**Wrong-Way Jonah**

Hi everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_ (insert your first name), and I’m a part of the global 1for 50 movement. We desire to equip people like you to reach, disciple, and empower the next generation.

Often when we teach the Bible to our children, it’s easy to look at God’s Word through a small, “me-sized” lens (put on small glasses). We look for how the story applies to us.

But what if we taught the Bible through a “God-sized” lens (put on big glasses)?

(Take glasses off.)

When we teach the Bible through a “God-sized” lens, it broadens our children’s perspective of who the God of the Bible is and who we are in light of His purposes.

Teaching the Bible through a God-sized lens does not have to be difficult. It only requires that we frame each story around three main concepts:

● God is the main character of every story.

● God is always at work to make Himself known.

● God blesses people for a purpose greater than themselves. Oftentimes this blessing spills over to other people.

Let’s look at a Bible story that we can teach our children through a “God-sized” lens (put on big glasses):

We’re going to learn about Wrong-Way Jonah (remove glasses).

Gather your family and read the Old Testament account of Jonah from a children’s Bible or storybook.

As your family explores this story together, notice which character is blessed to know the true God.

Think about how this blessing impacts unbelievers he comes in contact with.

After you’re finished reading, do a related activity. You will need three things:

… a bowl (hold up your bowl),

… a strainer (hold up your strainer),

... and water (hold up a container of water).

First, invite one child to pour water into the bowl (demonstrate this). Watch carefully to see what happens to the water.

Next, invite another child to pour water into the strainer (demonstrate this). Notice what happens to the water this time.

Explain that Jonah was blessed with the knowledge of the true God, but at first he refused to share what he knew with the people of Nineveh.

(Hold up the bowl.) Just as this bowl kept the water contained, Jonah wanted to keep God’s blessings all … to ... himself.

So instead of traveling *towards* Nineveh, Jonah went the *opposite way.*

But God is always working to make Himself known, and He had a different plan.

(Hold up the strainer.) Just like the water flowed out through the holes in this strainer, God wanted His blessings to flow out through Jonah to the people in Nineveh.

So God used a big fish to turn *Wrong-Way Jonah* around.

Then God worked through His prophet, Jonah, to make Himself known to an entire city.

All the people prayed to God and turned from their sins … and God did not destroy them.

God’s interaction with Jonah demonstrates the greatness of His love and concern for all people, especially those who have never had the opportunity to learn about Him.

(Put on the big glasses.) If your family uses a God-sized lens when you study the Bible together, you will begin to notice a “blessed to be a blessing” pattern throughout *all* of God’s Word (remove glasses).

After you read this story and do the activity together, ask God to show your family how He wants you to use your own blessings—your time, talents, and resources—so that others in our world today can know and worship God, too!

Thanks for joining me.

If you enjoyed this video, be sure to “Like” and subscribe to our channel, and click the notification bell to alert you when we post a new video. You can also share this video with others who would be encouraged by the message!

For more ideas of how you can teach the Bible through a “God-sized” lens (put on big glasses and quickly take them off) and for other free resources, visit [weavefamily.org](https://weavefamily.org/).

If you would like to translate this video into another language, the video script can be found on [www.1for50Today.net](http://www.1for50today.net/).

To access other resources to help you reach, disciple and empower your children, head to [www.1for50.net](http://www.1for50today.net/).

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Don’t say this part. It is just for the printed script so they know how to find the post.

*The original article for this script was first posted on WeaveFamily.org on September 15, 2020.*