

Oct 26, 2025 - Jonah
Jonah 1-4

Story:

★ **Introduction & Story:**

When King Solomon (King David's son) died, the tribes of Israel split into two different kingdoms and then had two kings. The Northern Kings were all evil. The Southern Kings sometimes followed God and sometimes were evil. During this time, God sent prophets to tell the Israelites (and others) to follow God. We talked about how Elijah and Elisha were sent to the Israelites. This week, the story is on Jonah and how he was sent somewhere else.

Jonah was a prophet of the Lord. One day God spoke to Jonah. "Get up and go to Nineveh and preach to them and tell them that they should turn from their wicked ways and follow me."

Jonah knew that the people of Nineveh worshipped idols. They did not know the one true God. He did not want to go to Nineveh.

Jonah thought that he could run away for God and not do the thing that God had asked him to do. So, he went to a city called Joppa. Joppa was by the seashore. He bought a ticket to go on a ship to the city of Tarshish.

On the way to Tarshish, there was a great storm. The sailors were afraid, and each called out to his god. Then they threw the heavy cargo overboard to try to lighten the ship.

The sailors decided to "cast lots" to see who was responsible for this evil storm that had come upon them. (Casting lots was a way of determining God's will. It is sort of like flipping a coin.) When they did this, they could tell that the storm was because of Jonah.

The sailors asked Jonah who he was. He told them he was a Hebrew and that he served the one true God. He had already told them that he was running away from God.

The men were very afraid. They began to understand that Jonah's God was powerful. They asked Jonah, "What should we do to calm this storm?"

Jonah told them to throw him overboard. The sailors did not want to throw Jonah into the water, but they knew the storm was getting worse and worse.

Finally, they threw Jonah overboard. The waves grew quiet, the winds calmed, and the storm was over. Then the men knew that Jonah's God was the real God.

God sent a great fish to swallow up Jonah. (We often say that it was a whale, but the Bible does not tell us what kind of a fish it was.) Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days. Jonah prayed to God while he was inside the fish. Finally, the fish spit Jonah out on dry land.

Again, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach to them to change their wicked ways and follow Him. Jonah went to Nineveh and preached to the people, and they did change their ways. God did not send disaster upon the city on Nineveh as he had planned to do.

- ★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan:** Jonah was sent as a prophet to tell people about God and to repent and follow Him. God loves everyone, not just the Israelites and Jonah reminds us of that. He chose the Israelites to be the people He uses the most, but He loves everyone.

Follow Up:

- ★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.
- ★ **Examine:**
- Comprehension Questions:
 - Why do you think that Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh? (He might have been afraid, because they were his enemies. He knew they worshipped idols, and he really did not want them to be forgiven.)
 - What do you think Jonah prayed when he was in the belly of the fish? (You can read his prayer in Jonah 2. He prayed thanking God for saving him from the depths of the sea. Interestingly, he did not pray for forgiveness for disobeying.)
 - Can we ever "run away for God?" What does that mean?
 - Ask, "What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?"
 - God loves everyone and wants His story shared so that everyone hears it and has the opportunity to repent and turn to Him.
 - Ask, "What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?"

- People are judgmental. Sometimes we decide that others don't follow Jesus and therefore shouldn't be told about Jesus. Also, we try to avoid what God is asking us to do.

★ **Application:** Ask, "What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?"

- Jesus is asking us to share His story with people who don't know Him. He is not asking us to run away or try to be swallowed by a fish..

★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse Practice:

★ **Verse:** "A person's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps."
Proverbs 16:9

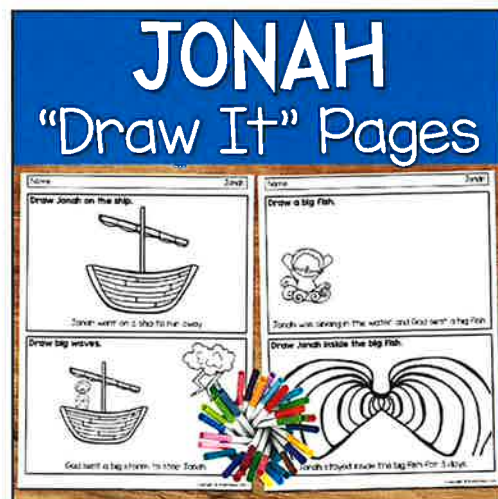
Sticky Activities:

★ Coloring page

★ **Rowing the Boat Activity:** Pair the children up to sit on the floor and row an imaginary lifeboat together. Discuss how the experience felt and how it relates to Jonah's disobedience and eventual obedience.

