TALK AND THINK ABOUT FIRST

There's a whole book in the Bible about Jonah and what he did. God wanted Jonah to go and speak to the people of Ninevah and tell them to stop behaving so badly. But Jonah didn't want to go. Ninevah was a city in Assyria, the enemy of the Israelite nation, so Jonah was not about to put himself out and help them. He had different plans to God and ran off in a boat.

When a storm starts, the sailors are scared and pray to their own gods about the danger. But Jonah realises what he has to do and tells the sailors to throw him overboard to save everyone else – they don't want to, but Jonah insists. How interesting that the sailors resisted throwing him in even though they were scared and Jonah was telling them that he was responsible.

Once he is in the sea, a fish comes along and swallows him. He spends 3 days inside the fish pondering what God had asked him to do. The fish spat him out onto a beach and he went off to Ninevah.

When Jonah spoke to the people at Ninevah, they listened, changed the way they were living, and turned to God. Jonah wanted God to destroy Ninevah because it was regarded as an enemy city – God had other ideas though, despite Jonah continually whinging!

God's call is not always what we want to hear or convenient, but sometimes we are called by God to do something in particular because we have the gifts that are required. Jonah had those gifts but thought he knew better than God – we're all guilty of that.

This year would have been the Olympic Games but it's been cancelled because of the virus. Just as the athletes work hard to practice their skills, so should we so that, when God does call, we can respond confident that we will have what we need, and confident that we can trust God for the rest. And like athletes we never give up despite disappointments and losses.

God's Spirit moves in ways we least expect but being open to the Spirit means we place our trust in God – it takes a while for most of us to work this out, just like Jonah. But God is always there, waiting for us to catch up, always waiting to give us another chance.



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PING PONG RACES

Something to think about

The storm that blew Jonah's ship was very strong – I wonder how the sailors felt? When they were scared by the wind, they prayed to their own gods for help – they didn't believe in the God of Jonah. Who do you pray to for help?

Activity

You'll need some ping pong balls, a racetrack marked on floor using masking tape, start and finish lines. You could also use cotton wool balls or even scrunched up paper. A hallway often makes a great racetrack or a veranda. Time each person racing down the track blowing their ping pong ball and keep a list of everyone's times. No touching the ping pong ball!
Who's the champion?

SCIENCE WITH SHARON MOTION OF THE OCEAN/JONAH IN A BOTTLE

Something to think about

When Jonah was in the fish, he did some long, hard thinking and realised he'd make the wrong choice by running away on the boat. Where do you go when you need to think?

Activity

You'll need a recycled clear water bottle, baby oil (cooking is also fine but baby oil is clear and looks more effective), blue food colouring (or any colour if you don't care what colour your ocean is) some tin foil, lego person or make one from plastic container and fish shapes, seaweed etc cut from any recycled plastic.

See Science with Sharon clip for instructions on how to make and the science behind it.

<http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4512>



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EGG CARTON WHALE

Something to think about

In some versions of the story, Jonah was swallowed by a large fish and in others, he was swallowed by a whale. Try making this cute whale out of egg cartons – remember, use whatever you have at home, recycling and repurposing is what we do best!

As you make it, talk about the different versions of the story. Does it matter if it was a whale or a fish?

This is one of our sacred stories – it's included in the Bible because there is something for us to learn. What are you learning from the story?

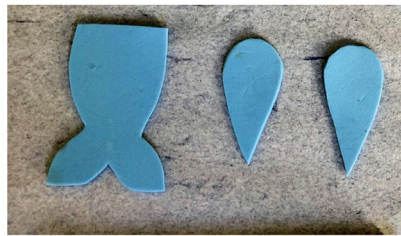
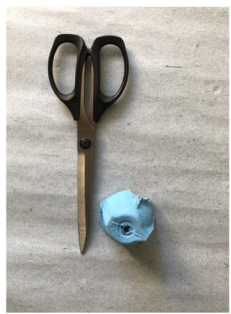
Jonah's Whale

Egg Carton Craft



You will need

- Egg Carton
- Light Blue Paint
- Paintbrush
- Blue Paper
- Blue Pipe Cleaner (we used blue paper)
- Googly Eyes (we drew the eyes)
- Black Marker
- Pencil
- Glue Stick
- Scissors



Take your pipe cleaners (I used blue paper) and push up through the blow hole. Curl at the ends to make it look like a fountain splashing out the top of the whale. Cut a whale tail + fins out of your blue card-stock. Use the picture below as a guide. With your glue stick fasten the tail + fins to your egg carton.

When your tail + fins are dry, glue or draw on the eyes and draw a mouth. And your whale is done!



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WHALE OR FISH TENT

Something to think about

Although we know this is a story, let your imaginations run away with you and think about how it might have looked inside the fish or whale, how it might have smelt! Yuk!

Activity

Make your own tent and hide in it like Jonah – check out this tent in the photo. Use chairs, sheets, pillows, cut out some teeth if you want to make a fierce fish.



'PLASTIC' FISH

Something to think about

Sea creatures are being hurt with the plastic rubbish in the sea. There are masses of plastic waste which are causing environmental hazards for fish and other wildlife. What can we do? In Australia, we have clean up days at beaches. Inventors and scientists are developing ways to vacuum or collect the plastic which is then removed from the sea. But it would be far better if it was never there in the first place. Take a look at this link and see how science is helping to clean the oceans: <https://theoceancleanup.com/>



Activity

You'll need some card or paper and draw the outline of a fish. Cut up recycled plastic wrappers and glue them onto the fish outline like scales.

