

## Pre-Lesson Downloads

**#14 Jonah and the Big Fish – Repentance** (to be truly sorry for something you have done and ask God’s forgiveness, trying not to do it again; Mercy-having compassion, acting lovingly toward another)

Dear Families: This is a great story to learn about God’s compassion and love for us when we repent from our sinful ways (breaking God’s rules for us.) Romans 3:23 says: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory God.” Then Ephesians 2:8-9 says: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and it is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” But God still wants us to do good works so that we can show His (Her) love to others. All of this comes through Christ, God’s son. John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He (She) gave Her (His) only begotten Son that everyone who believes in Him (Her) may not perish but may have everlasting life.” There are many verses in the Bible about God’s mercy. One of my favorites is Micah 7:18b: “He (God) does not retain Her/His anger forever, because He/She delights in showing mercy.” God Bless!

**Bible Text:** Jonah 1; 2; 3; 4     Abridged

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah. . .saying, “Go at once to Nineveh, that great city and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.” The sailors said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us. . .the lot fell on Jonah. . .(they asked him many questions). . .“I am a Hebrew,” he replied. “I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, “What is this that you have done?!” . . .“What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.” Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. . .So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, “I called to the Lord out of my distress, and He answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried and You heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all Your waves and Your billows passed over me. . .As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to You, into Your holy temple. Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!” Then the Lord spoke to the fish and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

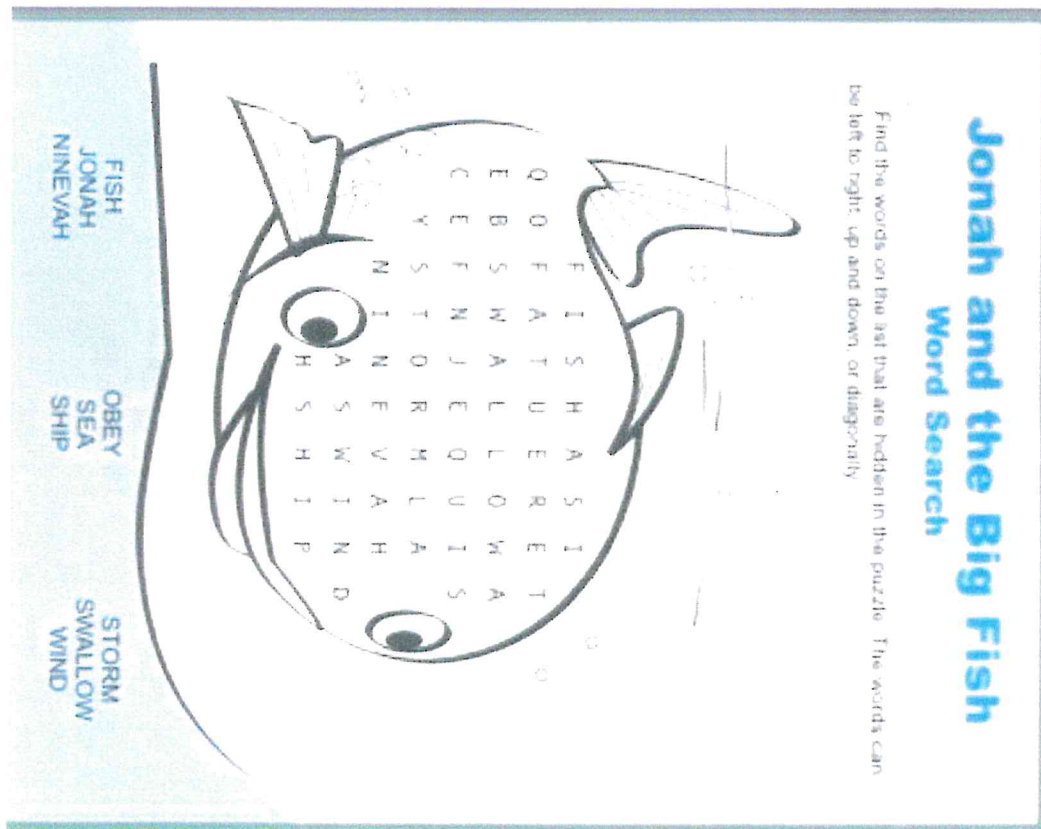
The Word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the Word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great

and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. . .When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed His mind about the calamity that He had said He would bring upon them; and He did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry, He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live. And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry? Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. . . (And God had a bush grow to give him shade. . . and the next morning the bush dried up and died). . . He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

**Bible Verse:**

One who confesses and  
forsakes their sin will  
get mercy. Proverbs 28:13b



## Materials:

\*Word Find above and verse for homemade Bible \*2 coloring pages \*1 Maze \*Go Fish Game

\*1 Crossword \*1 Anagram Puzzle \*1 Open and Shut Craft \*Answers to Puzzles

\*1 Vocabulary Game for early readers: (Instructions: Glue the 4 pages each to a stiff paper or use cut up cereal boxes. Cover paper entirely with a thin layer of glue, ie: Elmers and a paint brush. Let dry over night under heavy books. Cut along black lines. Have child match words to pictures.)

