



# God Sees Us

## Bible Verse

God sees us (adapted from Job 31:4).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that God saw Jonah at sea,
  - realize that God sees them all the time, and
  - know that they can't hide from God.



## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ God sees us all the time.

#### Jonah 1:1–2:10



Jonah was a prophet during a time that God had blessed Israel with political and economic prosperity. The king, Jeroboam II, had grown Israel's territory approximately to what it was in the glory days of David and Solomon. Jonah prophesied in Israel during a period when national pride was running high.

Nineveh at this time was a chief city in the Assyrian Empire. Assyria had been a constant threat to smaller nations like Israel and Judah, and was Israel's greatest enemy. It came as a real shocker to have God tell Jonah to go to Nineveh to warn its residents of looming destruction. Jonah knew that this warning was designed to prompt the Ninevites to repent and be saved from judgment.

Jonah refused and ran instead—he didn't want his enemies to have a chance to experience God's mercy. Of all the reasons to flee, this was the worst. All of us have been beneficiaries of God's mercy; all of us should likewise be eager to see others experience that mercy—even our enemies.











### Prayer

- Read Matthew 5:43-44.
- How does your relationship with Jesus make it possible for you to love your enemies?
- Pray: Lord, teach me how to love others with your love. Please help me to reach out in love this week to this person who has made my life difficult...

### Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Arrival Activities</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Welcome Time</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, scissors, CD player	
	<b>Option 1: Build a Boat</b> —Build a pretend boat, and go sailing on the sea.	Building blocks, masking tape	
	<b>Option 2: Splashy Fun</b> —Play in water, and find out that they can't hide from God.	Shallow tubs and dishpans, water, plastic cups, scoops, spoons, aprons or towels and safety pins, old shower curtain or plastic tablecloth, extra towels	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Bible Song</b> —Sing about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>God Sees Us</b> —Interact with the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Jonah from Jonah 1:1–2:10.	Water	
	<b>“God Sees Us” Song</b> —Sing a song about how God sees us.	CD player	
<b>Bible Activities</b>	<b>All Day Long</b> —Act out times during the day that God sees them.		
	<b>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</b> —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Sail pattern (p. 149); boat, sailors, and Jonah patterns (p. 150); tape; scissors; marker; light-blue and dark-blue construction paper	
	<b>Sing It Out</b> —Sing a song about how God sees us.	CD player	
	<b>Bible Craft</b> —Sponge-paint boat pictures.	Rectangle and triangle sponges, brown and white tempera paint, blue construction paper, glue, craft sticks, plastic tablecloth, shallow pans, scissors, paint shirts or paper grocery sacks, marker	
	<b>Bible Game</b> —Row pretend boats over the “sea” and sing a song.		
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Melon Sailboats</b> —Say a prayer and have a snack.	Melon or orange wedges, triangle-shaped tortilla chips or crackers, paper plates, wet wipes	

# Arrival Activities

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “God Sees Us” (adapted from Job 31:4) (track 9) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God sees us.**



Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.



## Option 1: Build a Boat

**SUPPLIES:** masking tape, building blocks



Before class, use masking tape to make a simple outline of a boat on the floor. Make it big and inviting for the children to play in.

Set out building blocks, and invite the children to build a boat. Have them lay blocks along the tape outline on the floor.

When children have finished, encourage toddlers to climb aboard for a “ride.” Let them bring Cuddles onto the boat, and encourage them to pretend they’re on a big boat sailing on the sea. As you “sail along,” tell children that they’ll hear a Bible story about a man named Jonah who also sailed on a boat. Mention that God saw Jonah on the boat and that ► God sees us in the pretend boat, too.



Leave the boat outline taped to the floor throughout this module.



For extra fun, cut simple fish and boat shapes from sponges. Save the sponge shapes to use later in the Bible Craft.