★ Jonah - draw it

- <https://www.prekinders.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/jonah-draw-it.pdf>



★ Jonah sequencing activity: cut and paste in order

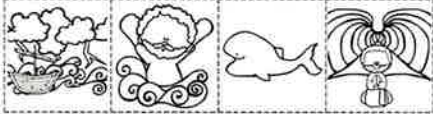
★ <https://www.prekinders.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/jonah-whale-sequencing.pdf>

Name _____ Sequencing

Jonah and the Big Fish

1	2	3	4
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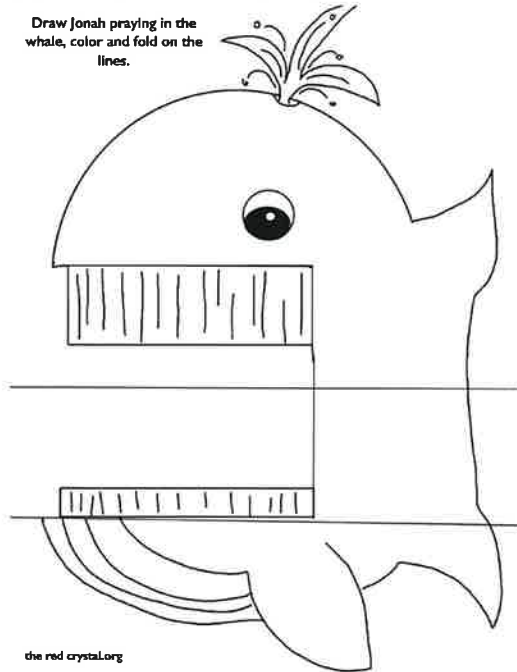
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★ Jonah in the whale - folding craft

Draw Jonah praying in the whale, color and fold on the lines.



Send Home Page: See attached

Name: _____ Jonah

Draw Jonah on the ship.



Jonah went on a ship to run away.

Draw big waves.



God sent a big storm to stop Jonah.

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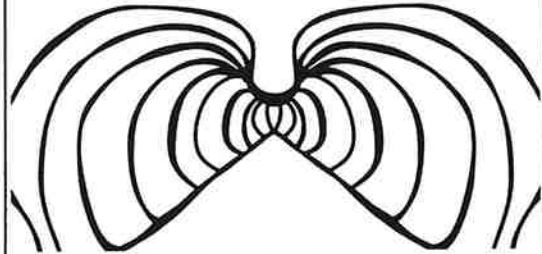
Name: _____ Jonah

Draw a big fish.



Jonah was sinking in the water and God sent a big fish.

Draw Jonah inside the big fish.



Jonah stayed inside the big fish for 3 days.

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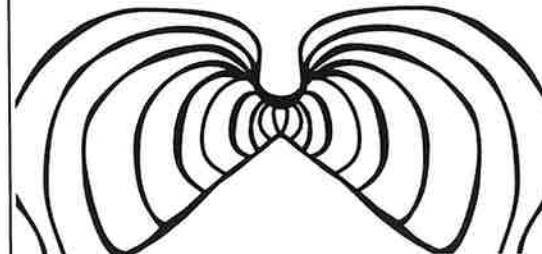
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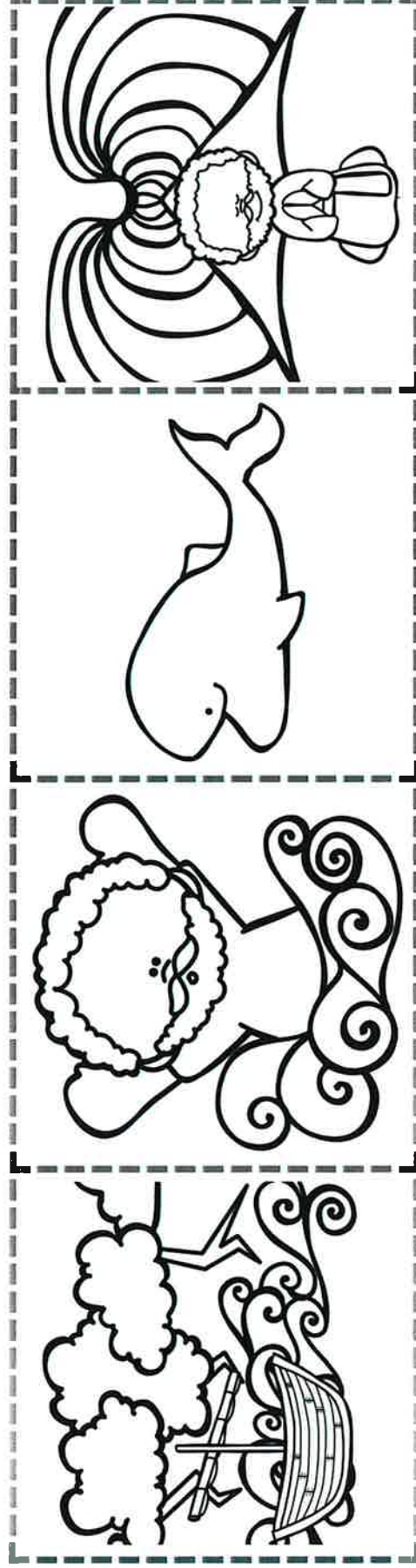
Name: _____