\*1 Music page (Cut out the strip to the left side that starts with 4/4. Leave strip intact. Cut out the notes and rests strips, then cut them into separate squares. Have the children use the notes and rests to make up their own rhythms, read them, and then play them. They could just use clapping to play the rhythms. For the quarter notes say Ta or the numbers 1 – 4. For the connected eighth notes say Ta-ti or 1& 2& etc. and have them place a pointer finger over lips for the rests.

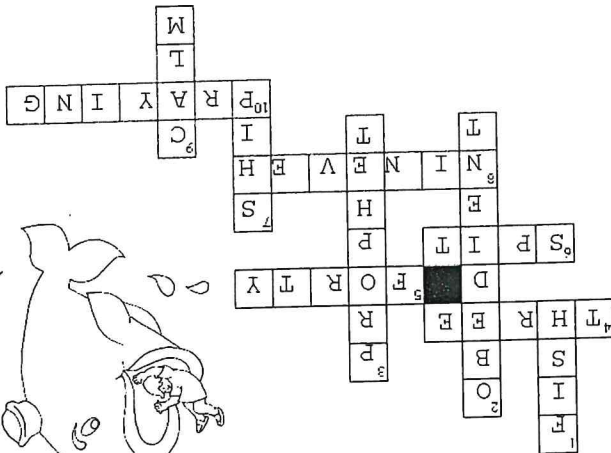
## Answers to Puzzles:

ehinnv Nineveh  
hips ship  
morst storm  
adellosw swallowed  
hnoirtw thrown  
aehlw whale  
ipst spit  
aeprvy prayer  
eenprt repent  
efginorv forgiven

Jonah Anagram  
Word List:  
forgiven, Nineveh, prayer, repent, ship,  
spit, storm, swallowed, thrown, whale



Jonah Crossword

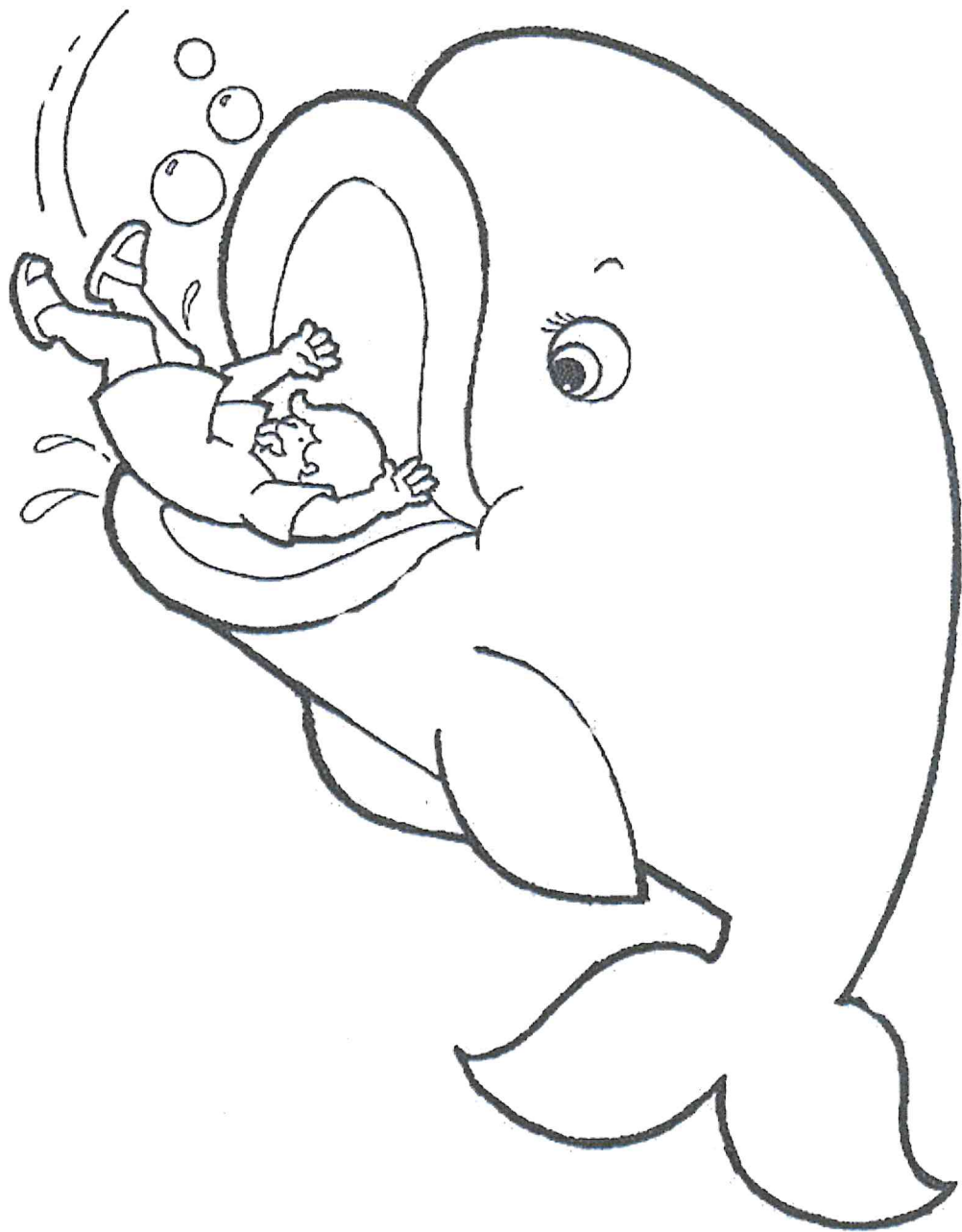


## Answers to Go Fish Game

Blue fish – no, he ran away to Tarshish Gold fish – yes, he does that for us too  
Green fish – a large fish Maroon – Nineveh  
Orange fish – prayed and asked God to forgive him and save him