## Option 2: Splashy Fun

**SUPPLIES:** old shower curtain or plastic tablecloth, shallow tubs and dishpans, water, plastic cups, scoops, spoons, aprons or towels and safety pins, extra towels

Cover an area of the floor with an old shower curtain or plastic tablecloth. Set out shallow tubs and dishpans partially filled with water. Provide plastic cups, scoops, and spoons for children to measure and pour the water.

Use aprons to cover the children’s clothing or safety pin towels to their clothes. Be sure to have extra towels to dry children’s hands. As children play, have them put their hands under the water. Ask if they still see their hands. Point out that God sees us just like we can see our hands even when they’re under the water. We can’t hide from God. Mention that they’ll hear a story today about a man named Jonah who tried to hide from God. But God saw Jonah, and ► God sees us, too.

## ■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you all sing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things  
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
It’s time to stop our play.

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

BIBLE VERSE ►



Say: **Who sees us? ► God sees us. How do we know? The Bible tells us in the book of Jonah. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. It tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.** Using the CD, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



This is God’s special book.  
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!  
I learn about all God has done  
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

**Bible!**

Say: **The Bible is God’s special book. In the Bible, we can read all about how ► God sees us. God sees us at church, and God sees the trees outside.**

Ask: • **What else does God see?** Pause as children respond.

Say: **It’s important to learn about the Bible, because the Bible is God’s special story. Let’s sing a fun song all about the Bible!** Lead children in singing “The Bible Is God’s Special Book” (track 11) with the CD. Lyrics are on page 24.

Say: ► **God sees us, and we can learn all about how God does that in the Bible. Let’s learn more!**



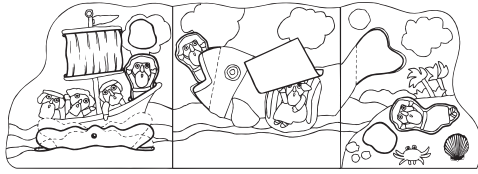
BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

## ■ Bible Story: God Sees Us

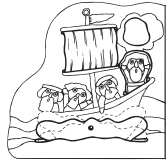
**SUPPLIES:** water



Before class begins, prepare your StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions provided in the Learning Lab.

The purpose of the StoryBoard is to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers and 2s. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

### Panel 1



Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1, which shows a picture of a boat. If you chose to do Option 1, sit with children inside the boat shape on the floor. Say: **We're going to hear an exciting Bible story. But first, there's someone I'd like you to meet. This is Jonah. Can you say his name? Jonah. Let's say hello to Jonah.** Pass the figure of Jonah to the children, and encourage them to say hello.

**A long time ago, God wanted Jonah to tell the people in a town called Nineveh to stop doing bad things. But Jonah didn't want to tell them. So guess what Jonah did—he ran away! Jonah ran away and hid from God! Close your eyes, and I'll hide Jonah. Don't peek!** Fasten the figure of Jonah to the boat using the hook and loop fastener. **You may open your eyes now—where's Jonah?** Have children point to the figure of Jonah in the boat. **Jonah hid on a boat. Point to the boat on Panel 1. This is a sailboat. See the sail? The wind blows the sail so the boat can move. Can you blow like the wind?** Blow through your mouth. Then have children blow on the sail on Panel 1. Point out how it wiggles and moves in the “wind.”

**Jonah wanted to hide from God. But God saw Jonah. And ► God sees us, too.** Demonstrate the following peekaboo finger play for the children, and then encourage them to say it with you.

**Silly Jonah tried to hide** (*cover your eyes*),  
**But God sees us all the time!** (*Cup your hands around your eyes like glasses.*)

Lay your head on your hands and say: **Jonah fell fast asleep. While he slept, a big storm blew in. Let's touch the storm cloud.** Have children touch the cloud.

Ask: • **What does the cloud feel like?** (Soft; fluffy.)

Say: **The wind blew the waves back and forth.** Let children move the waves on Panel 1 back and forth. **It was a big storm! But even in that storm, God saw Jonah. And ► God sees us all the time, too.**

**The sailors were afraid. They knew Jonah had disobeyed God. So they tossed Jonah into the sea with a splash! Clap your hands to show how Jonah splashed.** Pause. **Let's see what happened to Jonah.**



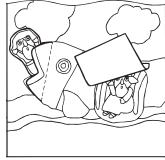
## teacher tips

If you have very young children in your class, let them simply find and touch StoryBoard pictures and sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.