Sequencing

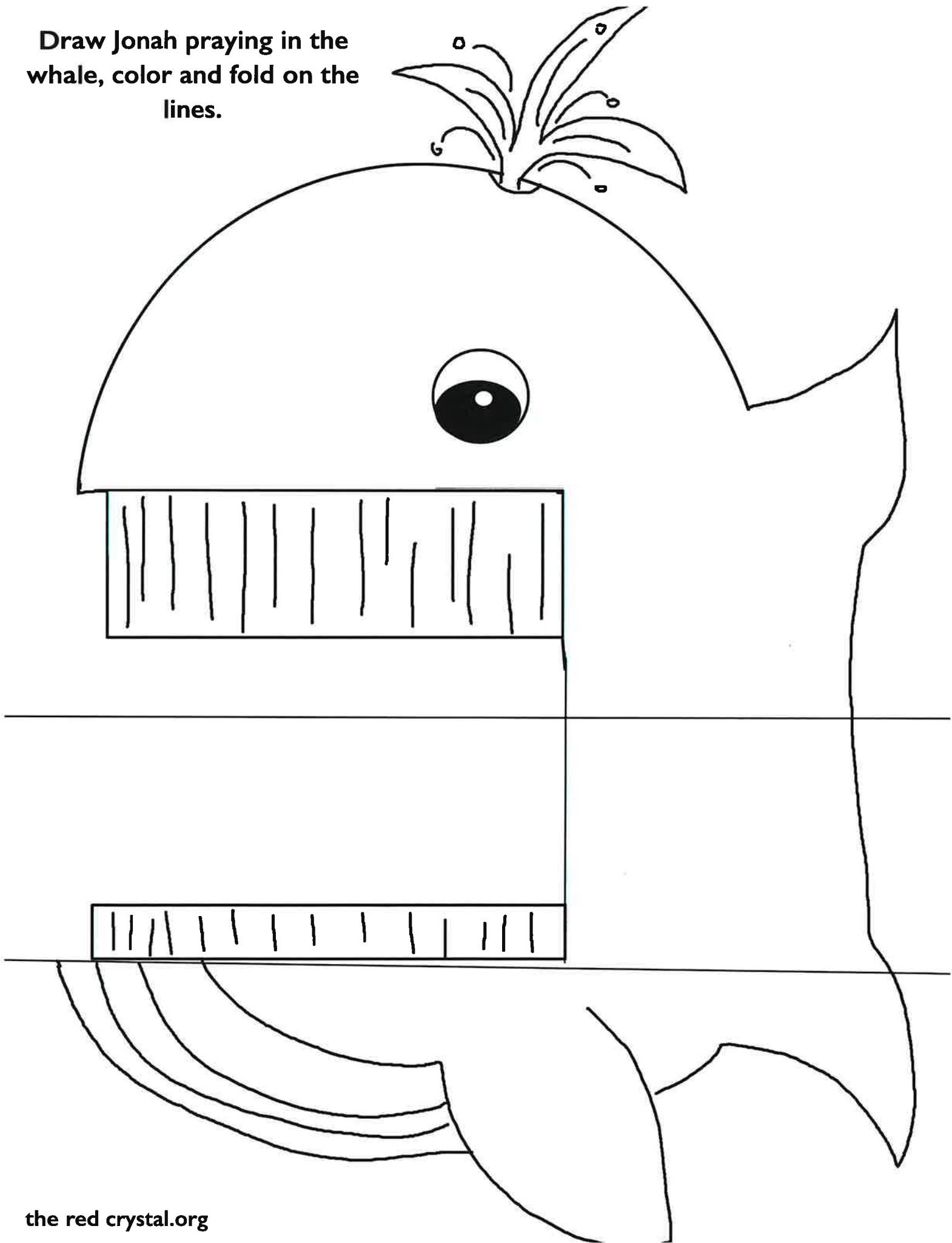
Jonah and the Big Fish

1	2	3	4
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Draw Jonah praying in the
whale, color and fold on the
lines.