START





# JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH

## Go Fish

### Activity

God sent a special fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was not harmed at all. God just needed to get Jonah's attention. Jonah repented for not listening and God gave him a second chance to do what he asked. For this activity the children will play a game that will help them remember the events of the story.

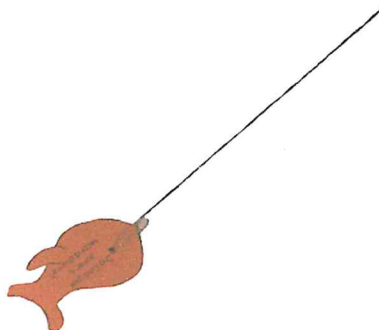
### Material

Cardstock paper  
Paper clips  
Small Magnet  
Yarn or twine  
Rod  
Scissors

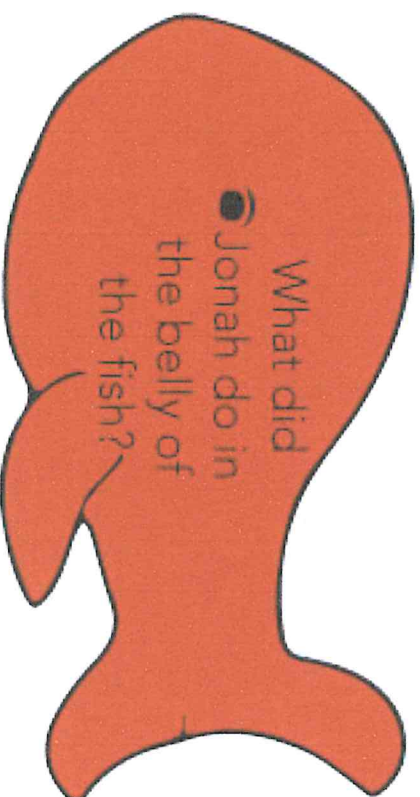
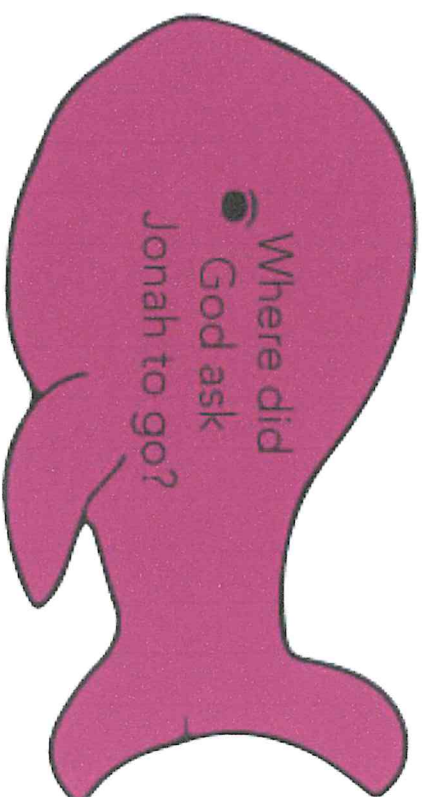
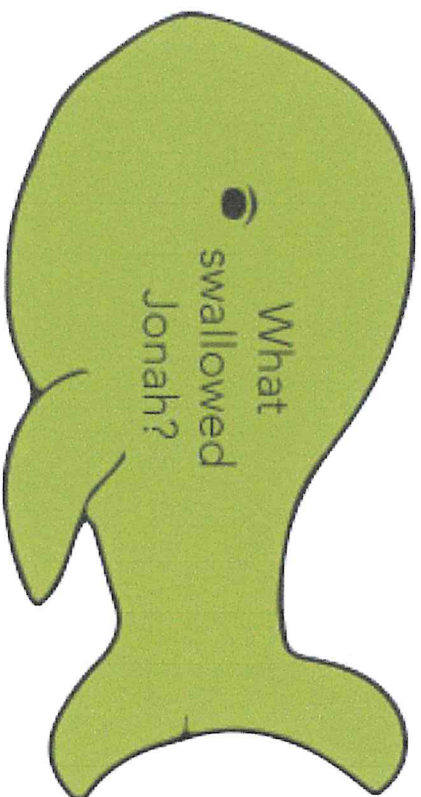
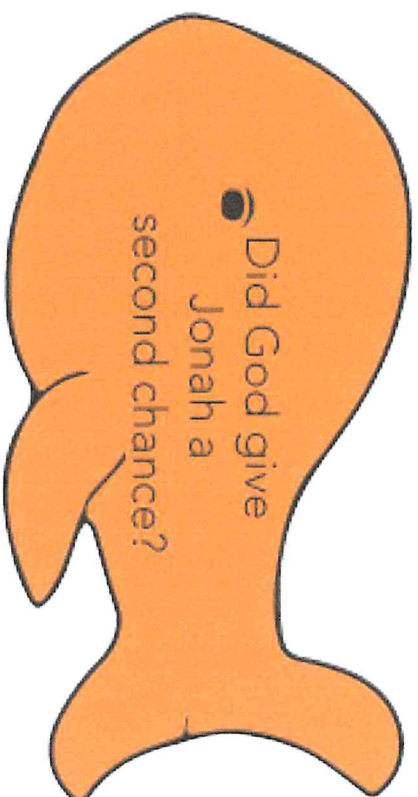
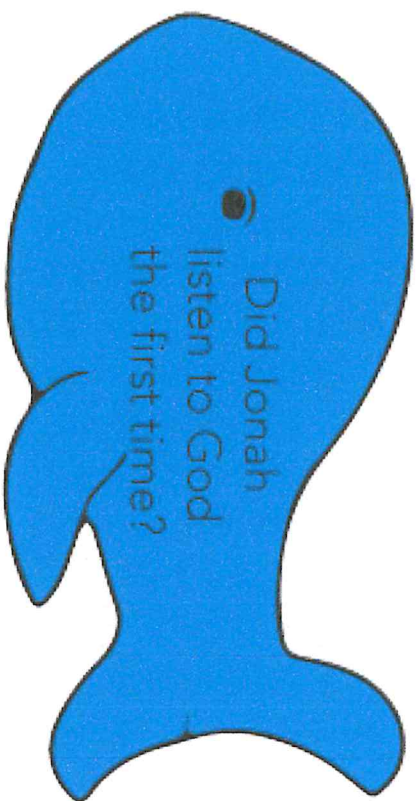
### Procedure