## BIBLE POINT

## Panel 2



Reveal Panel 2, which shows the fish. Say: **While Jonah swam in the sea, a big fish swallowed him.** Slide the figure of Jonah through the slit in the fish's mouth. **'Bye, Jonah! Can you show how the fish swallowed Jonah?** Cup your hands, clap them together, and say: **Gulp! That fish was so big!** Shiver and rub your arms. **It was cold and wet inside that big fish.** Using the *little fish squirter*, spray water above children's heads.

Ask: • **Did God see Jonah in the fish? Let's peek!** Let children lift the flap on the fish and peek under it. Then ask:

- **Who's in the fish?** (Jonah.)
- **Who sees Jonah in the fish?** (God; we do.)

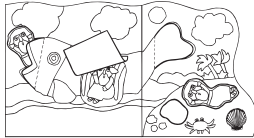
Say: **God saw Jonah in the fish just as ►God sees us. Jonah couldn't hide from God, could he?** Lead children in repeating the peekaboo finger play.

**Silly Jonah tried to hide** (*cover your eyes*),  
**But God sees us all the time!** (*Cup your hands around your eyes like glasses.*)

Say: **Do you suppose the fish swam around with Jonah inside? Let's pretend we're riding in a fish.** Sway back and forth as you say: **Back and forth, back and forth. The big fish swam around the sea with Jonah.** Stop swaying.

**Jonah prayed and told God he loved him. Show me your prayer hands.** Pause. **Jonah prayed for three days and nights. Can you help me count to three?** Hold up your fingers as you count, and encourage children to follow. **One... two...three.**

## Panels 2 &amp; 3



Open the StoryBoard to reveal Panels 2 and 3. Say: **Then God told the fish to spit Jonah on the beach.** Fasten the figure of Jonah to the beach on Panel 3 using the hook and loop fastener. **What a sandy beach!**

Ask: • **What's on the beach with Jonah?** (Sand; a crab; seashells.)

Say: **Let's touch the sand and the seashell.** Have children feel the sandpaper and gently touch the seashell.

- Ask: • **How does sand feel?** (Rough; scratchy; owie.)
- **What's the seashell like?** (Pretty; shiny.)

Say: **Show me how the crab looks. Stand up.** Stand and wiggle your arms around. **My! We have lots of crabs in our room. Look!** Point to Panel 3. **There are seashells on the beach. Can you turn into seashells?** Squat down. **What pretty seashells! Now let's sit like Jonah.** Pause.

**God saw Jonah on the boat, in the sea, and in the big fish. God also saw Jonah on the beach. And ►God sees us. He sees us all the time. Let's sing a song to show how glad we are that ►God sees us.**

## teacher tips

**Important:** Put away the StoryBoard out of reach of children, and return the *little fish squirter* to the Learning Lab.



## BIBLE POINT

## ■ “God Sees Us” Song

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “God Sees Us” (adapted from Job 31:4) (track 9) with the CD, to the tune of “Three Blind Mice.”



SING

God sees us; God sees us.  
 All the time, rain or shine.  
 God sees us every night and day.  
 God sees us when we work or play.  
 God says he’ll never look away.  
 God sees us.

(Repeat.)



Say: It makes me happy to know that ► God sees us. God sees all we do, and he can keep us safe and happy. God loves us very much. That’s why he sent his Son, Jesus, to be our forever friend. When we believe in Jesus, we can live with him forever in heaven someday. That’s great news! Let’s clap our hands to show how happy we are that God sent Jesus. Lead children in clapping their hands.



◀ BIBLE POINT

Now let’s play a game to help us understand that ► God sees us all day long.



◀ BIBLE POINT

## Bible Activities

### ■ All Day Long

SUPPLIES: none



Have the *tinsel maraca* handy.

