



Lesson 24

God, Have Mercy!

Intermediate Small Group Lesson

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Jonah Receives God's Mercy</p> <p><i>Jonah 1-4</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name tags• Snacks• How Are You Feeling? emoji chart• A squishy ball• A slip of paper and a pencil per student• Handout 1, one printed copy for every two students• "God Said Go!" Handout, one per small group• Scissors, one pair per student• Glue stick or bottle of glue, two or three per small group• Index cards, one per student
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>"People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy."</p> <p><i>Proverbs 28:13, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p>Key Teaching Point</p> <p>Those who receive mercy, show mercy.</p>	



Small Group Session 1

(15 Minutes)

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" emoji chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- As the students are eating their snacks, ask, "**Have you ever refused to do what your parents told you to do? What happened?**"

Pray Together

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

Small Group Game: Silent Speedball

Materials: A squishy ball

Begin by having all players stand close to the center of the playing area. Throw a squishy ball into the air over the players. Whoever grabs the ball first can take three steps in any direction and has five seconds to throw it. They may either throw it up into the air again or try to tag another player. If they tag someone with the ball, the player sits down. If they catch it, the player who threw must sit down. Anyone sitting down can get back up if they are able to grab the ball (without moving from their seated spot) and tag another standing player. There are no teams, and no "winners" in this game, although you may play until there are only a few remaining, declare them "winners" and begin a new round.

Small Group Session 2

(35 Minutes)

Life Application Activity

Give each child a slip of paper. On the front side, have students write a list of things they find hard to forgive.

On the other side of the slip of paper, have students write a list of things they want to be forgiven for.

Read from Mark 11:25, and then have each child tear the sheet of paper and throw it away.



“But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”

Discuss these questions: **Why do you think God asks us to forgive others? How does being forgiven by God help us to forgive others?**

Receive the Gift!

Service: Freely giving what we have received from God.

What does it look like for someone your age to share God’s Word with others? (Telling someone about how to be saved. Sharing something you learned in kids club or at church. Sharing a story or verse from the Bible. Telling someone about how God has helped you. Telling someone that Jesus loves them.)

Give students the fish cutouts (Handout 1), one fish per student. Students will cut out the fish and glue it to an index card.

On the back, have students write:

- God said, “Go!”
- But Jonah said, “No!”
- I will say “Yes!” to God
- (Make a copy of Handout 2 and place it where students can see if they need help spelling the words.)

Challenge the students to try to think of three ways they can share God’s Word with someone they know this week. Each time they share with someone, they should color in a section of the fish as a reminder that they are learning to be obedient to God’s command to share his word with others.

Bible Verse Game

Review the Bible verse with a [Bible verse game](#).

“People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.” *Proverbs 28:13, New Living Translation*