1. Cut the fish cutouts on cardstock paper.
2. Clip a paper clip to each fish cutout.
3. Attach a piece of yarn or twine to a rod and attach a small magnet to the opposite end of the yarn.
4. Have the children fish for the cutouts and answer the questions about the Jonah story.
5. Tell the children that even though Jonah didn't listen to God gave him a second chance to do what he asked.

**Explanation:** Remind the children that God gives us second chances.

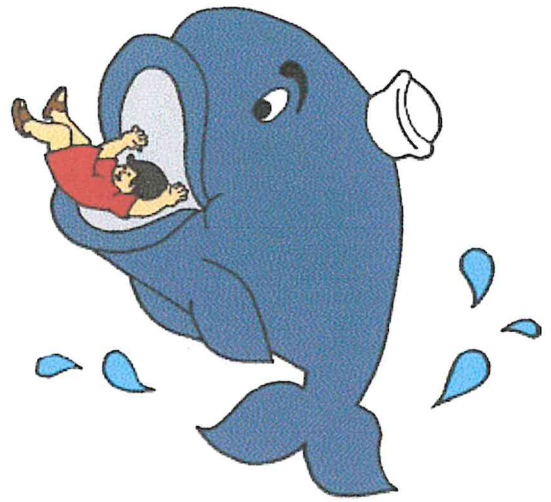
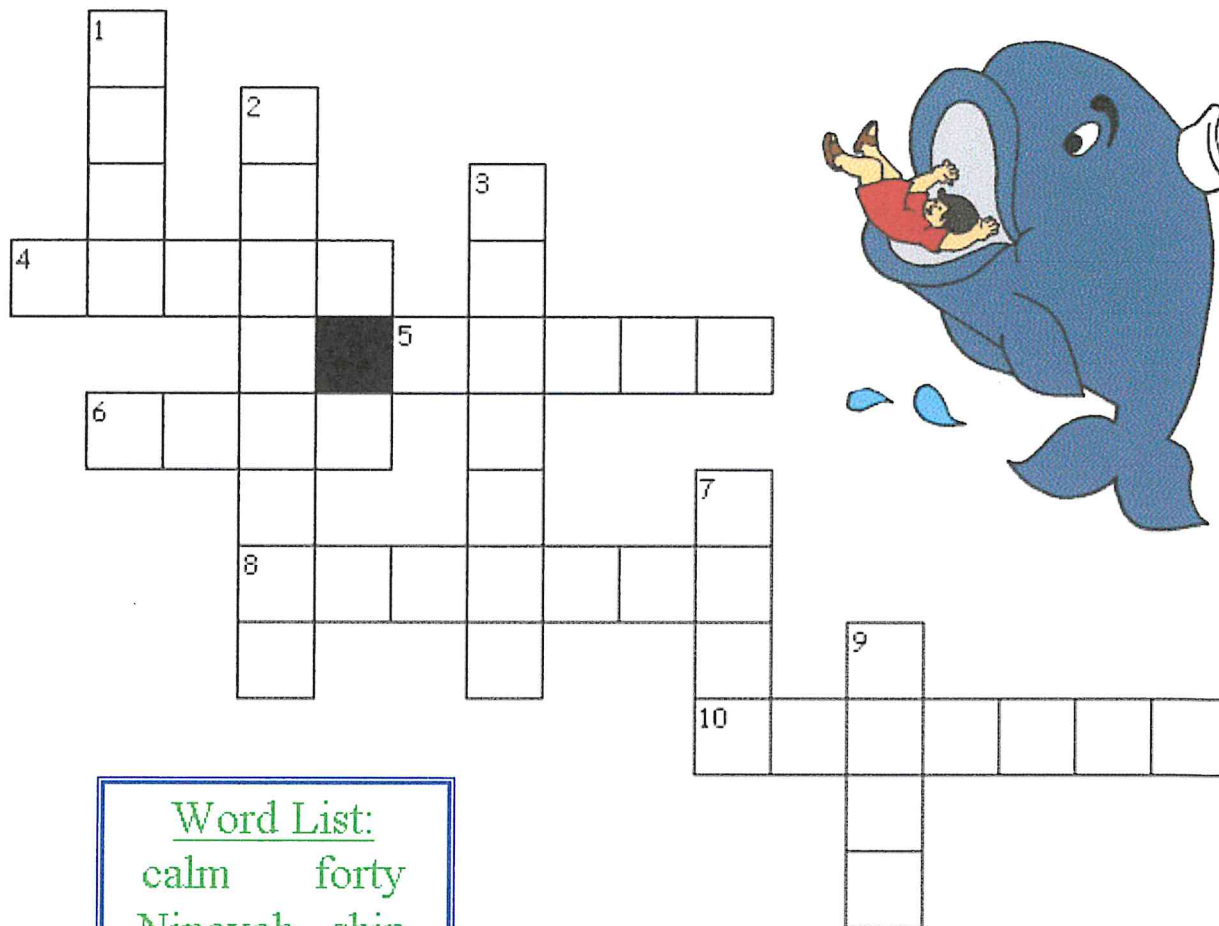