Say: God saw Jonah in the boat, and in the water, and inside the fish, and on the dry land. God saw Jonah all the time, just as ► God sees us all the time. Let’s play a game to help us remember that ► God sees us all the time. I’ll pretend that this *tinsel maraca* is an alarm clock. Every time I shake the

maraca, it’ll be time to do another action. Are you ready? Let’s start! Shake the *tinsel maraca*.

God sees us in the morning. Let’s pretend it’s morning and we’re having toast for breakfast. Squat down with me and we’re going to be toast in the toaster. On “three,” we’re going to pop up out of the toaster! Ready? One, two, three! Pop! Jump up from the ground, and encourage the children to also. Shake the *tinsel maraca*.



◀ BIBLE POINT

Now let's pretend to eat our toast. Gobble, gobble, yum, yum. Pretend to eat. Yes, that was a good breakfast. God sees us in the morning when we first wake up and when we eat our breakfast. Shake the *tinsel maraca*.

God sees us when we color a picture. Pretend to use your crayons. Pause while you make coloring strokes in the air. Now let's use our purple crayon. Pause and "color" in the air. Now let's use green. Pause and "color" in the air. This time, use any color you want. Pause and "color" in the air. Shake the *tinsel maraca*.

God sees us when we take a nap. Lie on the floor and pretend to sleep. Shake the *tinsel maraca*. God sees us when we build with blocks. Show groups of four or five children how to stand together in a circle and stack their hands one on top of the other to build a pretend tower. Shake the *tinsel maraca*.

God sees us when we say our prayers. Pause to fold hands. Shake the *tinsel maraca*. And God sees us when we go to sleep at night. Lie on the floor and pretend to sleep. Shake the *tinsel maraca*, and have children sit in a circle on the floor.

Say: **God loves us, and he watches over us. ▶ God sees us all the time.**

Ask: • **What's your favorite thing to do during the day?** (Eat; go to school; play with toys; watch TV.)

• **Who watches you do that?** (God; Mommy; Daddy; my teacher.)

• **Who sees you all the time?** (God!)

Say: **Now let's tell Cuddles that ▶ God sees us all the time.**



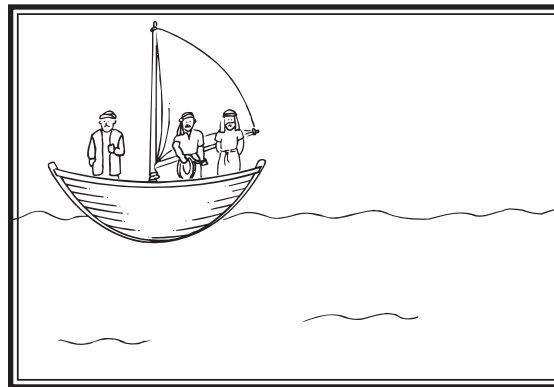
**BIBLE POINT ▶**



**BIBLE POINT ▶**

## ■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

**SUPPLIES:** light-blue and dark-blue construction paper; marker; sail pattern (p. 149); boat, sailors, and Jonah patterns (p. 150); scissors; tape



Before class, cover the top half of the bulletin board with light-blue construction paper and the bottom portion with dark-blue construction paper. With a marker, draw waves on the dark blue paper. Make one photocopy of the sail pattern. Also, photocopy the patterns for the boat, sailors, and Jonah. Cut out one each of Jonah and the boat and enough sailors so that each child has a pattern.





*Before class, hide Cuddles in the room at the children's eye level.*

**Teacher:** Cuddles, oh Cuddles! Where's Cuddles? Has anyone seen him? *(Help children recall that they saw Cuddles when he greeted them and, if appropriate, when he played with them in the boat during Option 1.)*

I know that God sees Cuddles. God sees us all the time. Let's see if we can find Cuddles. Put on your special glasses. *(Cup your hands around your eyes like glasses. Then help children find Cuddles and bring him to the bulletin board.)*

**Cuddles:** Hi, boys and girls! I'm glad you found me! I couldn't see you, but I'm glad you could see me.

**Teacher:** We're glad we found you, too, Cuddles. We didn't see you at first—we had to look for you. But there is someone who can see you even when you hide. Children, tell Cuddles who sees us all the time. *(Encourage children to repeat the Bible Point to Cuddles.)*

We've been learning that ► God sees us. And in our Bible story, Jonah hid like you did.

