

JONAH RUNS AWAY FROM THE LORD

Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah 1

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

³But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

⁴Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish.”

⁷Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

⁹He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.”

¹⁰This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

¹¹The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

¹²“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

¹³Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴Then they cried to the LORD, “O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased.” ¹⁵Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

¹⁷But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

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Jonah 1:1-17

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What the Lord ask Jonah to do?
5		2.) What did Jonah do instead?
5		3.) How did the Lord save Jonah?
5		4.) Why do you think the Lord kept Jonah in the belly of the fish for three days and nights?

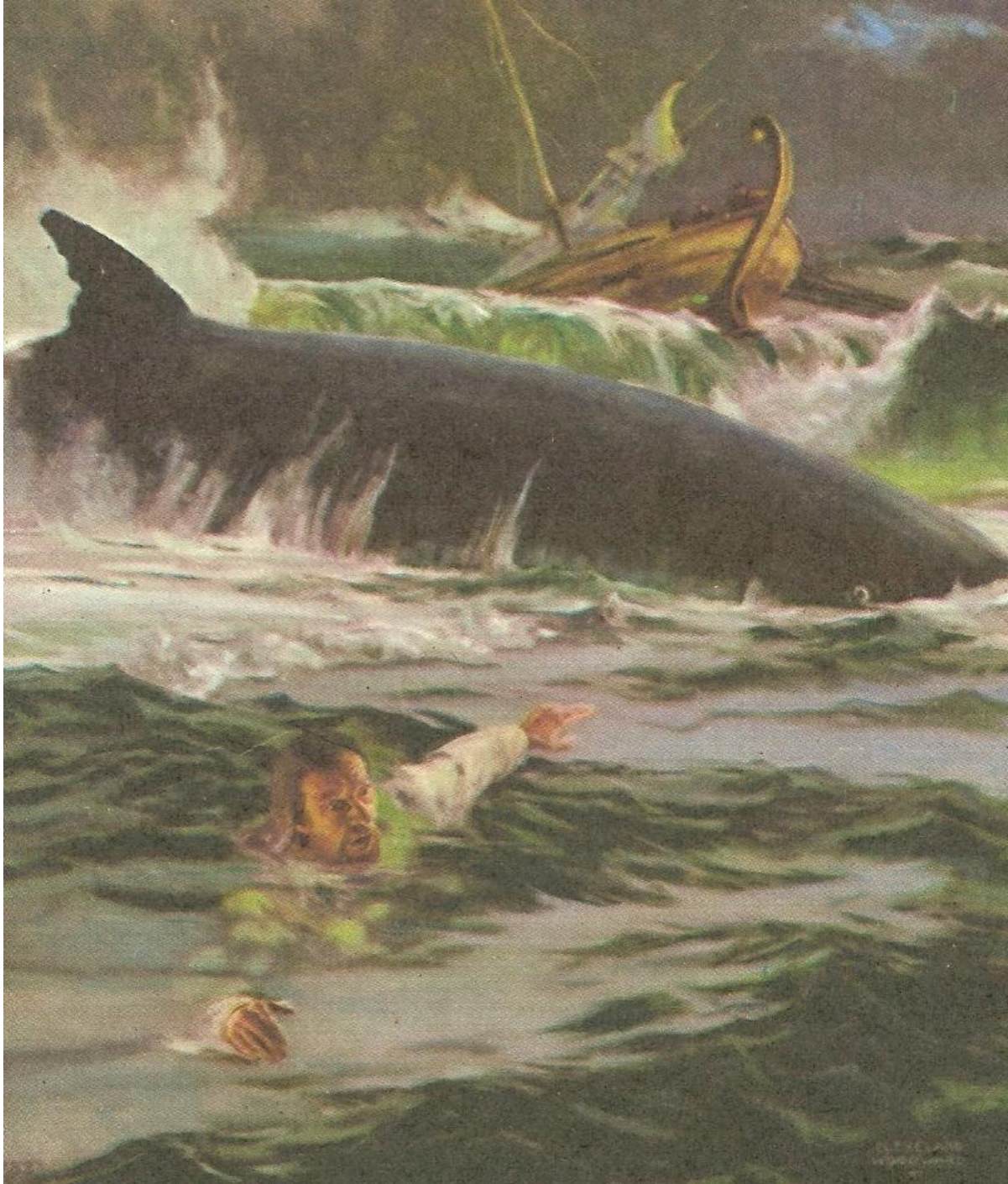
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proverbs 18:10</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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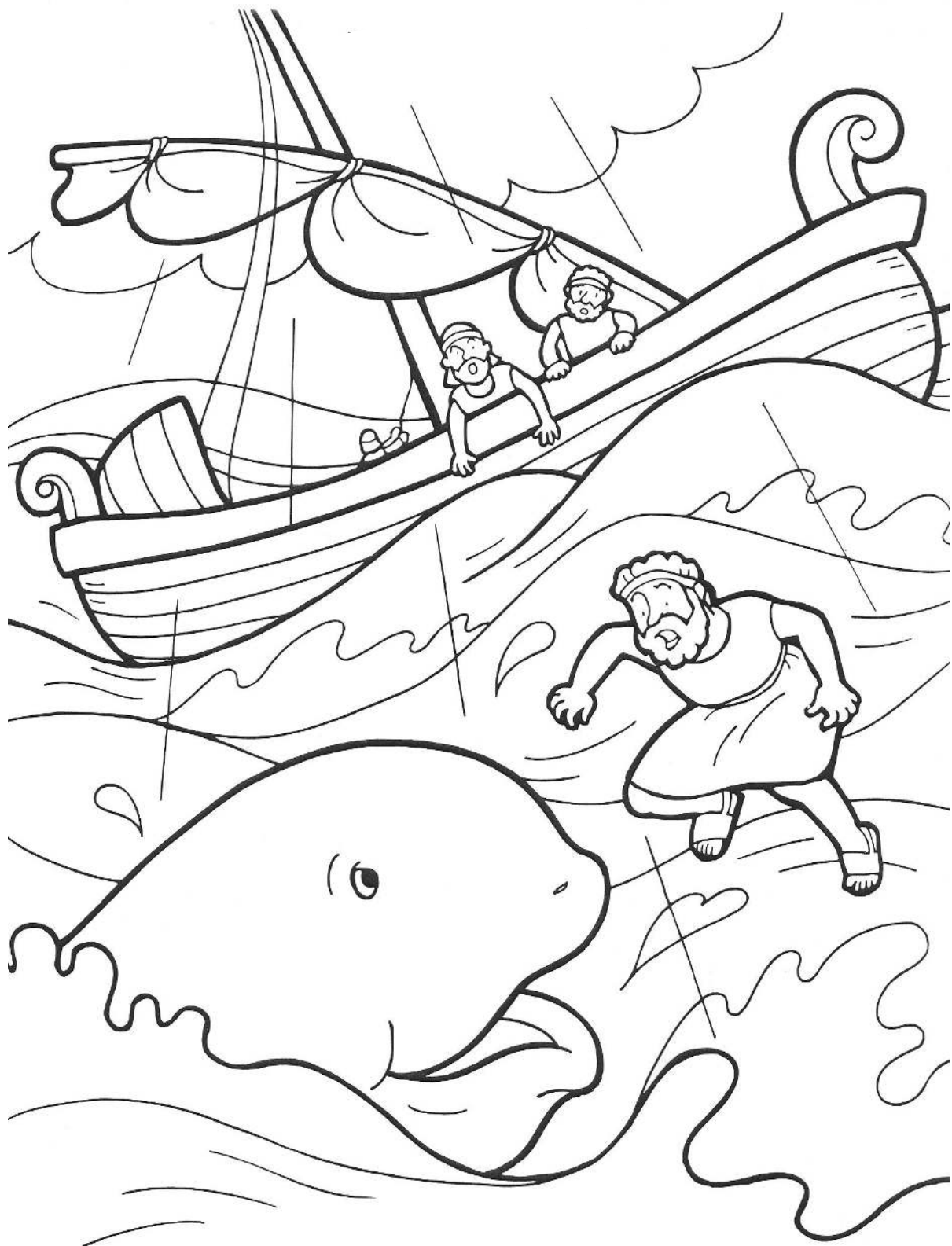
Jonah 1:1-17



