

Luthers disappearance had caused a lot of excitement and the church leaders soon found that more and more people were joining reformation Luther had started. So Satan changed tactics.

A group of men came to Melanchthon – Luthers co-worker at Wittenberg. They were excitement by the reformation and one even claimed to have instructions from the angel Gabriel. But Melanchthon wasn't sure if they were led by God.

Matthew 7:26^{NLT} says, "You can identify them by their fruit... by the way they act." And it soon became apparent that this new group was not from God as people forget their Bible study, and confusion soon reigned in the schools. When Luther heard, he decided he must leave the safety of Wartburg castle, trusting in God for protection. Word spread that Luther had returned and the church was packed. Every day for a whole week, Luther preached and the power of Satan was broken.

In 1521 Luther had been declared an outlaw but then the Emperor was too busy fighting other enemies to do anything further. Now in 1529, the princes met in the city of Spires and the Emperor and church leaders called for the reformation to be stopped saying all people must bow to the authority of the official church. But the princes where the reformation had taken root did not agree. So the church leaders came back with a compromise: The reformation would be banned in all new area, no further reforms must be made and no one new would be allowed to join.

The princes supporting the reformation discussed this new proposal which would give freedom in their towns; but they came to the conclusion that they could not support it - that *all* people should have the right to religious freedom. They wrote up an official protest stating that before God, they must follow the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and would not support the proposed decree.

The reformation became known as the Protestant Reformation because the princes had protested.

Some of the princes suggested forming an aliance and declaring war on the Emperor but Luther declared that their only weapon should be "the sword of the Spirit."

The Emperor called them to meet again in Augsburg in the following year so the princes supporting the reformation had Luther and Melanchthon write up a document stating their views with Bible evidence which they signed and read before the council.

The Big Fish

Sabbath

2 kings 14:25 Have your parents or teachers ever told you to do something that you didn't want to do?

What was it? _____

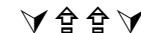
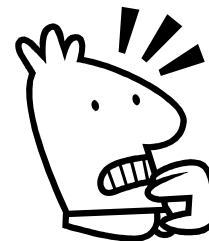
How did you feel? _____

What did you do? _____

You might be able to hide something from your teacher sometimes, or from your parents. But you will be found out eventually; and there is someone you cannot hide from. What does the Bible say about God in Matthew 6:6?

↺	↓	↘	🔒	🏠	①	➡	📊	🏰	🏆	🕒	↖	★
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

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Year 2, Quarter 2, Week 4, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: The book of Jonah NLT; Prophets and Kings p265-278; The Bible Story vol6 p177-184

Sunday

God's prophets didn't just have messages for the Israelites.

The Old Testament book of Amos was written while Jeroboam II was king of Israel and Uzziah who was also called Amaziah the son of Joash was king of Judah. It starts out with messages from the Lord predicting the destruction of various cities and kings including Aram, the Philistines, Tyre, Edom, Ammon and Moab. The remainder of the book of Amos talks about the sins of Israel and Judah despite all that God had done for them.

Another Old Testament book, Obadiah, is a vision from the Lord to the prophet Obadiah about the people of Edom - the descendants of Esau.

The prophet Jonah lived around the same time or perhaps earlier than the prophet Amos because one of Jonah's prophecies is mentioned as being fulfilled during the time of Jeroboam II in 2 Kings 14:25.

The book of Jonah tells us that one day the Lord said to Jonah, "Go to the great city of Nineveh. Warn the people that if they are not sorry, and don't change what they are doing, I will destroy them because they are wicked." But Jonah was scared, so he boarded a ship going in the opposite direction and soon fell asleep.

Then God sent a terrible storm; it was so bad that the sailors were afraid the ship would sink. When the captain found Jonah asleep he shouted "How can you sleep at a time like this? Get up and pray to your god!" The crew decided to draw straws to see if one of them had upset the gods and caused the storm. Jonah won and they asked him: "Who are you? What have you done to cause this storm?"

Jonah said to the sailors, "I worship the God of heaven who made the sea and land, but I was running away. Throw me in the sea and it will become calm again." The sailors didn't want to, but the sea was too violent, so they finally picked Jonah up and threw him overboard, and the storm stopped at once! The sailors were awestruck by the Lord's great power, and they promised to serve him.

Friday

Since we are not to take revenge, here are some ideas for understanding and dealing with people who are mean to us.

2 Timothy 1:7^{NIV}, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, _____ and _____."

Sometimes people are mean because they think it's funny; sometimes they do things to annoy or tease other people just to get a reaction. If that is why someone is being mean then ignoring them is usually the best solution. They will eventually get bored and stop trying to annoy you.

1 Peter 3:8-9^{NLT}, "...Don't retaliate with _____ when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a _____. That is what God has called you to do, and He will bless you for it."

Sometimes people are mean just because they are tired or sick. It's harder to be nice when you are not feeling well.

Ephesians 4:29^{NLT}, "...Let everything you say be **good** and **helpful**, so that your words will be an **encouragement** to those who hear them."