Memory Verse:

“A person’s heart plans
his way, but the LORD
determines his steps.”

Proverbs 16:9

Fill in the Blanks

“A person’s _____
plans his _____, but the
_____ determines his
_____.”

-Proverbs 16:9

Draw footprints
heading to the cross

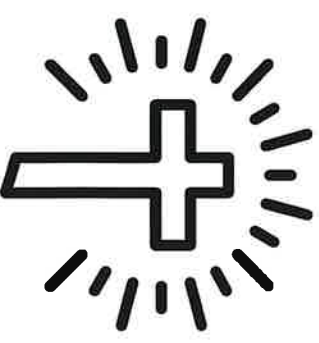


Fill in the Blanks

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plans his _____, but the
_____ determines his
_____.”

-Proverbs 16:9

Draw footprints
heading to the cross



Today's lesson was on Jonah

Jonah 1-4

Memory Verse:

- “A person’s heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps.” Proverbs 16:9

***Kids that recite the memory verse
to the teacher next week earn a prize “**

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A Veggie Tales / Newsboys

song: In the Belly of a Whale

A silly song (it is from Veggie Tales) from the perspective of Jonah being in the belly of a ... well, the song says whale, but we know that it is only listed in the Bible as a fish!



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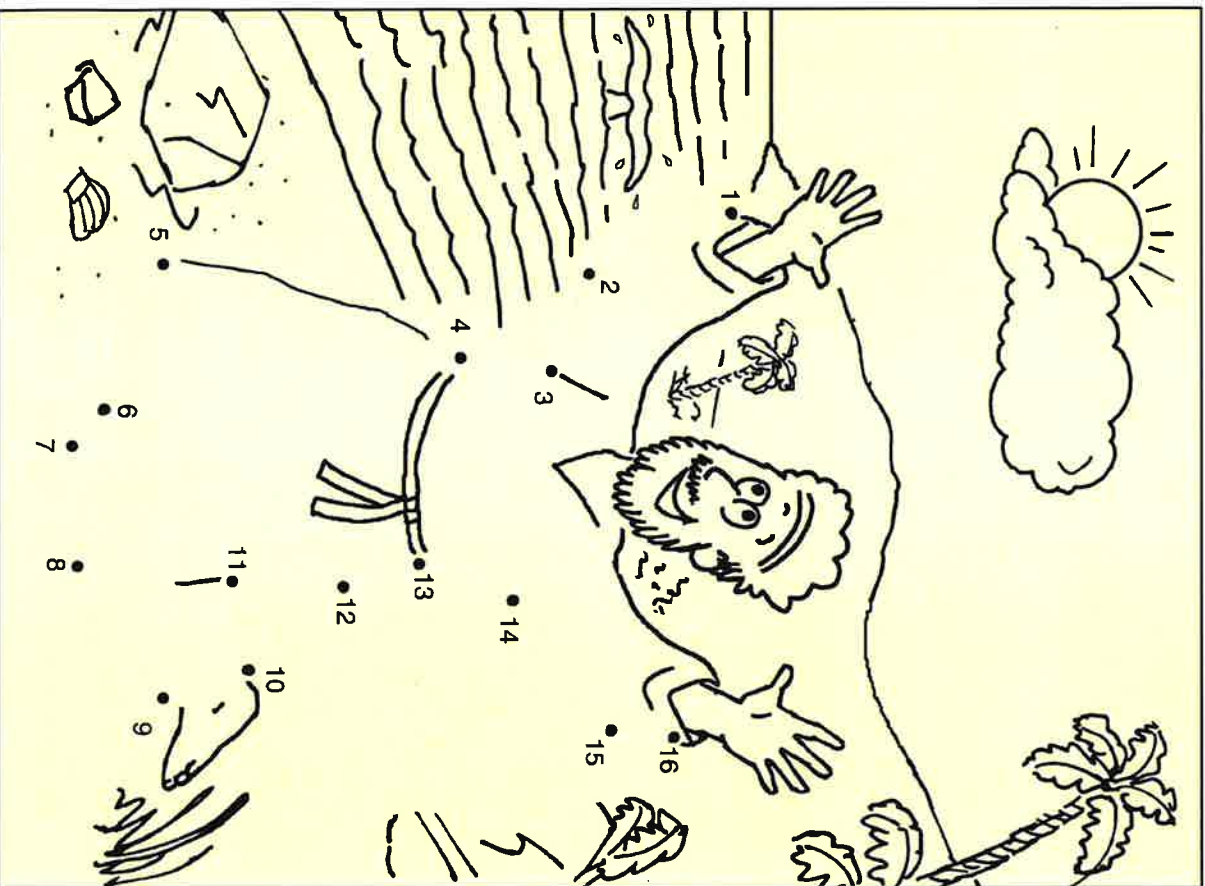
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God heard Jonah's prayer.