Picture from *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Moody Press: Copyright © 1956.

JONAH RUNS AWAY FROM THE LORD

Jonah 1:1-17



Jonah is thrown overboard and swallowed by a giant fish

JONAH RUNS AWAY FROM THE LORD

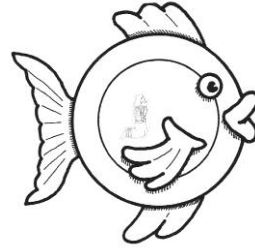
Jonah 1:1-17

CRAFT/ACTIVITY: FISH

Students will make fish to remind them that Jonah ran from the Lord and was swallowed by a fish.

MATERIALS

1. 67 lb. White Cardstock
2. Fish Pattern (two pages)
3. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils
4. Scissors
5. Glue
6. Paper Plates



DIRECTIONS

1. Make copies of the fish patterns onto 67lb. cardstock for each student.
2. Have students color the fish body parts with crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
3. Have students cut out the body parts on the solid black lines.
4. Help students glue the body parts to the paper plates to assemble their fish.
5. Glue Jonah inside the fish.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are working on their fish, remind them that God was giving Jonah a second chance to do what he was asked to do. Help students realize that God sometimes does extraordinary things to get our attention when we turn our backs on him.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 25 minutes

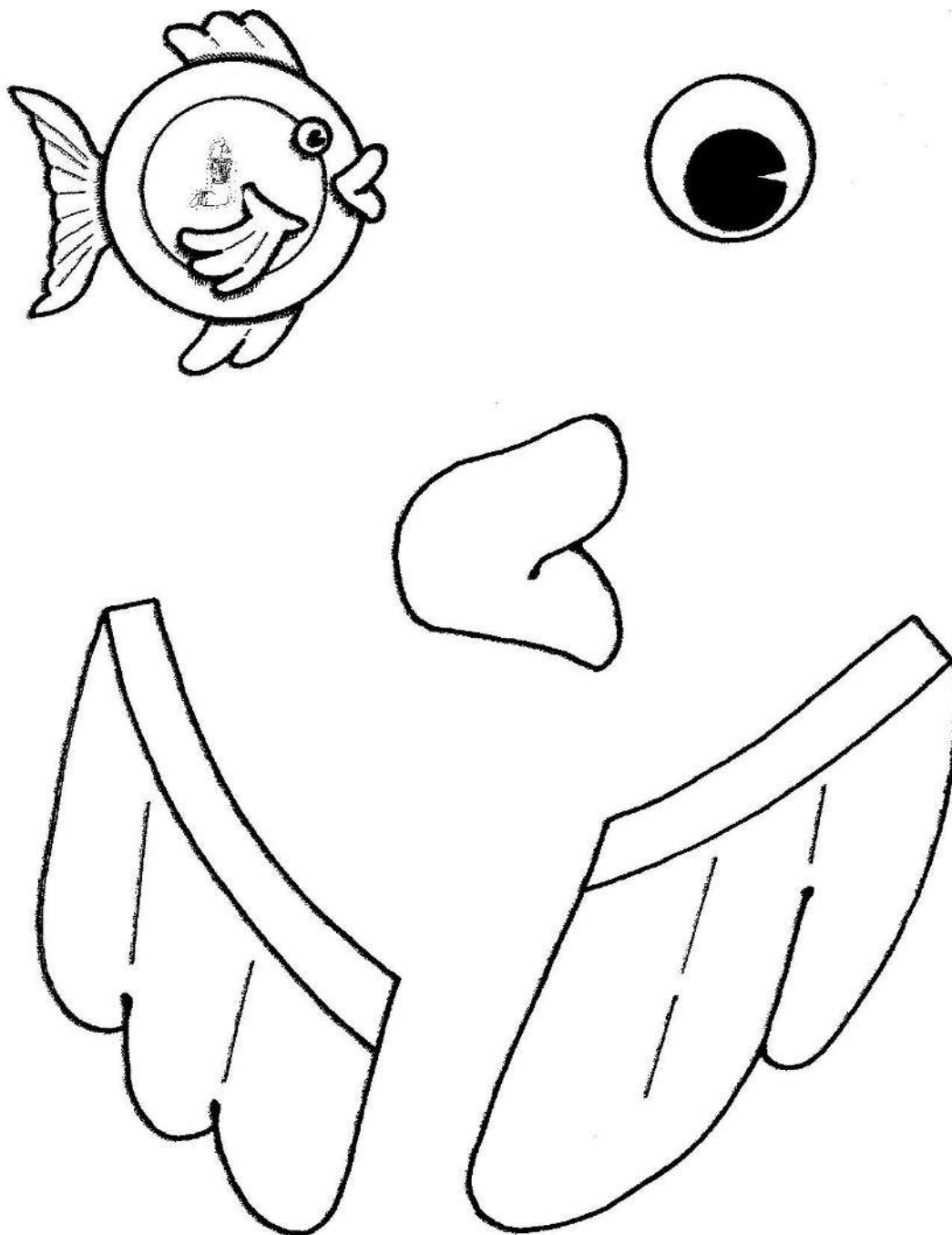
MEMORY VERSE

*“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”
Proverbs 18:10*

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Jonah 1:1-17

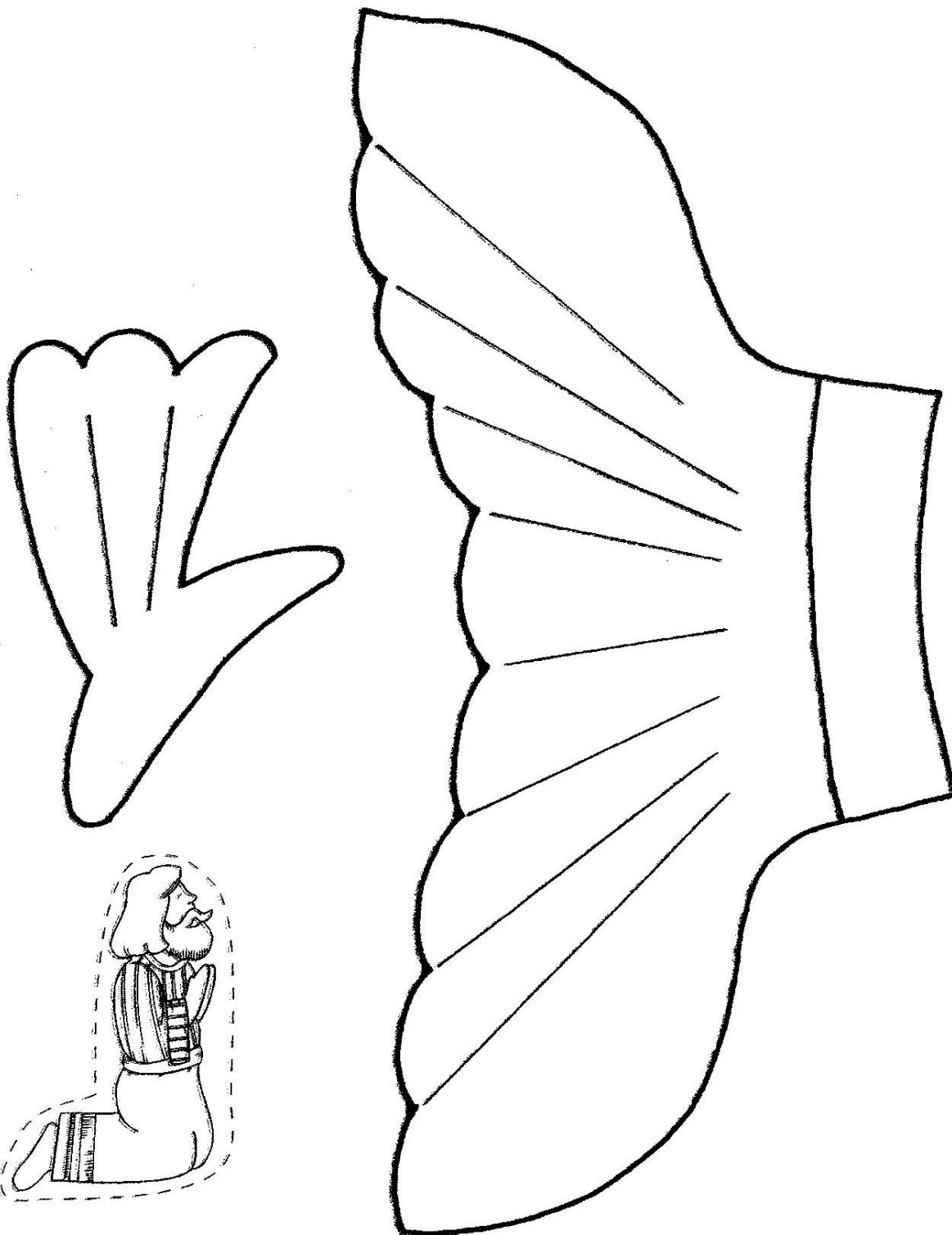
FISH PATTERN



JONAH RUNS AWAY FROM THE LORD

Jonah 1:1-17

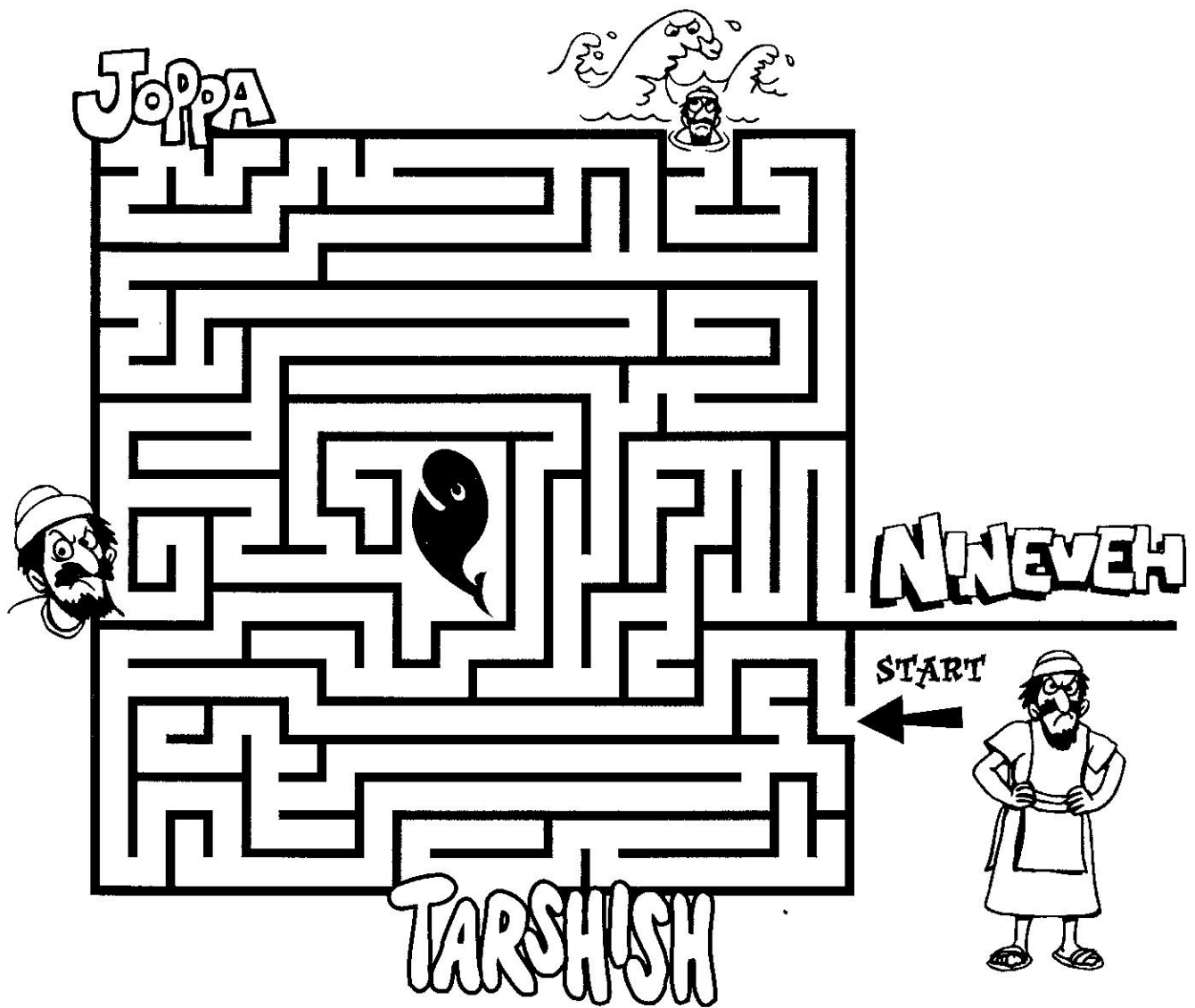