**Cuddles:** Where did Jonah hide? *(Encourage children to tell Cuddles that Jonah hid in a boat.)*

**Teacher:** Yes, Jonah hid in a boat, but God saw him. That's because God loves us and wants to know where we are. Would you like to help us build Jonah's boat on the bulletin board, Cuddles?

**Cuddles:** Yes, I like to help.

*Let Cuddles hand the boat and sail to two children. Help children tape the pictures of the boat and sail to the waves. Then have Cuddles hand out the pictures of Jonah and the sailors to the rest of the children. Help them tape the pictures of the sailors and Jonah in the boat. Point to each picture and have children tell how God sees that person or thing. Prompt the children to use sentences such as "God sees the boat," "God sees the sailors," or "God sees Jonah."*

*Tell Cuddles goodbye, and then put him out of sight.*

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## ■ Sing It Out

*SUPPLIES: CD player*



Lead children in singing “God Sees Us” (adapted from Job 31:4) (track 9) with the *CD*, to the tune of “Three Blind Mice.” The lyrics are on page 143.

Say: **Just as God saw Jonah in the boat, ► God sees us, too. We can make boats like the one Jonah sailed in.**



**BIBLE POINT** ►



**teacher tips**

Use hinge-style clothespins to hold the sponges. The clothespins make great handles for children to hold while painting and keep their fingers clean.

## ■ Bible Craft

*SUPPLIES: plastic tablecloth, rectangle and triangle sponges, 2 shallow pans, brown and white tempera paint, paint shirts or paper grocery sacks, blue construction paper, glue, craft sticks, marker, scissors*

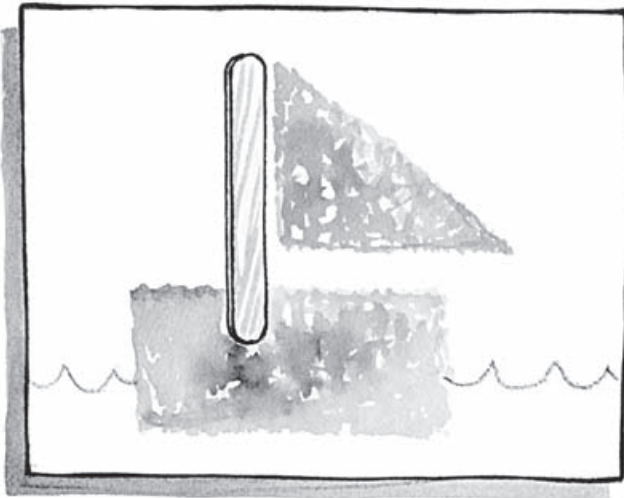
Before class, cut rectangles and triangles from sponges.

Cover the craft table with a plastic tablecloth. Set out the sponges and two shallow pans containing brown and white tempera paint. Help children put on paint shirts

or grocery sacks with head and armholes cut out of them. Hand out blue construction paper. Show children how to use the rectangular sponges to print boat shapes and triangular sponges to print sails on their boats. Then help the children glue craft sticks next to the sails.

As children work, compliment them on the beautiful boats they’re making. Ask them to tell about a time they were in a boat or near the water. Say: **God saw you when you rode in a boat and played in the water. ► God sees us all the time. He can even see us while we row pretend boats!**

Be sure children’s names are on their pictures; then set the pictures aside to dry.