# Jonah Crossword



## Word List:

calm     forty  
 Nineveh   ship  
 obedient   spit  
 fish   praying  
 prophet   three

### Across

4. Jonah lived inside the belly of a fish for this number of days.
5. This is the number of days the people of Nineveh had to change and repent.
6. The fish did this to Jonah to get rid of him.
8. This is the name of the city Jonah was to send a message to.
10. Jonah spent most of his time inside the fish doing this.

### Down

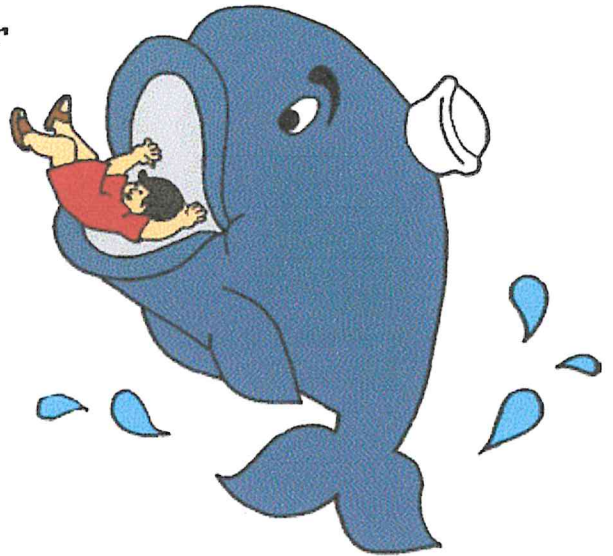
1. Jonah was swallowed by a very large \_\_\_\_.
2. It's better to be \_\_\_\_ to God than not to listen and go your own way.
3. Jonah was called this because he gave messages from the Lord.
7. Instead of going to Nineveh Jonah ran away on this instead.
9. The water became \_\_\_\_ as soon as Jonah was thrown overboard.

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Jonah Anagram

## Word List:

forgiven, Nineveh, prayer, repent, ship,  
spit, storm, swallowed, thrown, whale



eehinny \_\_\_\_\_

hips \_\_\_\_\_

morst \_\_\_\_\_

adellosw \_\_\_\_\_

hnortw \_\_\_\_\_

aehlw \_\_\_\_\_

ipst \_\_\_\_\_

aeprry \_\_\_\_\_

eenprt \_\_\_\_\_

efginorv \_\_\_\_\_



# JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH

## Open and Shut

### Activity

Jonah thought he could run from God, but instead found himself in the belly of a great big fish. Jonah spent three days in the belly of a big fish. Jonah prayed and told God he would not run and he would do what God asked. The whale spit Jonah out so he could do what God asked. For this activity the children will make a craft that will remind us that we cannot run from God.