FISH PATTERN CONTINUED



JONAH RUNS AWAY FROM THE LORD

Jonah 1:1-17

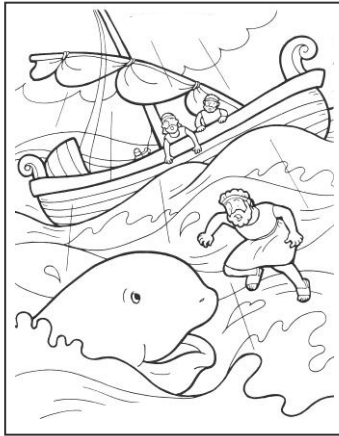
God gave Jonah a job to do, but Jonah didn't want to do it. When Jonah tried to run away to Tarshish, he got into a lot of trouble. Help Jonah find his way to Joppa and then to Nineveh so he can do what God asked him to do.



THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON JONAH 1:1-17

JONAH RUNS AWAY FROM THE LORD



The Lord told Jonah to go to the city of Ninevah to preach against their wickedness.

Instead of doing what the Lord wanted, Jonah ran off to Tarshish. He found a ship that was going that way so he paid his fare and boarded

the ship.

Then the Lord sent a storm that tossed the ship back and forth. The sailors were afraid that the ship would break into pieces. They called out to their gods for help. They began to throw cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

Jonah was below deck in a deep sleep during the storm. The captain asked, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish."

When the sailors found out that it was Jonah that had upset God, they asked, "What should we do to make the sea calm down for us?"

Jonah told the sailors to throw him into the sea. This would make the sea calm down because Jonah knew that the Lord was upset with him for disobeying.

Instead, the sailors tried to row back to land. The Lord kept the storm going. The boat was tossed around in the sea some more.

Finally, the sailors threw Jonah into the sea and it became calm. The sailors feared the Lord and offered him a sacrifice.

