

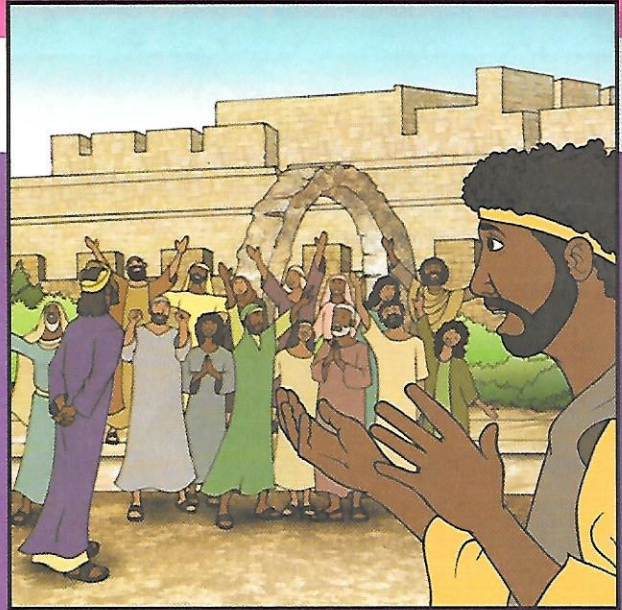
May 30, 2021

BIBLE LESSON

13



**KEY VERSE:** The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. (Jonah 3:5)



# Do Right!

**Lesson Scripture:** Jonah 3:1-10

## God's Word

**1** Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: **2** "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." **3** Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. **4** Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." **5** The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. **6** When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. **7** This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. **8** But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. **9** Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." **10** When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.



# Bible Story

## Do Right!

### Jonah 3:1-10

The prophet Jonah can be called God's reluctant prophet. The beginning of the Bible story says that the word of the Lord came to Jonah a *second* time. This means that God had sent a word to Jonah before. The first time God's word came to Jonah, he refused to do what God wanted him to do. Instead, he went in the opposite direction of where God wanted him to go.

This time, however, Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to the city called Nineveh. Nineveh was a very important city and was probably a large city—because it took three days for Jonah to travel throughout the city.

Jonah's message was that in forty days the city of Nineveh would be overturned. The people of Nineveh believed the message that Jonah preached. They declared a fast (no eating or drinking) and they put on sackcloth, which was a sign of their sorrow for sin and their action of repentance.

When word got to the king, he too put on sackcloth and sat down in the dust as a sign of repentance. The king also sent out an order commanding that everyone (even the animals) put on sackcloth and fast.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did and how they turned from evil, He decided not to bring destruction upon the city. The people decided to do right.

## Just Do Right!

### (Part 1)

Jakira and Danira were twins—but they were as different from each other as night and day. Jakira was quiet, laid back, and well-behaved. Danira, on the other hand, was full of energy and always getting into something.

Their seventeen-year-old sister, Kiara, was sometimes left to watch her two younger sisters. Kiara always knew that Jakira would be no problem and would always be helpful.

On this Friday evening, their mom and dad were going out on a date night to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Their mom called them all together and told Jakira and Danira, "Girls, your dad and I are going out. Kiara will be in charge. You are to strictly follow her instructions."

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

**Nicholas:** Hi, there! Nicholas and Cornelius here. Did you know that when God told Jonah the first time to go to Nineveh and preach about destruction coming to the city, Jonah decided to run away from that assignment?

**Cornelius:** Did Jonah really think he could get away that easily from God? And God really gave him a second chance after he ran away? Wow, God really is forgiving. It's good that Jonah finally obeyed the Lord and went to Nineveh to preach the word of God.

**Nicholas:** The message Jonah preached was that God was going to destroy Nineveh for the evil things the people had done.





## Exploring the Story with **Nicholas** and **Cornelius**

### Just Do Right!

#### (Part 2)

After their mom and dad left, Jakira immediately got out a book and sat on the sofa to read. Kiara was on her laptop doing a project for school. A few minutes passed and both heard a loud noise and booming music coming from Danira's room.

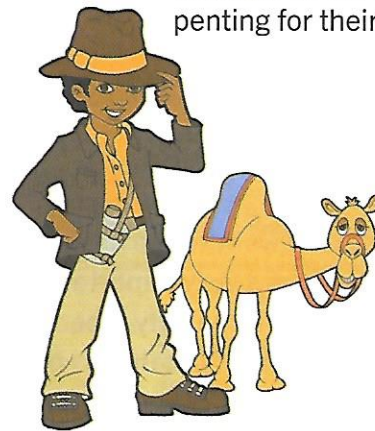
Kiara got up and went to see what was going on. Danira was jamming to some music and had knocked over a lamp in her room.

Kiara said, "Danira, look, the rest of us are trying to study and do some reading. Mom told you to follow instructions. So, I'm asking you to just do right and settle down with the music. Remember that you are supposed to be a Christian, so you need to act like it."

Danira turned the music down, hung her head, and said, "You are right, Big Sis . . . I will try to do right!"

**Cornelius:** When the people of Nineveh heard the message Jonah preached, all the people decided to go on a fast and put on sackcloth to show their sorrow for their sins. Even the king joined in that time of repentance.

**Nicholas:** When God saw the sincerity of the people, He decided not to bring destruction upon the city. The people decided to do what was right—repenting for their sins.



## Fix That Phrase!

Oops! There seems to be a word out of place in each of the sentences below. Read through the sentences and/or phrases below (which are pulled from today's Scripture passage). See if you can find the misplaced word and move it to where it belongs in the statement. Put a circle around the misplaced word and then draw a line to where it should go. (You may use your NIV Bible.)

(**Example:** Ninevites believed The God. [Should read: The Ninevites believed God.])

1. Jonah obeyed word of the LORD and went to the Nineveh.
2. "Do not let people or animals, or flocks, taste anything; do not let them herds eat or drink."
3. Then the word came of the LORD to Jonah a second time.
4. "Forty days and Nineveh will be more overthrown."
5. A fast was proclaimed, all of them, from the greatest and to the least, put on sackcloth.
6. Let them give their evil ways and up their violence.