### Material

Cardstock paper

Clothes pin

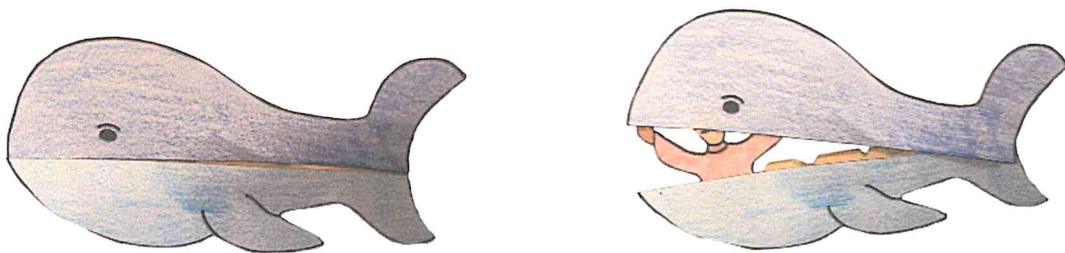
Tape

Scissors

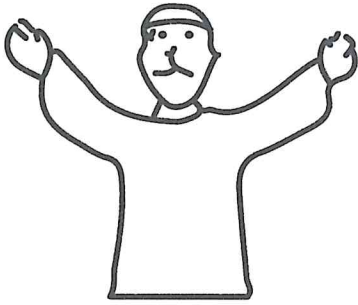
### Procedure

1. Have the children color and cut the Jonah and fish cutout.
2. Cut the fish in half along the line.
3. Attach the top and bottom of the fish to the clothes pin.
4. Attach Jonah to the inside of the fish.
5. Tell the children that because Jonah did not listen to what God asked he found himself in the belly of a big fish.

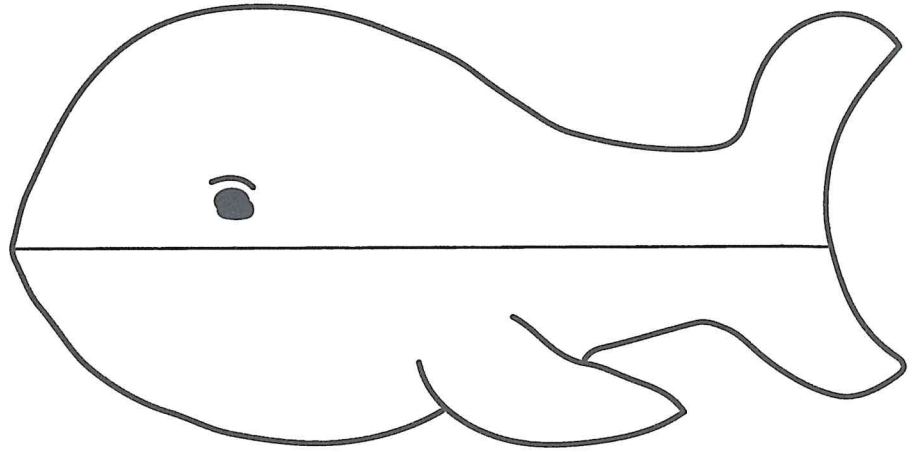
**Explanation:** Remind the children that we must listen carefully when God speaks to us.