The Lord sent a great fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah remained in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

For more details, please read Jonah 1:1-17 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the Lord ask Jonah to do?
2. What did Jonah do instead?
3. How did the Lord save Jonah?
4. Why do you think the Lord kept Jonah in the belly of a fish for three days and three nights?

MEMORY VERSE

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."
Proverbs 18:10

TRUE OR FALSE?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | T | F | The Lord told Jonah to go to Ninevah. |
| <input type="radio"/> | T | F | Jonah obeyed the Lord. |
| <input type="radio"/> | T | F | Jonah got on an airplane and went to Tarshish. |
| <input type="radio"/> | T | F | The Lord sent a huge storm. |
| <input type="radio"/> | T | F | Jonah told the sailors to throw him overboard. |
| <input type="radio"/> | T | F | The sailors threw Jonah overboard. |
| <input type="radio"/> | T | F | The Lord sent a big fish to swallow Jonah up. |
| <input type="radio"/> | T | F | Jonah spent two days and two nights in the belly of a fish. |

Ideas For Home:

Today your child learned how Jonah disobeyed God. God gave Jonah a second chance to preach to the people in Nineveh.

1. Have your child finish coloring this book.
2. Help your child learn the *Memory Verse*.
3. Practice the *Bible Story Rhyme*.
4. Read and discuss the bible story with your child.
5. Discuss how God wants us to obey him the first time.

Bible Story Mini Book

Jonah Runs Away From the Lord



Jonah 1:1-17

Colored by: _____



Jonah finally obeyed God
and preached in Nineveh.



God told Jonah to preach
in Nineveh. But Jonah got
on a boat to Tarshish
instead.

Memory Verse

“The name of the LORD is a
strong tower ...”
Proverbs 18:10

Bible Story Rhyme

Poor old Jonah did not obey,
(Shake pointer finger from left to right)

He ran to a city far away.
(Run in place)

Swallowed by a giant fish,
*(Bring extended arms together as if a
mouth were closing)*

Now he'd do what God had wished.
(Thumbs up)



**Bad weather came and the
sailors knew Jonah was
running from God.**

Have You Ever Sinned?

The Bible teaches that we have *all* sinned and do not measure up to God's glory. It also teaches that the price for sin is death which separates us from God. But even though we are sinners, Christ died for us and paid the price for our sin. We just need to ask him to forgive us and receive his free gift of salvation. Just pray this prayer, with a sincere heart, and Jesus will forgive you of your sins. You will become a child of God and live with Him in heaven.

“Dear Jesus,

Please forgive me for the bad things that I have done. Please come into my heart and be my Lord and savior. In your name I pray, Amen.”



The sailors threw Jonah out of the boat. God sent a big fish to swallow him.

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PRESCHOOL GAME

Supplies: A white plastic dropcloth; red, yellow, blue, green, and black permanent markers; and a spinner with red, yellow, blue, green, and black spaces or a cube marked with those colors

Use this game frequently during gathering times after children know the story of Jonah.

Before class, make a game mat by drawing a large fish in the center of the plastic dropcloth. Draw little fish (about the same size as your children's feet) to completely surround the big fish, about four inches apart. Make the colors of the little fish in a random pattern.

Teach the children to play the game. Say: **When it's your turn, start by standing on the big fish. Then one of us will take a turn spinning the spinner (or rolling the cube) to tell you where you should put a foot. Then someone else will spin (or roll) to see where you should put your other foot. We'll do the same thing with your hands. Try to stay balanced as you put your hands and feet on different fish.**

Older preschoolers can play this game two or three at a time, each choosing different little fish to balance on.

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PRESCHOOL BIBLE STORY RHYME



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(Shake pointer finger from left to right)

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(Run in place)

Swallowed by a giant fish,
(Bring extended arms together as if a mouth were closing)

Now he'd do what God had wished.
(Thumbs up)