## ■ Bible Game

*SUPPLIES: none*

Help children sit down in pairs facing each other with the soles of their shoes touching. Next, have them reach forward and hold hands with each other. Say: **Now you can row your boats. Back and forth...back and forth...row, row, row your boats. Good! Let’s sing a fun song to help us row our boats.**

Without using the *CD*, lead children in singing this version of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Encourage them to keep rowing with their partners as you sing the song through a few times.



**SING**

**Row, row, row your boat  
Across the deep blue sea.  
No matter where we row our boats  
God sees you and me!**



Say: **It's fun to make believe we're rowing boats. ►God sees us having fun in our pretend boats. Now let's "row" over to the table for some delicious treats.** Have children stand and make rowing motions as they walk to the snack table.

## Closing

### ■ Melon Sailboats

**SUPPLIES:** melon or orange wedges, triangle-shaped tortilla chips or crackers, paper plates, wet wipes

Before class, cut melons or oranges into thick wedges so each child has a wedge-shaped "boat." Lay a melon slice on a paper plate for each child. Then place a triangle-shaped tortilla chip or cracker so that it looks like a sail.

When children have washed their hands and are seated at the snack table, have them close their eyes.

Ask: • **Can you see when your eyes are closed?** (No; it's dark.)

Say: **You may open your eyes. We can't see everything all the time. But God can, and ►God sees us all the time. Even when our eyes are closed and we're sleeping, God sees us. Even when we hide as Jonah did, God sees us. He sees us all the time no matter where we are. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes and thank God for seeing us all the time.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for seeing us. Thank you for always knowing where we are. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

**Now let's eat up these yummy boats!** Hand each child a napkin with a melon sailboat on it. As toddlers enjoy their treats, remind them that ►*God sees us* even when we're eating.

When children have finished, have them throw their napkins in the wastebasket, and wipe their hands with wet wipes. Remind children to take their sponge paintings home.



### Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Parent Page" handout (p. 136), and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module's topic.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ *Boats Afloat*

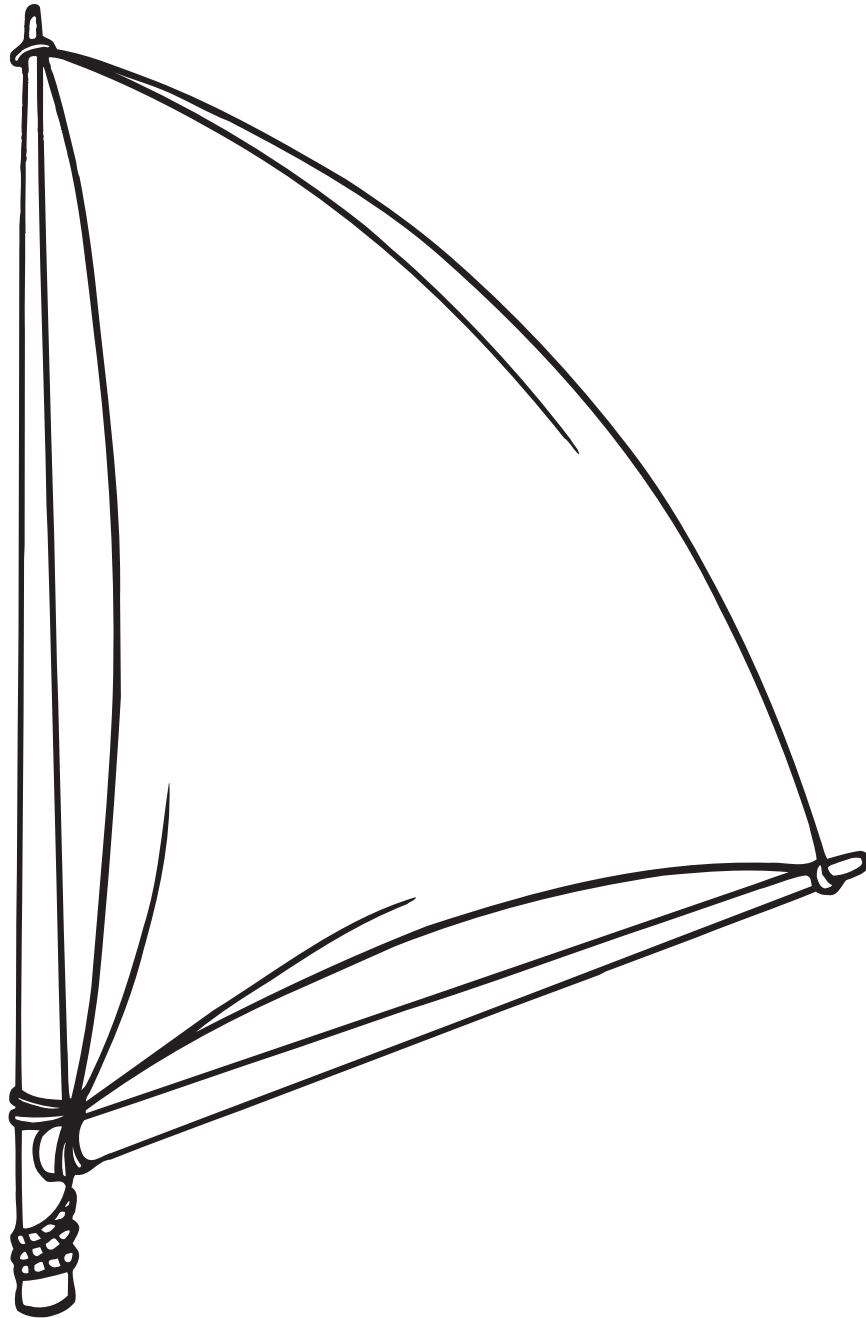
Fill a dishpan from Option 2 half full of water. Thoroughly rinse out the sponges from the Bible Craft. Place the rectangular and triangular sponge “boats” on top of the water, and let children have “boat races.” Encourage them to blow the boats across the water and use their fingers to make waves on the “sea.” As children play, remind them that just as God saw Jonah on the boat, ► *God sees us.*