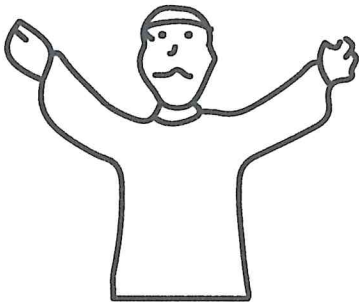




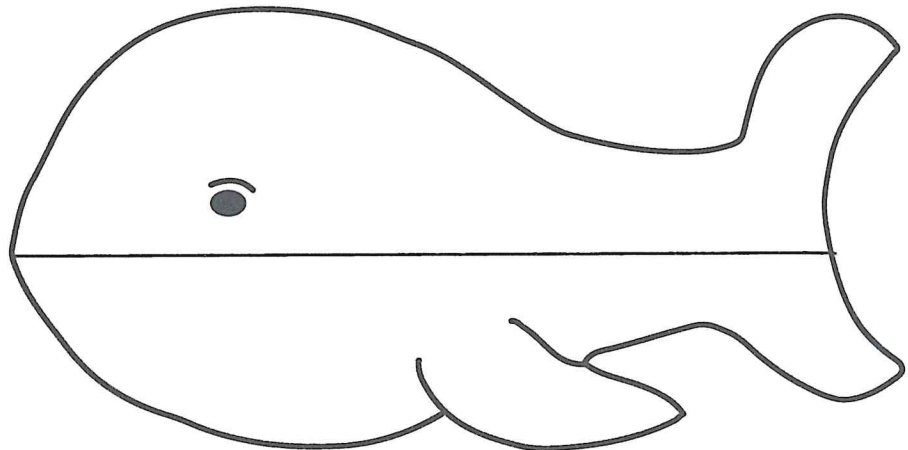
Jonah Cut-Out



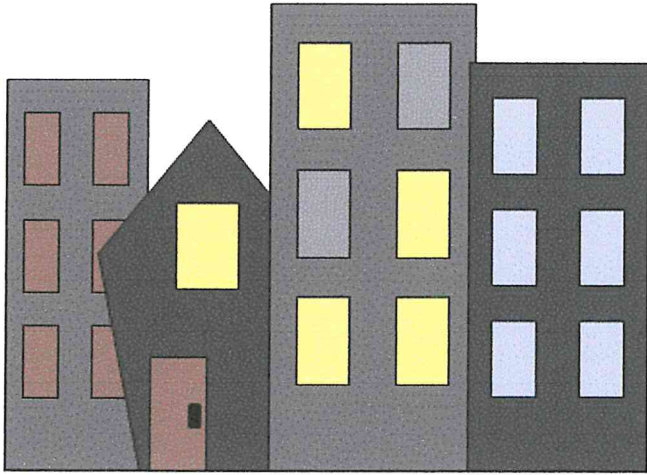
The Great Fish Cut-Out



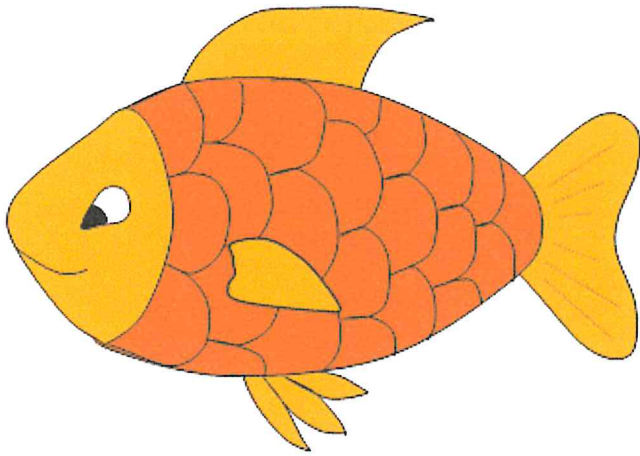
Jonah Cut-Out



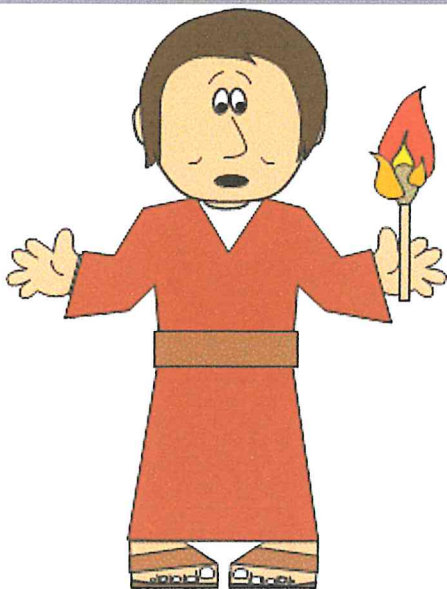
The Great Fish Cut-Out



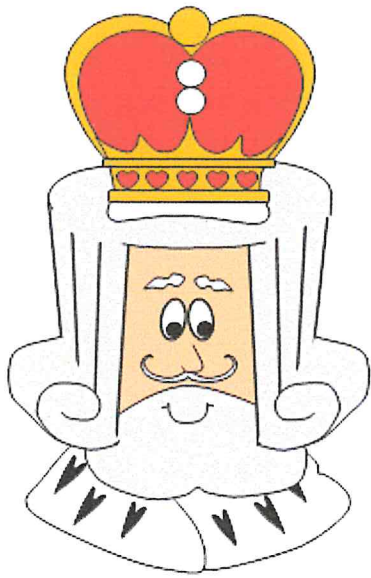
city



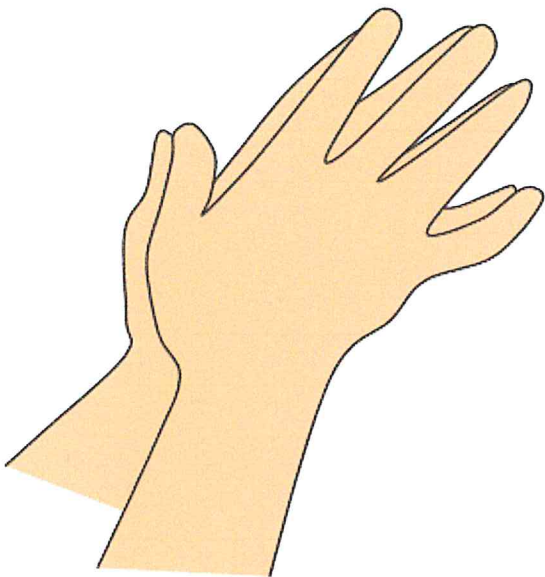