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16



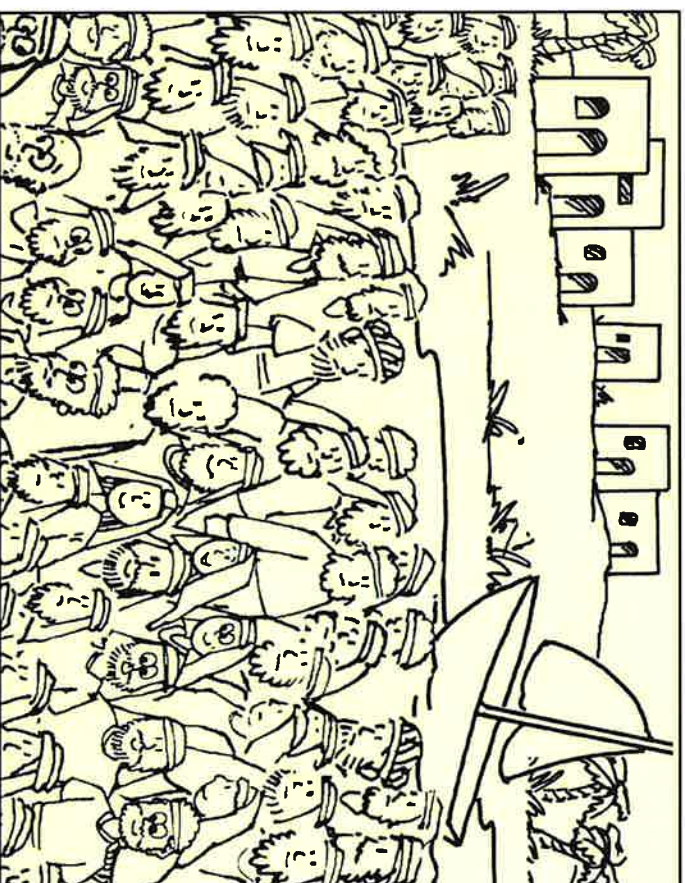
Ages 3+

September 21, 2025 • Jonah 1:1-17; 2:1, 10

Jonah and the Big Fish

The Lord told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Jonah sailed away. He tried to hide from the Lord.

Find the prophet Jonah.



When a storm threatened his ship, Jonah had the sailors throw him overboard.

Match the pictures.



God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah. From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to God.

Use the code to fill in the missing letters.

$\text{A} = \text{A}$
 $\text{B} = \text{T}$
 $\text{C} = \text{R}$
 $\text{D} = \text{M}$
 $\text{E} = \text{O}$

S LV I N

C ES

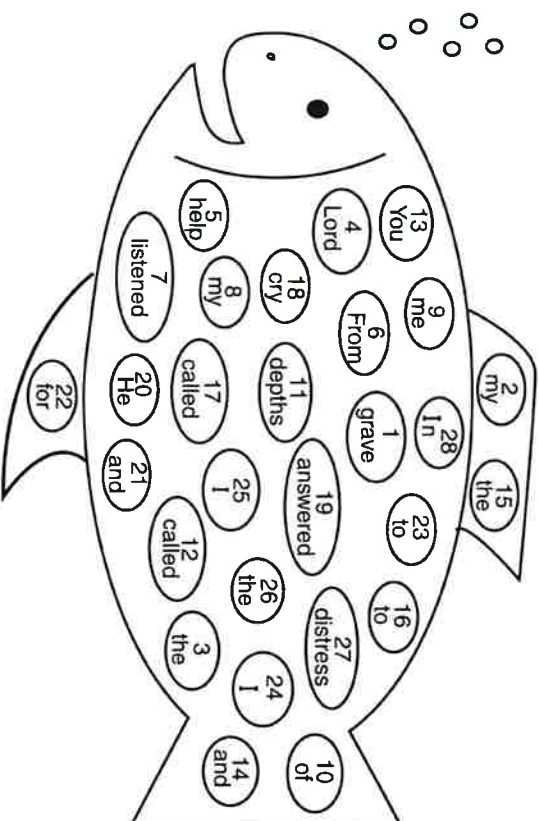
F HE

L D



While he was inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord. What did he say?

