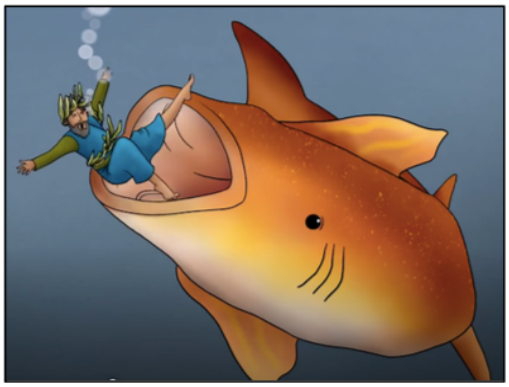
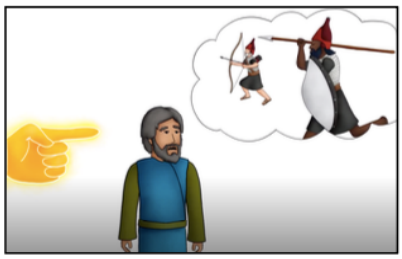
Video:
https://youtu.be/0BJacsgTjfg?si=HthW5StuMConsexU
(8:41) The Story of Jonah
by Nola Bible Stories

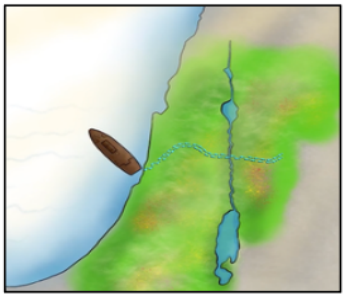


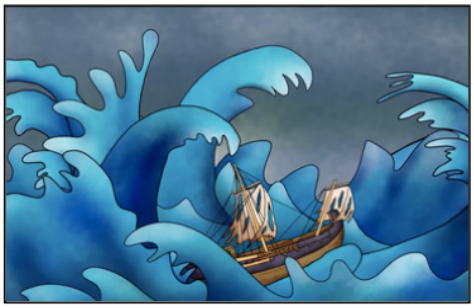
Lesson 3: GOD SENDS JONAH TO THE PEOPLE OF NINEVAH (Jonah 1-4)



The Bible says that Jonah was a prophet. Prophets gave messages from God to the people, but this time God had a different kind of job for Jonah. God told Jonah to go to Ninevah. God said, "Tell the people of Nineveh that I will destroy their city if they do not follow Me."

Jonah could not believe it! Not Nineveh! How could God send him to those bad people? They fought against the Israelites! Jonah didn't like those people. He decided that he would ignore God. Nineveh was to the east, but Jonah traveled west and got on a ship. He went the opposite way from what God had told him.





After the ship was out to sea, a huge wind began to blow. The ship was tossed about until it began to break apart. All of the sailors were afraid of what might happen to them. What was causing this terrible storm?

Jonah knew what was causing the storm. He knew that the Lord was punishing him for trying to run away from his important job. Jonah told the sailors to throw him overboard into the sea. Then the storm would stop. They did not want to throw Jonah overboard. He would drown. No one could survive the terrible storm! The soldiers tried to row back to shore but the storm was too strong.





Finally, they tossed Jonah overboard. Suddenly the storm stopped and the sea was calm. The people on the ship were safe. They praised God!

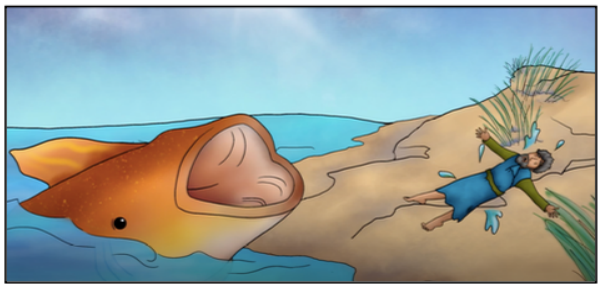




Jonah didn't drown in the water. The Lord caused a big fish to swallow Jonah.

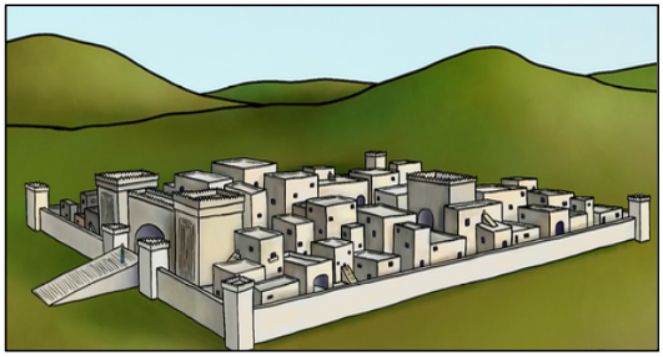


Jonah was inside the fish for 3 days. What do you think that Jonah did in there? Jonah prayed to God. Jonah told God that he was sorry for running away and that he was ready to obey the Lord now.



