

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 163: JONAH IS HUMBLLED BY GOD
JONAH 4:1-11

Jonah was not happy that God saved the city. Jonah became angry. He complained to the LORD and said, "LORD, I knew this would happen! I was in my own country, and you told me to come here. At that time I knew that you would forgive the people of this evil city, so I decided to run away to Tarshish. I knew that you are a kind God. I knew that you show mercy and don't want to punish people. I knew that you are kind, and if these people stopped sinning, you would change your plans to destroy them. So now, LORD, just kill me. It is better for me to die than to live." Then the LORD said, "Do you think it is right for you to be angry?" Jonah went out of the city to a place near the city on the east side. He made a shelter for himself and sat there in the shade, waiting to see what would happen to the city. The LORD made a gourd plant grow quickly over Jonah. This made a cool place for Jonah to sit and helped him to be more comfortable. He was very happy because of this plant. The next morning, God sent a worm to eat part of the plant. The worm began eating the plant, and the plant died. After the sun was high in the sky, God caused a hot east wind to blow. The sun became very hot on Jonah's head, and he became very weak. He asked God to let him die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Do you think it is right for you to be angry just because this plant died?" Jonah answered, "Yes, it is right for me to be angry! I am angry enough to die!" And the LORD said, "You did nothing for that plant. You did not make it grow. It grew up in the night, and the next day it died. And now you are sad about it. If you can get upset over a plant, surely I can feel sorry for a big city like Nineveh. There are many people and animals in that city. There are more than 120,000 people there who did not know they were doing wrong."

**163. JONAH IS HUMBLLED BY GOD
(JONAH 4:1-11)**



“The LORD made a gourd plant grow quickly over Jonah. This made a cool place for Jonah to sit and helped him to be more comfortable. He was very happy because of this plant.”

JONAH 4:6

163. JONAH IS HUMBLLED BY GOD

JONAH 4:1-11

MEMORY VERSE:

"As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him" PSALM 103:11

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Jonah was happy that God did not punish Nineveh when they turned from their evil ways. TRUE or FALSE
2. Jonah said that he ran away to Tarshish because he knew that the LORD would forgive the people and not punish them because He is a kind God that shows mercy. TRUE or FALSE
3. Then the LORD answered Jonah, "Where is your wife?" TRUE or FALSE
4. So Jonah went out of the city to the East side of the city. TRUE or FALSE
5. Jonah made a shelter for himself because it was raining. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. How did Jonah feel when God changed His mind and didn't punish the people of Nineveh?
2. When Jonah went outside the city and built a shelter, what did the LORD make grow?
3. Was Jonah happy that the plant gave him some shade?
4. What did the LORD do to the plant?
5. How did Jonah feel when the plant died and the hot wind made him weak?
6. What did the LORD tell Jonah? Did He tell him that if he was that sad over a silly plant that grew in one day that the LORD could care about over 120,000 people in a big city, and lots of animals?

Lesson 163 Project

Grow your own gourds!

Materials needed:

Paper towels or sponges, aluminum foil or thick plastic sheeting (or a garbage bag) to put the wet paper towels on

Gourd seeds (can get from any garden or seed store)

Small terracotta pots (about 2" tall) – one for each child (you can use the small Styrofoam cups instead)

Some potting soil

Newspapers to put down on the table to keep the potted soil off.

NOTE – you can germinate the gourd seeds yourself to save time, and just use the pre-germinated seeds for this project.

Give each child a paper towel and have them write their name on it in PENCIL (so it doesn't bleed ink when wet).

Let the children each take a seed or two and fold it in the paper towel. Take paper cups with a LITTLE bit of water in them, put down the plastic sheeting, baking dish, trash bag, foil, or other material to put wet paper towels down on. Have the children put their folded paper towels on the plastic or in the dish, and pour a LITTLE water onto the towel to moisten them.

You will have to leave the seeds in the class until the next Sunday, and keep them moist (on Wednesdays, etc.) – when the seeds split apart (germinate) they are ready to put into the little pots.

The next Sunday after germination, put down the newspapers on the tables in front of each child, give them a small pot (or Styrofoam cup). Have them write their name on their cup or pot in marker, and let them put dirt in them about 2/3 full, then drop a seed or two inside, then put about ¼" dirt on top and a tiny bit of water (maybe a tablespoon) onto their plant.

