

# Jonah Complains About God's Compassion

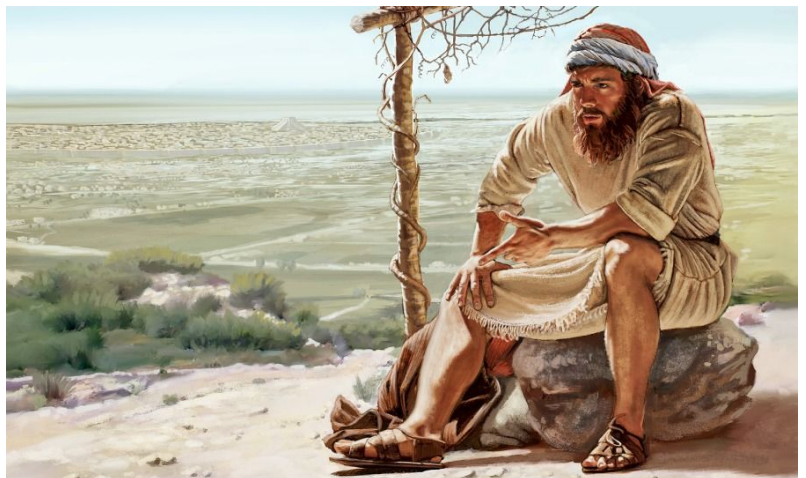
*Jonah 3:10–4:11*

Bible point: God Loves Everyone

In this bible passage the people of Nineveh had been doing bad things for a very long time. God patiently waited for them to be sorry for their sins and to change their ways. Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people that if they didn't say they were sorry for the bad things they'd done, God would destroy their city. The people believed God and said they were sorry they'd been bad and they stopped doing bad things. God loves everyone including the people of Nineveh. God had waited for the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things, and finally they changed. This made God very happy.

But Jonah wasn't happy. He didn't love the people of Nineveh the way God did. He didn't want God to be patient and forgive them. So Jonah went outside the city and sat in the hot sun, waiting to see what God would do with Nineveh. God made a vine grow beside Jonah. The plant grew quickly and shaded Jonah. Jonah was happy that the vine gave him shade from the hot sun.

But the next day, God sent a hungry worm to eat the vine. Jonah cared about the life of a plant, but God wanted Jonah to care about the lives of all of the people and animals in Nineveh. God loves everyone and God wanted Jonah to show love to everyone as well.



God wants us to love others, too. We can show kindness in our words and actions. We can tell people we meet that God loves them very much. Let's be thankful that we have such a loving and forgiving God!

Questions:

Why do you think it was hard for Jonah to love the people in Nineveh?

What does God do to show love to us?

What can you do to show love to others this week?

## Walkin' Puppets Craft:

Let's make a Jonah cup puppet and worm!

### Supplies:

yarn, 1 foam cup, crayons or markers, scissors, tape

Make two holes at the bottom of the cup so you can stick



your fingers through to act as their puppets' legs. Draw a face on the cup puppets. Cut strips of yarn and tape them to the cup to make hair.

## Worm Craft:

**Supplies:** pompoms, craft stick, glue, marker or googly eyes, pipe cleaner, tape



If using a pipe cleaner for antenna, cut to small pieces and tape it to the craft stick. Then glue the pompoms on the craft stick and add the googly eyes.

Retell the story using your Jonah puppet & Worm!

Jonah walked to Nineveh; he stood before the crowd. He told them to stop being mean and turn their hearts to God. The people listened to his words, and they began to pray; And Jonah saw the people turn away from evil ways.

Jonah sat in the hot, hot sun. God grew a plant for shade. The next day God sent down a worm to eat the plant away. This made Jonah very mad. He jumped up to complain. "Why did you let that nice plant die?" he stomped his feet and whined. God said, "You love a vine, but not a town...I tell you, this is true: I love all people everywhere—and, Jonah, so should you."