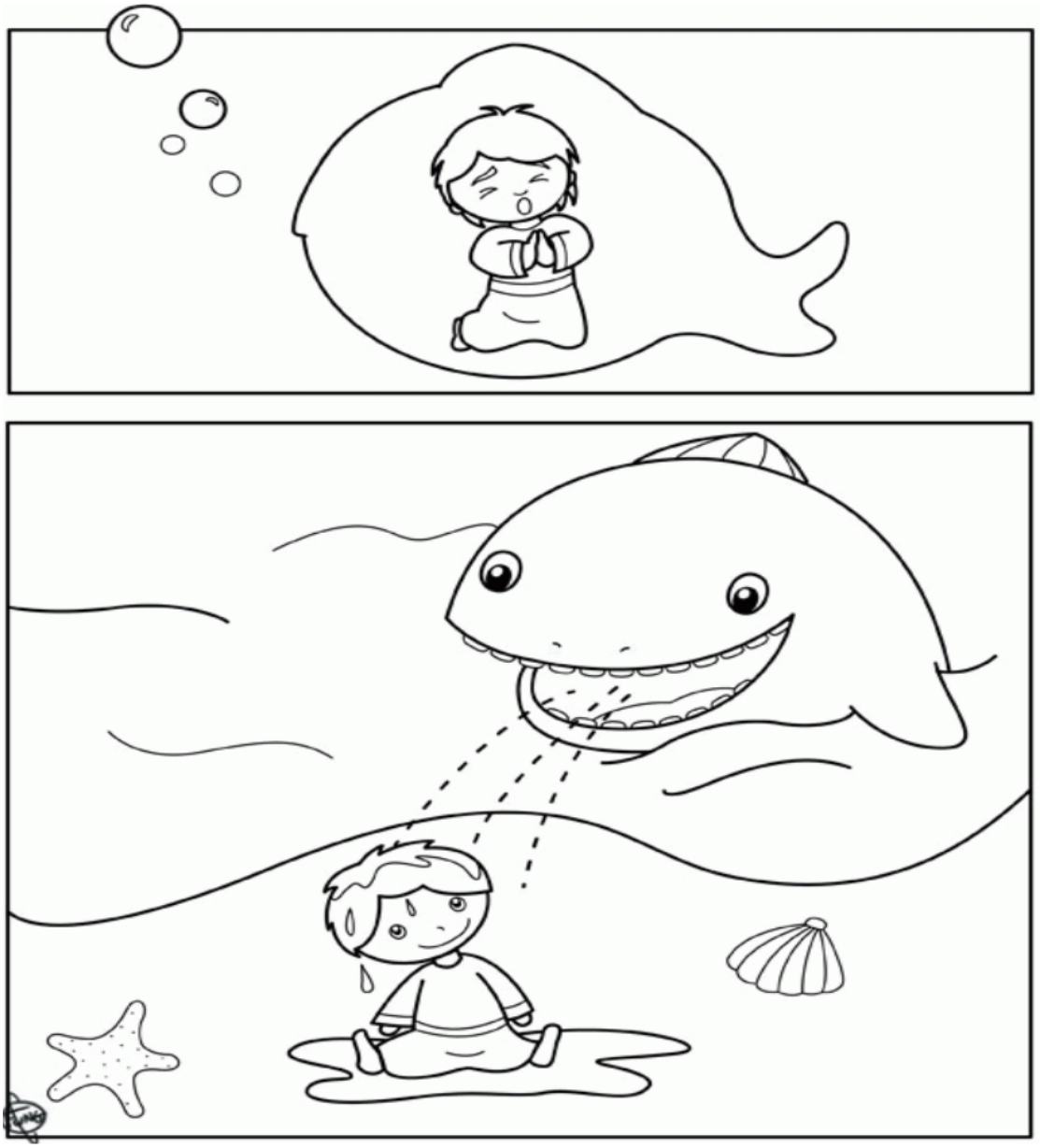
Then an amazing thing happened. The big fish spit Jonah out of its mouth onto dry land! Jonah knew that God had saved him for a special reason. God spoke to Jonah and told him again to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah obeyed God! He went to Nineveh and taught the people about God.

Jonah told the Ninevites about God, but he didn't think anyone would really listen. Jonah said that if they didn't turn to God, he would destroy their city. Then the people did something that Jonah did not expect. They listened! They were sorry for all of the bad things that they had done. They prayed to God and said that they wanted to obey him.



God heard the prayers of the people of Ninevah.
He decided not to destroy their city.
Everyone deserves to hear about God!

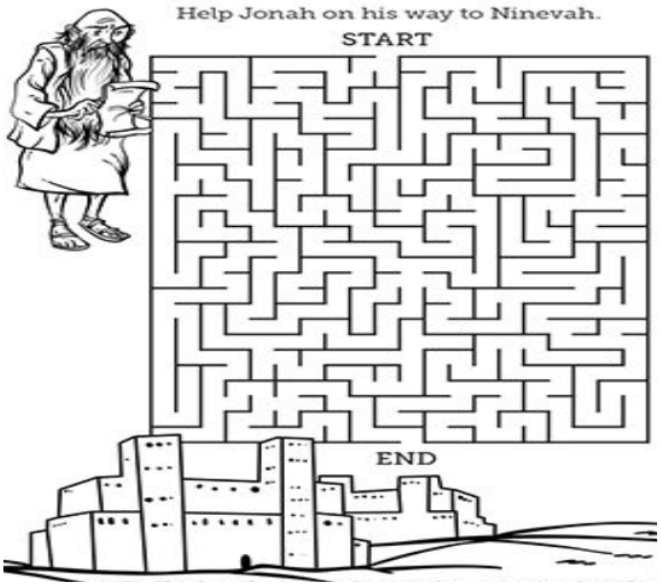
PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY



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J O N A H

UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY





THINK ABOUT THIS:

The Ninevites were enemies of Israel. They were cruel. God wanted them to learn about Him.

- **Imagine that God told you to go to a country that is enemies with our country. How would you feel?**
- **What if He told you to go talk to someone that has been mean to you and tell them about God? How would you feel? What would you do?**

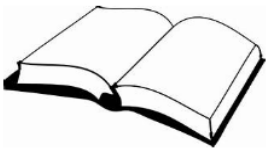
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- **What do you learn about God from this lesson?**

_____

THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY:



- Check out what Jonah does after he sees the Ninevites turn to God. Read Jonah chapter 4.
- Talk about it with your family and/or your teacher.