Leave in the classroom in the window ledge to sprout, then send them home with the instruction page.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to share God's heart of love, mercy, and compassion. Pray the children will know their part and calling in extending God's mercy and offer of salvation to others. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

STEP 5: POTTING Is to put the germinated seeds in small pots filled with potting soil or some growers use the Jiffy Pot® types. Within several days, the gourd plant will start to grow in the small pots. It's good to start the gourd plants inside. For average backyard gardeners, their gourd plants can be placed in south facing window sills. Gourd plants normally have a very long growing season (110 to 135 days) and by starting inside, it helps to gain an advantage in the late spring. If the gourd plants grow too large for the small pots, they are transplanted into larger containers.

STEP 6: PLANTING Is the planting of the gourd plant in the garden. We recommend waiting until at least April 15 or later to make sure that there is no danger of frost. Any frost at all will damage your gourd plants. Make sure that your soil is fertile enough and within the proper PH range.

STEP 7: TAKING CARE OF THE GOURD PLANT Gourd plants are very susceptible to disease and insects. A lot of the newer gourd growers will start to have healthy plants and midway through the season suffer loss all or part of their gourd vines. This is generally because of various insects such as the cucumber beetle biting the stems and infecting the gourd plant with a virus. It is the virus that eventually kills the gourd plant. Through the growing season, it is important to monitor your gourd patch and use either organic or standard methods of disease and insect control. In addition, after transplanting, make sure that your gourds have enough water to survive in the early stages. In order to have new gourds in the fall, the flowers on the gourd vines need to be pollinated. Some gourd growers will hand pollinate their gourd plants by using a cotton swab. It is important, if you are using sprays to control damaging insects and not to spray when the honey bees are out. Normally, we spray in the late evening after most of the bees have left. If you are going to use sprays, it is important to have a regular spray schedule throughout the summer. If the gourd vines start to wilt, it may be too late to control the disease. **Very important, use only approved insecticides and fungicides.** Contact your local county agricultural extension agent for more information.

STEP 8: LATE FALL With the onset of late summer and early fall, you will notice in the gourd patch many new gourds within the vines. They might be hard to see since when they are growing, they are almost the same color as the gourd vines. Be careful when walking through the gourd patch not to step on the gourd vines and the gourds. In mid-September, because of the shorter days, it is not uncommon for some of the gourd vines to start to wither. This is not always because of any problems with the gourd vines but a natural process going into the fall. If you use spray to control insects, it is still important to continue doing this so the insects will not bore holes into the green gourds.

STEP 9: HARVESTING This can be the most enjoyable part of growing gourds. Wait until after frost and the gourd vines have died. After this, it is very easy to find and harvest the gourds. If you want, you can check the gourd patch before the frost is over and see if any gourds have already started to dry on the vine. It is okay to harvest these before the frost is over.

STEP 10: DRYING We collect all the gourds and place the better ones either on outside drying racks or on racks in the greenhouse. The amount of time to dry gourds depends on when the gourd was dried on the vine, size of the gourd, type of gourd, thickest width of the gourd and the weather through the fall, winter and early spring months. In a hot dry growing season, you may have a few gourds already dry in the fall. We normally start to have gourds to dry by February or March. However, we always have some that may not dry until the following May. During the drying period, it helps to check on your gourds if they are outside and make sure that they are not rotting, if so then throw them away. A few growers will also dry the gourds inside where it is warming. This does help, especially if you have a warm dry room. If you place the green gourds in a dark cool place, you may lose them due to rot. If you are drying gourds inside, wipe off any mold with a weak bleach solution as needed.

STEP 11: CLEANING THE GOURDS If you are going to use the gourds for crafts, they have to be cleaned. Cleaning gourds is not hard but it may take some time. If you have a washtub, just put some warm water in it, place the gourds in the tub with soap and scrub the gourds with the brushes. This may take some "elbow grease" to clean them. After they are cleaned, then let them dry.

STEP 12: USING THE GOURDS This is most fun time of gourds, after they have dried, you can select which ones you would like to make crafts out of such as birdhouses, bowls and dippers. The main enjoyment of

gourd crafting is the many types of ways to craft gourds such as plain finishes, painting, varnishing, wood burning, wood carving and staining.

Lesson 163 Jonah is Humbled

Color Your Own Gourds