fish



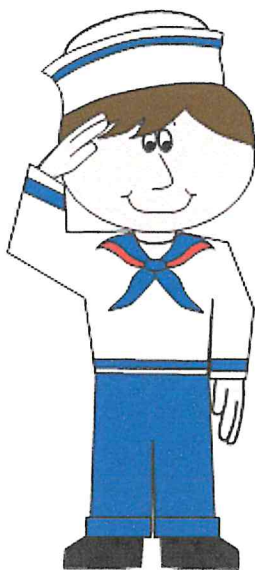
Jonah



king

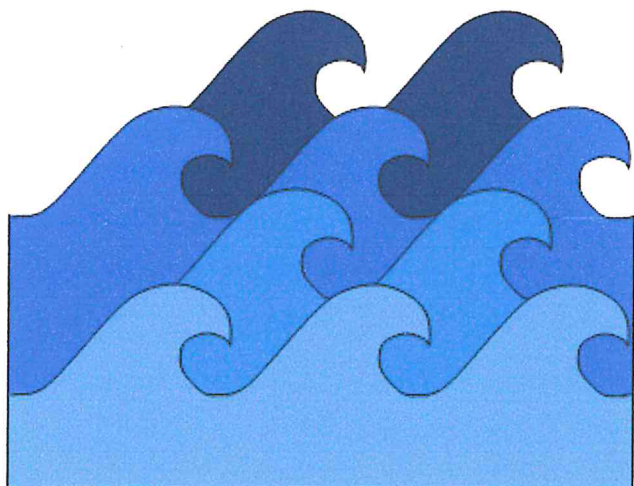


pray

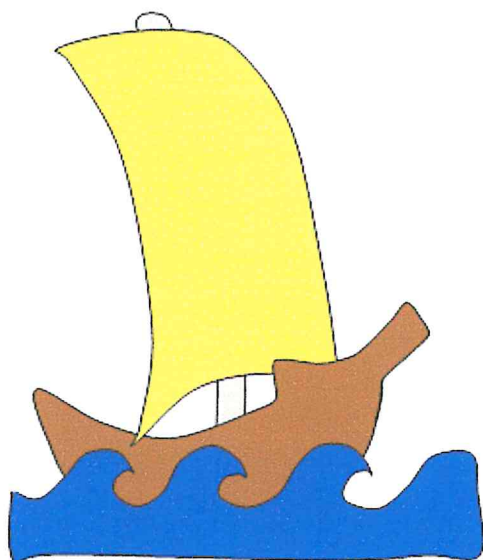


sailor

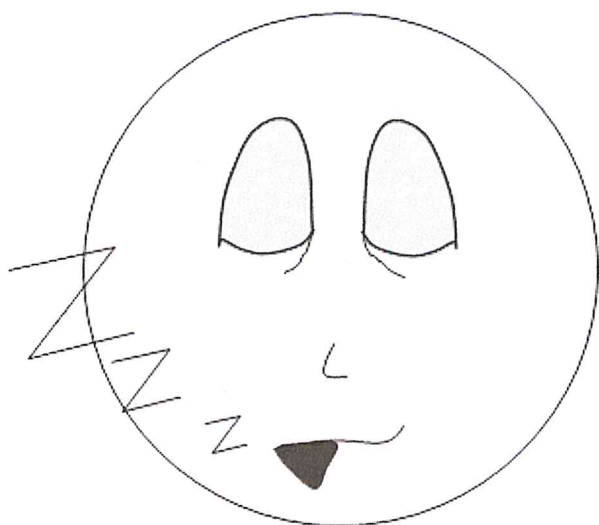




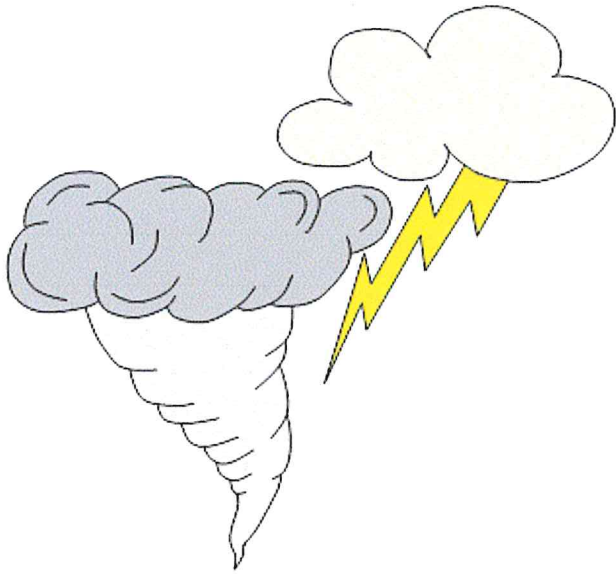
sea



ship



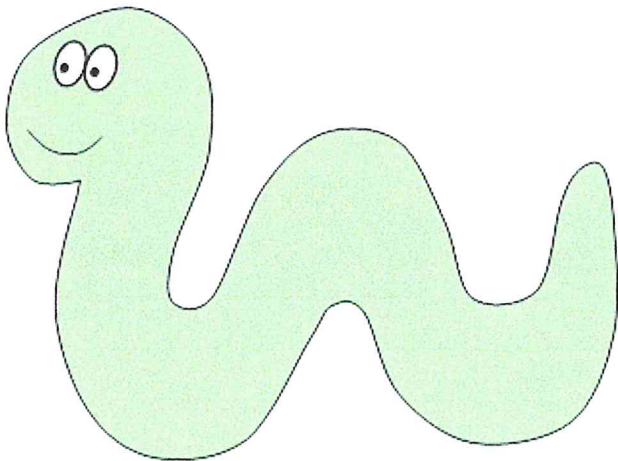
sleep



storm

3

three



worm

# Beat Strips and Rhythm Markers