

Jonah Learns a Lesson

Jonah 1

Today, we're discovering how the Bible tells us to do what God wants. God told a man named Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh. God told Jonah to warn the people to stop doing bad things. Jonah didn't want to do what God told him to do, so he tried to run away from God. Jonah got on a ship that was headed away from Nineveh.

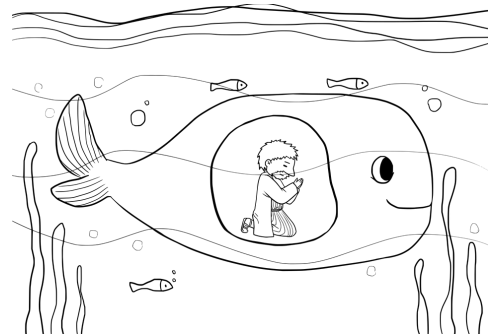
God brought a storm that put the boat in danger. The wind blew and the waves splashed. Jonah didn't even know about the storm. He was asleep in the bottom of the boat. The sailors woke Jonah and asked him why God sent this storm. Jonah knew it was because of his choice not to do what God wanted. God was trying to get Jonah's attention.



Jonah told the men to throw him into the stormy sea, and then God would calm the storm. The men didn't want to throw Jonah into the water, but the storm kept getting worse and they were concerned the entire boat would sink. So they threw Jonah overboard.

But as Jonah sank into the water, God sent a giant fish to swallow him. Jonah was in the belly of that fish for three days! When Jonah was in the fish's belly, he said a prayer to thank God for saving his life. Jonah promised that he'd change his ways. Then God caused the fish to spit Jonah up on the shore.

Once more, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah obeyed God and went to talk to the people there. The people listened to Jonah, and they turned away from the bad things they'd done. And Jonah also finally learned to do what God wants.



Jonah had to go through some pretty scary things to learn to do what God wants. We can learn from Jonah and remember that God wants us to love others and to love God. The Bible helps us know what God wants us to do. We can also follow Jesus' example to help us obey God. When Jesus was on earth, he obeyed God and followed God's commands. Jesus loved God and wanted to serve and obey God.

Let's Pray: Dear God, Thank you for teaching us to do what you want. Please help us follow your ways that you tell us in the Bible. We love you, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Paper & Clothespin Jonah and the Whale Craft:

Materials Needed:

- blue or grey paper for the whale
- 1 googly eye (or a black marker to draw an eye)
- scissors
- white paper for Jonah
- glue
- pencil crayons (or crayons or marker)
- Clothespin

Instructions:

1. Cut out a whale shape from your blue or grey paper.
2. Cut out a Jonah shape from your white and color him in.
3. Cut your whale in half horizontally.
4. Glue your googly eye on your whale (or draw the eye on with marker).
5. Glue each half of the whale to the clothespin. Making sure that both halves line up. Also make sure that you glue only the edge of each half-whale to one half of the clothespin.
6. Glue Jonah on the *reverse* side of the clothespin, so that he peeks out when you open the clothespin.