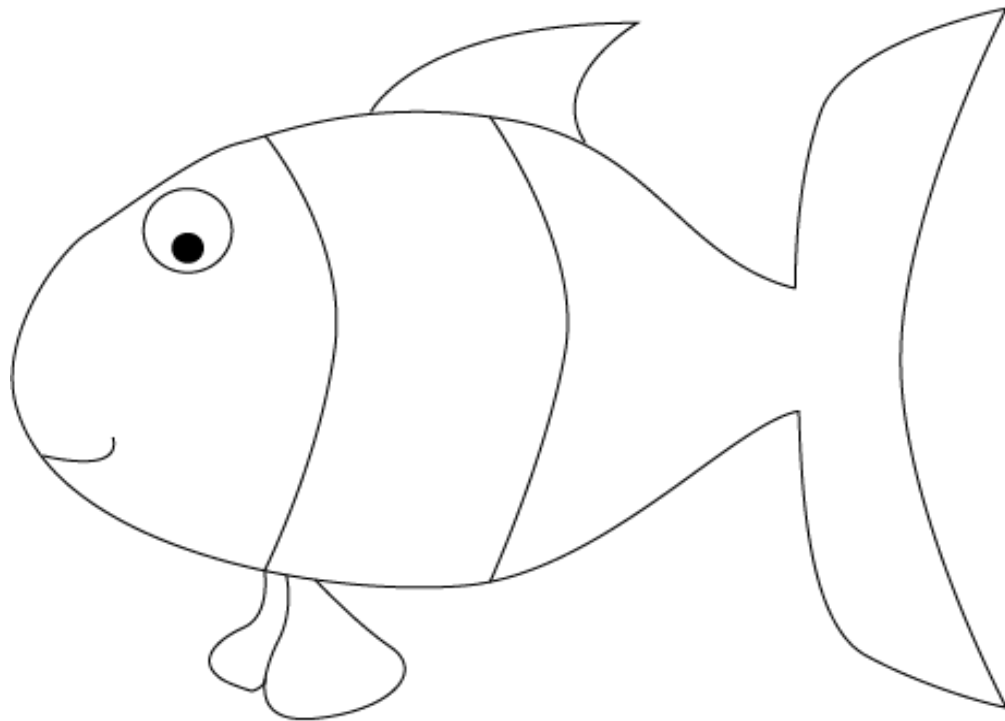
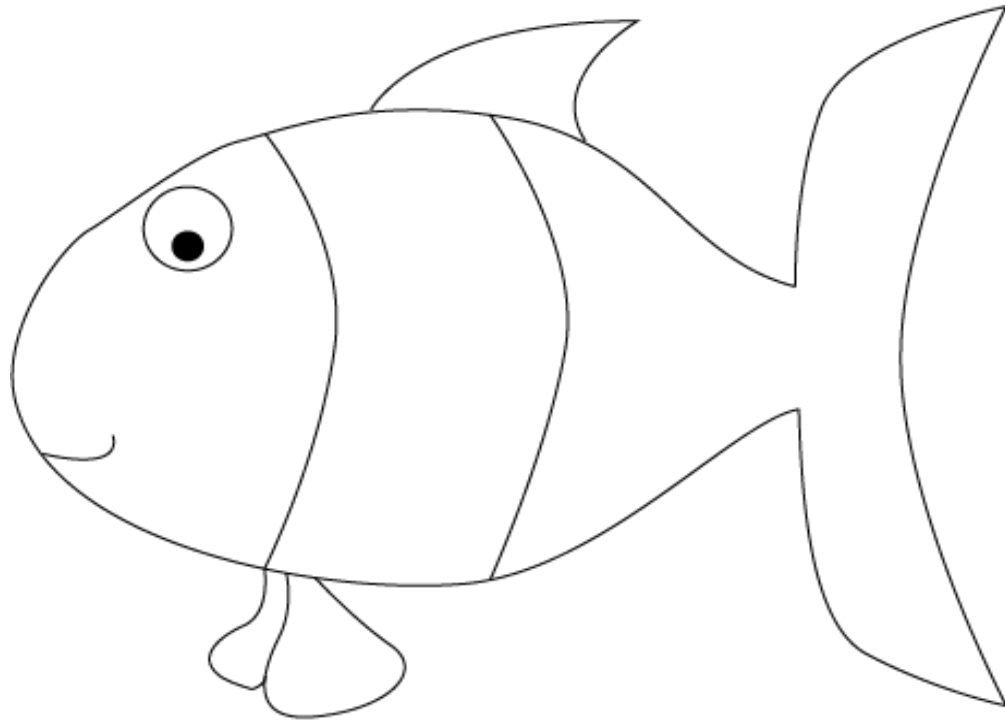
Reflection

Give each child their reflection journal. Invite them to reflect on the following questions and to record their answers in their journal. They may also draw their responses if they wish:

1. What gift have I received from God that I can share with others?
2. How can this gift impact people in my life?



Handout 1



Handout 2

Instruct students to cut and glue their fish on the front of their index card. On the back, they should copy the phrase below:

“God Said Go!” Handout

God said, “Go!”
But Jonah said, “No!”
I will say “Yes!” to
God