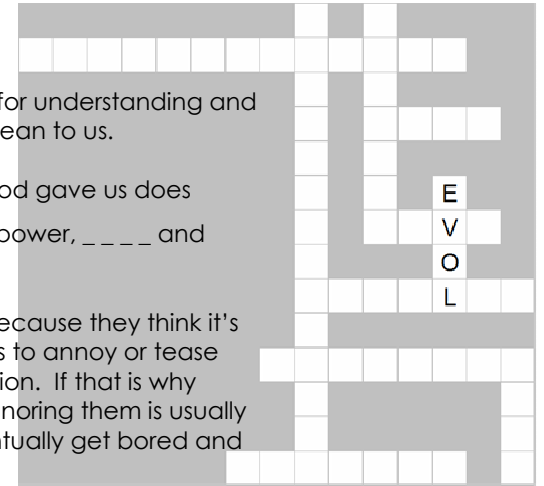
Some people are mean because they are scared; people who don't know that God loves them sometimes feel they have to be tougher or better or more successful than everyone else to be a success.

Matthew 5:44^{NLT}, "But I say, _____ your enemies! _____ for those who persecute you!"

Matthew 5:11^{NIV}, "**Blessed** are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

Sometimes people are mean because they don't know any better. Some children who are mean because unhappy things might be happening in their family.

Read Proverbs 25:21-22 and summarise it in your own words - This is the best way to get rid of your enemies - by turning them into friends!



Thursday

God would like to save everyone – but He gives us the choice. Many people make bad choices and this causes hurt to them and to others.

Romans 12:19^{CEV} says "Dear friends, don't try to get even. Let God take revenge."

One day everyone who has not chosen to ask Jesus to take their sins, and not chosen to follow Jesus example, will get the punishment for their sins.

Romans 6:23^{NLT} says "For the wages of sin is death."

Will you choose Jesus and life?

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O N N G S N I Y E O U R D E P
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Y O U R D E S C I S I O N D E

Monday

As soon as the sailors through Jonah into the sea the storm stopped.

As Jonah sank into the sea, a great fish swallowed him; and there he stayed for three days and three nights.

Then Jonah prayed to God from inside the fish.



Three days later, God told the fish to spit Jonah out on a beach.

Then Jonah went to Nineveh and shouted to the crowds: "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!"

But the people believed God's message and prayed to God; and they stopped doing evil!

So God saved them; but Jonah was angry. He went outside the city and made a shelter from sticks to sit under to watch the city. The Lord made a leafy plant grow there to provide shade for Jonah. This made him more comfortable, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

But the next morning God sent a worm to eat the plant. As the sun grew hot, a hot wind blew until Jonah he felt faint and wished he was dead. Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be upset because the plant died?"

"Yes," said Jonah, "I am angry enough to die!"

Then the Lord said, "You feel sorry about the plant, but you didn't plant it or look after it. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?"

Unfortunately like the Israelites, the people of Nineveh didn't remember to always teach their children about God either. The book of Nahum is a message from God against Nineveh; they would be destroyed because of the evil they were spreading.

The book of Zephaniah, written during the reign of King Josiah, warns of God's judgements, firstly of Judah, but then of the Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Cush and Assyria, including Nineveh.

Tuesday

Did you know that all the people in the world today are related? We are all descendants of Noah.

Genesis 9:19^{NIV}, "These were the _____ (10a) sons of _____ (2d), and from them came the people who scattered over the whole earth.

Galatians 3:28^{NIV}, "There is neither _____ (11a) nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there _____ (1d) and _____ (7d), for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

It doesn't matter where you come from or what you look like, God loves you just the same. Although God chose Abraham's family to receive special blessings and to become the ancestors of Jesus, other people who turned to God were blessed as well.

Hebrews 11:31 - _____ (9a), a foreign woman who chose to help God's people and became an ancestor of Jesus. (Matthew 1)

Ruth 1:16 - _____ (4a), a Moabite woman who became the great grandmother of King David. (Ruth 4:22)

2 Samuel 23:39 - _____ (5d) the Hittite was one of the soldiers in the best unit of King David's army.

Matthew 15:21- Jesus went to the region of _____ (10d) and _____ (6a) where a Canaanite or Gentile woman begged Him to heal her daughter – and He did.

God wants to give His blessings to everyone.

Matthew 24:14^{NLT}, "And the Good News about the Kingdom will be _____ (8a) throughout the whole _____ (3s), so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

Wednesday

Imagine how Jonah would have felt when they threw him into the water. Do you think he was scared?

Find the words, then cross out the X's and write the remaining letters below to find out if God was going to save Jonah from the sea.

Jonah	C R E A T E D Y E
City	A X S S G O X N D
Nineveh	L W A L S S H I P
Ship	M S S E E C N N D
Storm	I A N E G I X E A
Sailors	F I I P S T H V X
Asleep	T L O S W Y A E L
God	G O D J O N A H O
Created	L R O W X J O X N
Calm	X S T O R M A H X

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God knew that even though the people of Nineveh were very wicked and violent, they were ready to change; so He sent Jonah to warn them.

Jonah travelled through the city, warning the people that if they did not change their ways they would be destroyed.

Find a path from the city gate to the palace.

