

Family Devotional

From May 7, 2017

Play: It's opposite day! Play Simon says, but instead of following "Simon's" instructions, to stay in the game you have to do the opposite of what Simon says to do. For example, if Simon says hop on your left foot, you have to hop on your right foot, or stand still or spin around, really anything except what Simon says to do. Play as long as you can endure the chaos.

It's kind of hard to play a game when everyone is making up their own rules and mind on what they should do. Let's read a story about a man who thought he knew what was best.

Read: *Jonah 1:1-16*

Reflect:

- What did God tell Jonah to do?
- What did Jonah chose to do?
- Why do you think Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh?
- Did Jonah know he was running from God? See verse 10
- What are some things God might ask you to do?
- Do you always feel like doing these things?
- Have you ever "run away" from what God was asking you to do? This may not be physically going to a different place, but kind of like in our game, have you ever done the opposite of what God was asking you too? What happened?
- What lesson do you think God was trying to teach Jonah, by sending the storm?

We can run form what God is telling us to do, but there is no place we can hide from Him that He won't find us. God knew it was best for both Jonah and the people of Nineveh for Jonah to go there and tell them to repent. God stopped at nothing to get Jonah's attention. When the men threw Jonah overboard what do you think was going through his mind?

I'm sure it seemed scary at the moment, but we'll learn in the next couple weeks that it was the safest place for him to be!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Psalm 139:7-8 this week.

Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens,
you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond:

"Dear God, thank you for guiding and directing us. Help us to be quick to listen and obey your voice..... Amen!"