Match the words with the numbers to fill in the blanks.



“ 28 8 27 24 12

16 3 4 14 20 19

9 6 15 11 10 26

1 25 17 22 5 21

13 7 23 2 18 ”

Then the big fish spit Jonah out onto dry land.



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

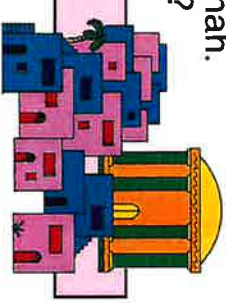
September 21, 2025 • Jonah 1:1-17; 2:1, 10

Jonah and the Big Fish

The Lord spoke to Jonah.
What did God say?



Use this chart to find out.



10	G	B	S	O	H	P
9	M	D	R	C	I	F
8	T	E	W	V	N	A
7	R	U	K	A	Y	E
	1	2	3	4	5	6

“ 1,10 4,10 1,8 4,10 1,8 5,10 2,8 1,10 1,7 6,7 4,7 1,8

4,9 5,9 1,8 5,7 4,10 6,9 5,8 5,9 5,8 2,8 4,8 6,7 5,10

4,7 5,8 2,9 6,10 1,7 6,7 4,7 4,9 5,10

6,8 1,10 6,8 5,9 5,8 3,10 1,8 5,9 1,8

2,10 2,8 4,9 4,7 2,7 3,10 6,7 5,9 1,8 3,10

3,8 5,9 4,9 3,7 2,8 2,9 5,8 6,7 3,10 3,10 5,10 6,8 3,10

4,9 4,10 1,9 6,7 2,7 6,10 2,10 2,8 6,9 4,10 1,7 6,7 1,9 2,8 ”

But Jonah ran away from the Lord. He found a ship, paid the fare, and went aboard. What happened next?

Fill in the missing words from the list below.

Then match each statement with the picture that shows it.

sea	ship	throw	captain
days	wind	asleep	swallow
deck	break	Hebrew	worship
fish	Jonah	inside	overboard
pick	storm	nights	responsible

1. The Lord sent a great d, and such a violent _____ arose that the _____ threatened to _____ up.

2. _____ had fallen _____ below c. The _____ went to him and said, "How can you sleep?"











3. The sailors thought Jonah was _____ for the storm. They asked Jonah who he was and he said, "I am a _____ and I _____ the Lord."

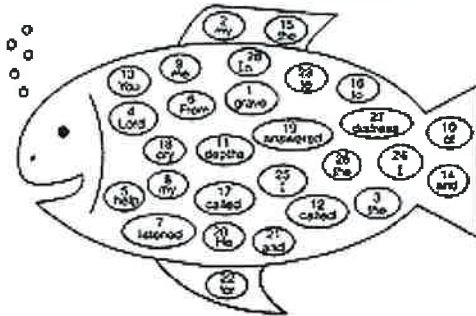
4. Jonah said, "_____ I _____ me up and _____ me into the _____." Then they took Jonah and threw him _____.

5. But the Lord provided a great _____ to _____ Jonah. Jonah was _____ the fish three _____ and three _____.



While he was inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord. What did he say?

Match the words with the numbers to fill in the blanks.



In my distress I called
to the Lord and He answered
me From the depths of the
grave I called for help and
You listened to my cry.

Then the big fish spit Jonah out onto dry land.

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9	M	D	R	C	I	F
8	T	E	W	V	N	A
7	R	U	K	A	Y	E
	1	2	3	4	5	6

Go to the great
city of Nineveh
and preach
against it,
because its
wickedness has
come up before me.

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2. Jonah had fallen asleep
below deck. The captain
went to him and said, "How can you sleep?"

3. The sailors thought Jonah was
responsible for the storm. They
asked Jonah who he was and he said, "I am a
Hebrew and I worship the Lord."

4. Jonah said, "Pick me up and
throw me into the sea." Then they
took Jonah and threw him
overboard.

5. But the Lord provided a great fish to
swallow Jonah. Jonah was
inside the fish three days and
three nights.



#2



#4



#1



#3



#5