### ■ *I Spy a Boat*

Hand every child a sheet of paper to use as a pretend boat. Have children place their “boats” on the “water” (floor). Hold a pair of pretend binoculars up to your eyes. Say: **I see** [child’s name] **in a boat.** Then switch places with that child. He or she becomes the next person to spot someone in a boat. Continue until each child has been “seen” by someone. Then point out that just as we see friends in their pretend boats, ► *God sees us.*

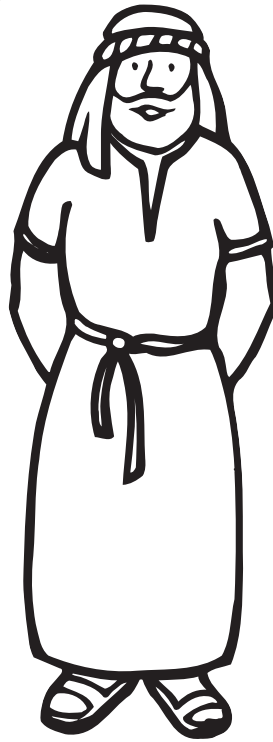
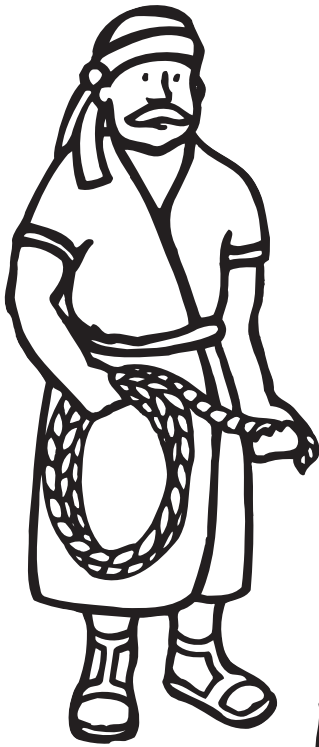
# Pattern

Cut loosely around this pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.



# Patterns

Cut loosely around these patterns instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.



Jonah

