



Jonah, Tell God's Message



Share God's
Good News.



God told a man named Jonah, "Go and preach to the people in the great city of Nineveh." But Jonah ran away from the Lord. Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh. He did not want them to be saved.

So Jonah took a ship going in the other direction. But God knows all things. He knew what Jonah had done. God sent a great storm on the sea. The sailors on the ship with Jonah were afraid their ship would sink. When they learned that God had sent the storm because Jonah was running away from Him, they threw Jonah into the sea. Then the mighty storm stopped, and the waters became calm.

But God had not forgotten Jonah. He saved Jonah in an amazing way. God sent a big fish to swallow him.

Jonah stayed inside the fish for three days. Finally the fish swam to the shore, opened its mouth, and spit Jonah onto dry land. Jonah finally understood that he must obey God. He went to the city of Nineveh and told the people to repent of their sins.

The people listened to Jonah's words. They believed in God. The king and all the people repented of their sins. The king said, "Let us all pray to God and ask that He will save us." Because of Jonah's words many people came to know the true God and were saved.

Just as Jonah told the people about the one true God, God's people today tell others—even strangers—about Jesus, who lived, died, and rose again to save all people from their sins.

Parents: Together with your child look at fish as they swim in an aquarium. Comment that Jesus compared His days in the grave to Jonah's days in the belly of the whale. Point out that a fish is a symbol for Christians. Teach your child to draw the simple outline of a fish (a football shape with a triangular tail). Look for Christian fish symbols in your home and church.