

WELCOME
TO NEWGEN

KIDS

Title: The Response - Obedience is the mark of a true disciple.

Last week: The Commission - We must GO, who are we planning on going to?

Scripture: Jonah 1:3-6 & 3:3-4.

The background: How many of you attended Together Sunday last week? Great. We started the story of Jonah. Jonah was an Israelite and he has received a message from God. Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria. **How do you think Jonah felt about the Ninevites? He did not like them because they were enemies of Israel.** God is a compassionate God. He knew that the Assyrians were wicked and cruel. He also knew that there were over 600,000 people living in Nineveh (Nineveh was the largest city in the world at the time Jonah lived). If they did not turn from their sins they would be punished by God. Because He is compassionate He gives people a chance to turn from their wickedness so they will not suffer His punishment. (Ezekiel 18:32, 2 Peter 3:9).

The Gist: Jonah is not too keen on doing what God asks of him and so goes in the opposite direction. Even as God comes and supernaturally corrects him and gives him a second chance, he remains reluctant. His response vacillates between disobedience and obvious reluctance, yet God in his sovereignty still uses him.¹

Big Idea: Obedience is the mark of a true disciple.

¹ Stefs sermon notes

Message: God chose Jonah to go to the Ninevites and tell them that unless they turned from their wicked ways they would face God's punishment. **As we heard last week, if you are a follower of Jesus, God has given you instructions to take the message of the Good News to others (Matthew 28:19-20). You are to GO and make disciples.**

This week we will learn that Jonah chose to disobey God's instructions and went completely in the opposite direction that he was told to go.

Jonah may have thought he could run from God but that is not possible! (Psalm 139). When a person believes in Jesus as their Saviour they have been adopted by God. That person now belongs to God and He is their heavenly Father. **Earthly fathers discipline their children for disobedience because they want their children to make wise choices and do what is right.** Jonah belonged to God. God was His heavenly Father and He would discipline Jonah for his disobedience (Hebrews 12:7-11).

What if every time you came up with a bad excuse to get out of doing something, a giant fish swallowed you? Bet you would never go near a large body of water. Fortunately for us, that probably won't happen if we disobey God, but God still doesn't want us to be disobedient.

There will be negative consequences to our disobedience. We may feel badly later on, we may hurt someone else, we may even miss out on something really nice the Lord had for us all along, but we will never be able to enjoy it. When we realise it is God telling us to do something, we must do it. What are some excuses we make to God? *Encourage children to give examples of what God may ask of us during the day, and give examples as to why we can't:*

- *Inviting a friend to play with you even though he is not in your friendship group.*
- *Cleaning your room even if mom hasn't asked you yet.*
- *Stopping a bully from bullying someone even though it might cost you your popularity.*
- *Moving from a friendship group because they are not good influences.*

Disobedience removes us from the presence of God.

God gives us many instructions. Sometimes we call these instructions commands. Obeying these commands is the right thing to do, not only because we are pleasing God, but because they help us live good, clean lives that are full of blessings and joy.²

Call to Action: We need to be honest about our excuses and repent of them.

² <https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/lessons/lesson-series-previews/lessons-on-obedience---lesson-previews>

Craft: Preschoolers

This week we will be making “Grow in God” posters. These posters are to remind us that God is always with us, He is the one that “waters” our souls. That is always with us. We can trust Him to help us when we need him and give us the strength to live for Him.



Craft: Grade 1-5

This week we will be making bookmarks. These bookmarks will serve as a reminder that God is always with us - the scriptures as an encouragement to live for God and know He loves you and will never leave you.