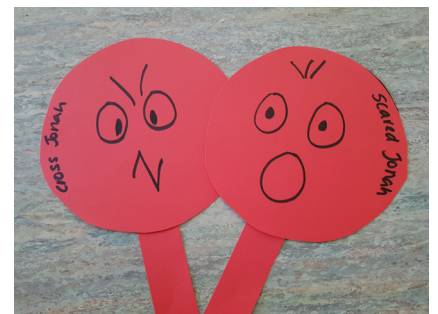
JONAH MASKS

Something to think about

Jonah was scared on the boat when the storm began, but cross with God. When you retell the story later, use your masks to show when Jonah was cross and when he was scared. You could make other masks to show Jonah happy too.

Activity

You will need paper plates or cut out circles, pens/crayons, sticks or strips of card. On one side of the circle or plate, draw a scared face and on the other side, draw a cross face. Stick on the stick or cardboard as a handle.



Prayer activity

How important is not giving up?
When was Jonah tempted to give up?
What stopped him giving up?

Sometimes talking these things through with others really helps us to work out what we should give up and what we shouldn't.

On your 'plastic fish', write down or draw some of the things you are tempted to give up on. Talk about why you're tempted to give up, if you should or shouldn't give up, and then resolve what help or support you might need.



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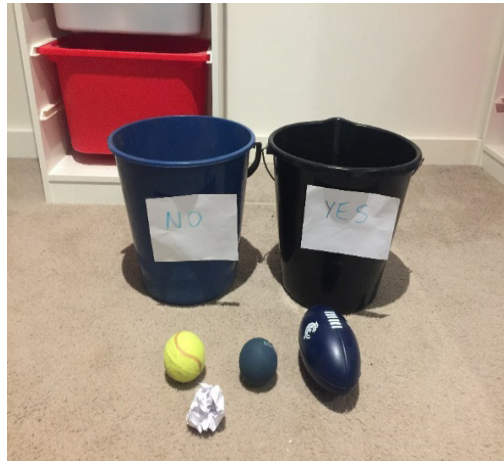
YES AND NO GAME

Something to think about

Jonah was asked by God to go to Ninevah but he didn't want to. What sort of things do you need to do but don't want to?

Activity

You will need beanbags or soft balls or even scrunched up paper-basically anything you can throw in a bucket, a YES box/bucket and a NO box/bucket (see photo)



Read the different choices and throw bean bags into a yes or no box/bucket depending on your answer (see examples below) – count them up at the end for fun to see how many are in the yes bucket.

The choice cards depend on your household members but could be:

- Clean your room
- Eat your broccoli
- Tidy your wardrobe
- Drink 8 glasses of water in a day
- Brush your teeth
- Housework
- Do your tax return
- Take the rubbish out
- Pay your credit card
- Do your homework
- Wash up the dirty dishes
- Exercise



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LET'S GO FISHING!!

Something to think about

Can you think of anything other stories in the Bible about fish? Eg Jesus turned a small boy's lunch of a few fish and loaves into a picnic for thousands of people; some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen by trade; one of the times Jesus appears to the disciples after he has risen, he cooked fish for them on the beach.

Activity

You will need: Rods – sticks with string/wool and magnets tied to the ends,
Fish – light card cut out in fish shape with paperclips attached
Pond – a small paddling pool, large box (optional)

Scatter fish in your pond or on the floor. See how many fish you can catch in the pond in a set amount of time depending on your skill level and record your score. I suggest 3-5 minutes. To make it even more competitive you can number you fish 1-10 like in the photo rather than just count the number of fish.



MESSY KITCHEN WITH FEE AND SPECIAL GUEST CHEF!

Check out Messy kitchen here: <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4512>



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PRAYER TIME AT HOME

Begin with this prayer adapted from Children's Liturgy of the Word, First Sunday of Advent Year A.

<http://www.liturgycentre.org.nz/>

Jesus said to his disciples ...

Be ready!

Whatever you are doing ...

Be ready!

You could be eating or drinking, just ...

Be ready!

You could be playing or working, just ...

Be ready!

You could be on the computer or Netflix, but ...

Be ready!

You never know what might happen, so ...

Be ready!

Be ready to help others. Are you ready?

We're ready!

Be ready to forgive. Are you ready?

We're ready!

Be ready to be kind. Are you ready?

We're ready!

Be ready to think about others. Are you ready?

We're ready!

Be ready to say you are sorry to those you hurt.

We're ready!

Are you ready?

We're ready!

Be ready to accept people. Are you ready?

We're ready!

Be ready for God's call ...

We're ready!

- Jonah showed courage when he told the sailors to throw him overboard? Why did he do that?
- Even when he had helped Ninevah and they had turned to God, Jonah was still moaning. Think about the last week – when have you carried on moaning?
- Everyone experiences disappointments in life when things don't go the way we'd like. How can we get through these times?

If you did the prayer activity and wrote down the things you've been tempted to give up, take a look at it now. Silently offer to God everything that is written down, and other ideas that come into your head. Then say together the Lord's Prayer out loud:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now
and for ever.
Amen.

Let's finish with this song from the Puglia family -

<http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4512>

STORY

Can you retell the story of Jonah? You can use the tent, the egg carton whale, the Jonah masks – don't worry about getting the story in the right order, just give everyone the chance to retell the bits they remember. When you've joined up all the bits of the story, have a chat about the following points:

- Which activity taught you the most about Jonah?
- Jonah didn't think the people of Ninevah should be helped so he ran away – how could he have responded differently? Do you think they deserved help? Maybe you agree with Jonah. If you think Jonah was wrong to think that, can you explain why?



See you next time for Messy Church@Home does Creation



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