

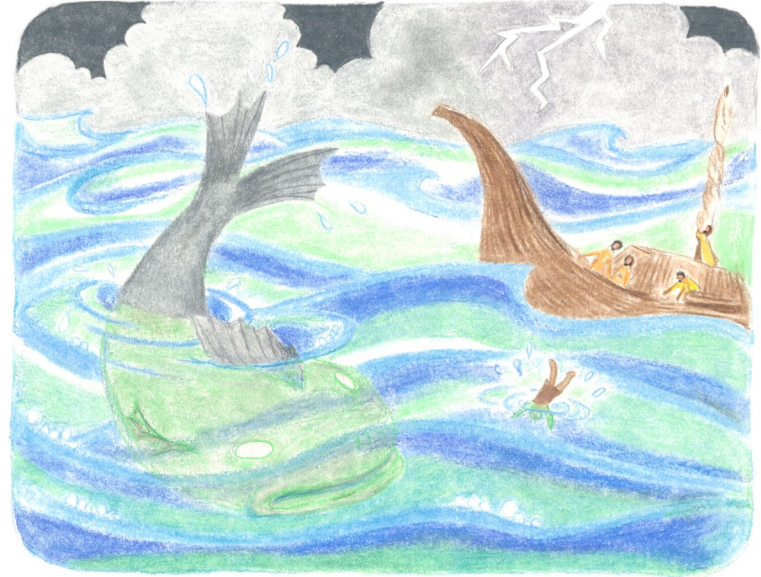
51. Jonah Is Saved by a Big Fish

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

51. Jonah Is Saved by a Big Fish

- a. The people in the city of Nineveh were doing many bad things, which was why the Lord wanted Jonah to tell them that they had to change.
- b. Why did Jonah try to run away from the Lord? Maybe because he was afraid that the people of Nineveh would kill him, maybe he just didn't want to do the job. It's not bad to ask them—perhaps any answer is fine.
- c. Ask them if they think Jonah could run away to some place where the Lord couldn't find him.
- d. Make the storm dramatic, with all the people so afraid, throwing things into the sea so the ship wouldn't sink.
- e. Jonah was brave then, telling them to throw him into the sea. He thought, of course, that he would drown.
- f. How dark it was in the fish's stomach, where he prayed to the Lord.
- g. Then the fish vomited him onto dry land, and he did as the Lord said. Emphasize, perhaps, that the people of Nineveh listened to him and stopped doing evil. That was what the Lord had wanted when He sent him there.



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The Lord Shows Jonah That He Cannot Run from Him

Now the word of the Lord came to a Hebrew man called Jonah saying, “Arise, go to the great city of Nineveh and speak against her: for her evil has come to me.” But Jonah arose to run away from the Lord. He went down to a place called Joppa. There he found a ship going to Tarshish and he paid money to go with them.

But the Lord sent a great wind into the sea and there was a mighty storm so that the ship would be broken. And the sailors were afraid. To lighten the ship, they threw containers that were on the ship into the sea. But Jonah was lying down in the ship in a deep sleep. So the captain came to him and said to him, “Wake up, call to your God. Perhaps your God will save us so that we do not die.” And the sailors said to Jonah, “Who are you?” And Jonah said to them, “I am a Hebrew and I am afraid of the Lord God of Heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”

Then the men were afraid and said to him, “Why have you run away from Him?” And they said to him, “What shall we do that the sea may be calm?” And Jonah said to them, “Lift me up and throw me into the sea and the sea shall be calm for you.” Then the sailors rowed hard to bring the ship to land but they could not. The storm grew stronger. So then they lifted Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stood still and was calm.

And the Lord sent a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord for help. And the Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land. Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah again saying, “Arise! Go to Nineveh and say what I tell you to say.” So Jonah arose, and he went to Nineveh as the Lord had told him to do.

Jonah 1, 3

