

WELCOME  
TO NEWGEN

# KIDS

**Scripture:** Jonah 2:1-9 & 4:1-11

**Background:** God commissioned Jonah to go to Nineveh and share God's message with some people he was not very inclined towards (he did not like). Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah decided that he would go as far away from Nineveh as he could. He hoped God would pick somebody else to go and tell the people. Jonah got on a ship that was going to the farthest city he could find. God wasn't happy with Jonah at all. He caused a huge storm to come up. Jonah told the sailors to throw him overboard because he knew the storm came because he disobeyed God. As soon as Jonah hit the water the storm quit and all was calm. God sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah and take him down to the bottom of the sea. Finally, after three days of being in the dark, stinky, belly of the fish, the fish came up to the top of the sea and spit Jonah out on the shore. Then Jonah obeyed God and went and told the people to stop sinning. They believed Jonah, and God saved them.

**Summary:** Over the last few weeks we have been journeying through Jonah. Let's summarise:

*Week one:* God commissioned Jonah to go to Ninivah to tell them God's message. Jonah was reluctant to share God's message. So too are we **commissioned** (Matthew 28) **to GO** and share God's message, do His work and make disciples, but sometimes this is hard.

*Week two:* In week two we heard that Jonah is not too keen on doing what God asks of him and so goes in the opposite direction. He was disobedient. We discussed the excuses we make around our fears of sharing the Gospel and are reminded that obedience is the mark of a true disciple. **Obedience is the mark of a true disciple**

*Week three and four:* We hear that Jonah is called by God to go to Ninevah, which was of course a neighbouring enemy country. The Ninevites were not nice neighbours and so Jonah ran away from his commission. We are reminded that God wants us to **love our neighbours** and that **God lets us choose our friends but he chooses our neighbours.**

**Big Idea:** Jonah was clearly hesitant to share God's message to the Ninevites. We were reminded a few weeks ago that **God in his sovereignty can love and save whoever he wants, even if we don't like it.**

**Say:** Sometimes it is hard loving on those we don't really want to spend time with, right? We might even think they don't deserve our kindness and grace.

But we let's be encouraged: Hebrews 12:1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Talk about what it means to throw off everything that hinders us in running the race marked out for us, what it means to get entangled in this race and how we can keep looking at Jesus while running this race.

Ask:

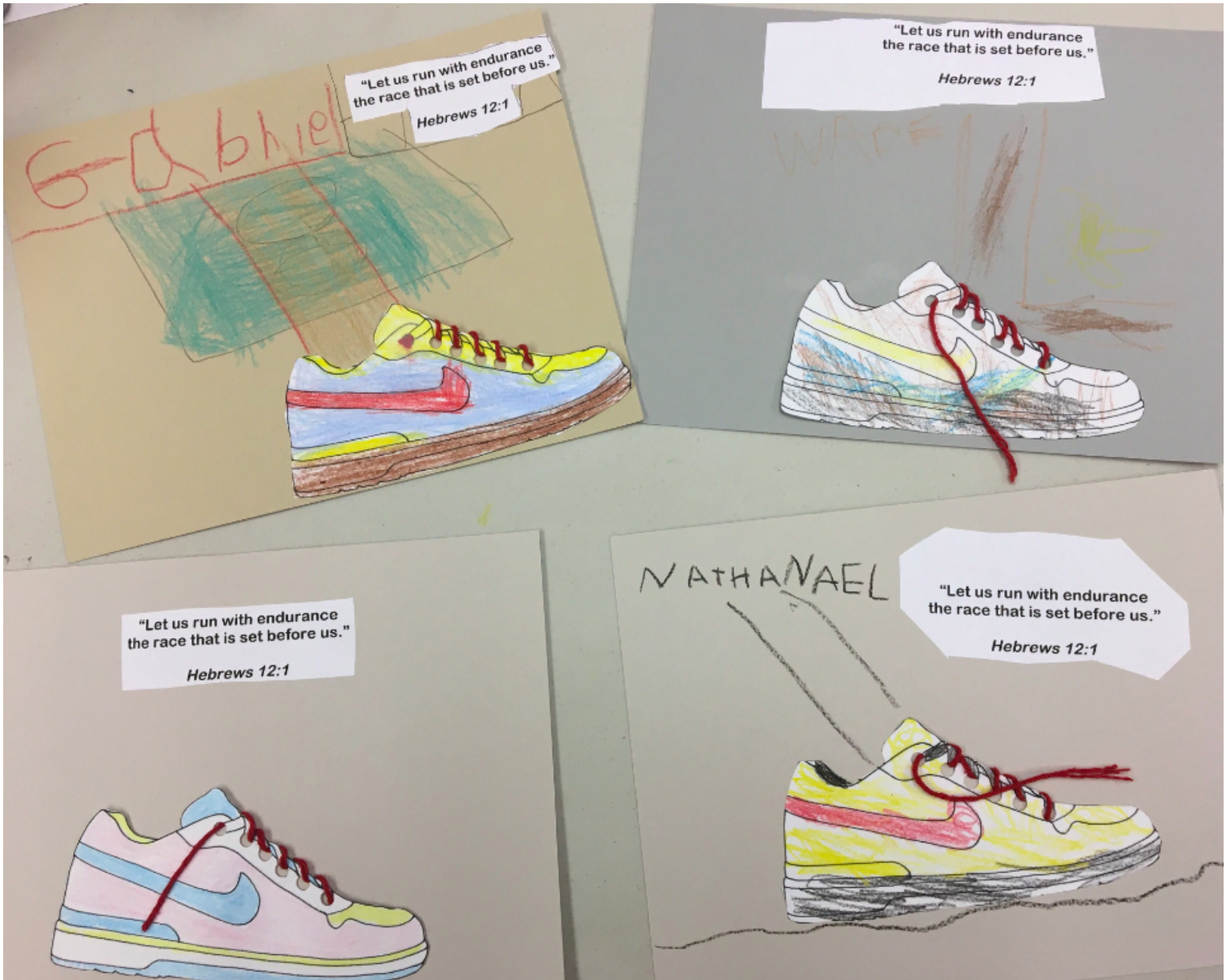
- What kind of race is this? (*sharing the Good News of Jesus*)
- How do we run this race? (*ask Gods wisdom around who our neighbours are and how we can love them and share the Good News to them*)
- What can hinder us in this race? (*maybe we don't like someone and we don't want to talk to them (like Jonah)?*)
- Which sin stops us in reaching the finish? (*pride?*)

**Call to Action:** Those who have been forgiven much love much, let us not be guilty of hypocrisy and rob others of our compassion and the gospel.

## CRAFT:

What to do:

1. Colour and decocate the template.
2. Assist children with the shoe laces.
3. Discuss scripture.



<p>“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”</p> <p>Hebrews 12:1</p>	<p>“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”</p> <p>Hebrews 12:1</p>	<p>“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”</p> <p>Hebrews 12:1</p>
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