

Sunday School Live Lesson

May 3, 2026

Christian Expectation of Grace

Jonah 3:1-5; 4:6-11

1

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Previous Sunday School Lesson

April 26, 2026

Family: Distinct and Obedient

Deuteronomy 6:3-9; Matthew 19:3-9

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Instructor: Rev. Dr. Tanisha Sparks

NEXT WEEK: MAY 10th

NO Sunday School Live Class

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

We will return on May 17th.

TODAY'S Sunday School Live Lesson

May 3, 2026

Christian Expectation of Grace

Jonah 3:1-5; 4:6-11

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Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions To Consider

May 3, 2026

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Have you [ever] heard a message that God wanted you to do something you were reluctant to do?

If so, how did you respond?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

May 3, 2026

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To understand and internalize God's messages for us today through these passages of Scripture in the Book of Jonah.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

May 3, 2026

1. Bibliography

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2. Points of Information: Jonah, Nineveh

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

May 3, 2026

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember This

Bibliography - 1

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Points of Information – Jonah

The Prophet Jonah lived during the eighth century BCE, during the reign of Jeroboam II as King of the northern kingdom of Israel.

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Jesus spoke of Jonah and the prophet's experiences and significance. Matthew 12:39-41; Luke 11:29-30.

Points of Information – Nineveh

Nineveh was a very large city that became the capital of the Assyrian empire.

Nineveh had been established by a descendant of Ham. He, in turn, was a descendant of Noah.

Today, Nineveh is an archaeological site within the city of Mosul, in northern Iraq.

Christian Expectation of Grace

Lesson Context for Jonah 3

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God told His Prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against its wicked ways.

Initially, Jonah refused and went to the city of Joppa instead, where he boarded a ship which was headed in a different direction.

Christian Expectation of Grace

Lesson Context for Jonah 3

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The ship with Jonah on board encountered a severe storm. Ultimately, to lighten the load and (most importantly) to put the vessel in God's favor, the crew threw Jonah overboard.

The ship was saved and Jonah was swallowed by a giant fish, inside of which the prophet repented for his disobedience.

Jonah 3:1 [NIV]

Then the Word of the Lord came to
Jonah a second time:

Jonah 3:2 [NIV]

“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

Jonah 3:3 [NIV]

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.

Jonah 3:4 [NIV]

Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming,

“Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

Jonah 3:5 [NIV]

The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Christian Expectation of Grace

Lesson Context – Jonah 4

23

In Chapter 4, Jonah had the audacity to sulk because God did not go ahead and destroy Nineveh.

The Lord then taught this prophet a lesson.

Jonah 4:6 [NIV]

Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.

Jonah 4:7 [NIV]

But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered.

Jonah 4:8 [NIV]

When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint.

He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

Jonah 4:9 [NIV]

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

Jonah 4:10 [NIV]

But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.

Jonah 4:11 [NIV]

And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?”

Remember This:

God is gracious and merciful for all who come in sincerity to Him.

Sunday School Live

May 3, 2026

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