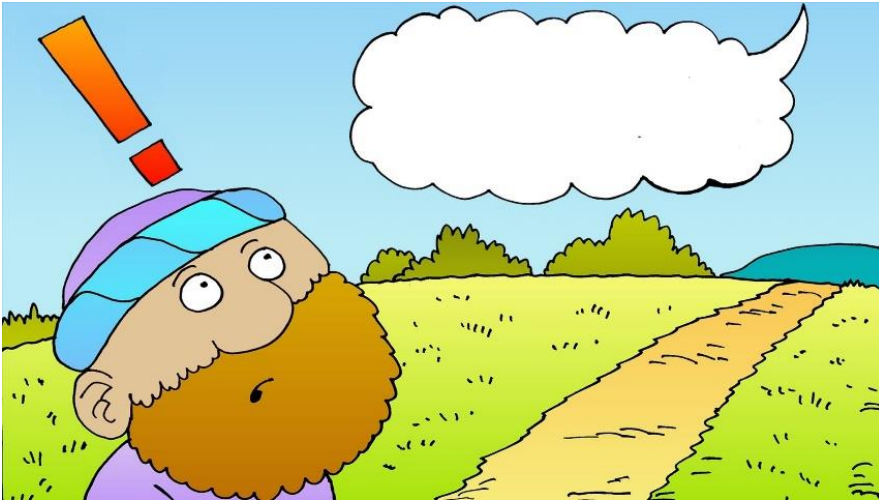


The Story of Jonah and the Big Fish



God spoke to Jonah.

"Go to the city of Nineveh. The people there are really, really evil and doing lots of wrong things. Go and tell them to stop doing evil and to turn to me (God) and live good lives. Tell them that if they don't change their ways, I am going to punish them."

But Jonah said, "No!" and went off to Tarshish. He got on a boat at Joppa.



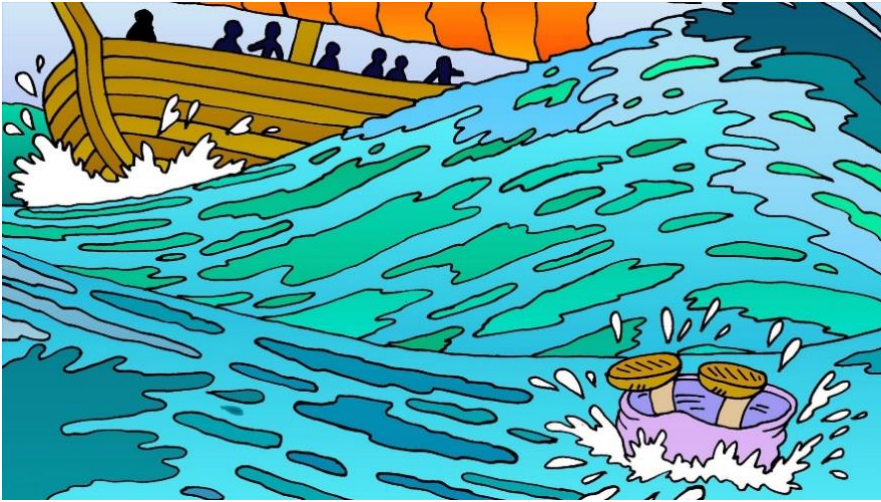
During the journey God sent a big storm. All the sailors were terrified and shouted out to the different Gods they believed in.

The captain of the ship went to find Jonah, he found him asleep. "Wake up," he shouted. "You should not be sleeping, cry out to your God so he will keep us safe!"

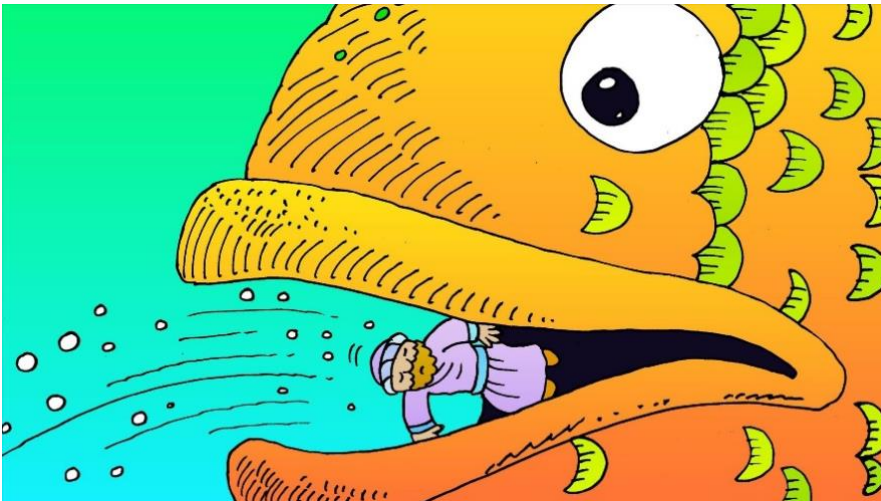


The sailors were playing a game with dice to try and find out who had caused the storm. They decided that it was JONAH! "Why have you caused all this trouble?" they cried.

Jonah said, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of Heaven. He created the sea and land. I am running away from God because he asked me to do something I didn't want to do!"



Jonah told the sailors to throw him into the sea which they did! At this the sea became flat, like glass and the sailors worshipped the true God. Meanwhile, Jonah was in the ocean. But God sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah.



Jonah stayed in the fish's belly for 3 days and 3 nights. In the fish's smelly belly Jonah prayed.

"I was really scared. So, I spoke to God about my trouble and God answered me."

Jonah praised God and he told God that he would do what God had asked him to do.



The fish spat Jonah out onto some dry land.



So off Jonah went to Nineveh! Jonah told the people of Nineveh what God had said; to stop doing wrong things and put their lives right with God.



The King of Nineveh told the people to stop eating and drinking. He said we have to say sorry to God for the wrong things we have done. So, the people stopped eating and drinking, they fasted and covered themselves with sackcloth. They said, "We are sorry for all the bad things we have done." God had mercy on Nineveh and he didn't punish them!



Now you'd have thought that Jonah would have been pleased. But no, he got angry because God had mercy on the people of Nineveh.

"I knew you'd do this God. I knew that you would forgive them for the wrong things they have done," he moaned.



Jonah went and sat outside the city and watched to see what God would do. He was unhappy and cross.

God made a large plant grow over Jonah to protect him from the sun.



Then a worm came along and ate the plant which was protecting Jonah. The sun shone and the wind blew. Jonah was angry and felt that he wanted to die. Poor Jonah!



But God said to Jonah.

"Why are you angry about the plant. You didn't plant it or cause it to grow! Nineveh has more than 120,000 people. They don't always understand what is wrong or right. But that city is important to me and I love them and want them to change their ways and be saved!"

Jonah was angry that after the people of Nineveh said sorry for the evil things they were doing; God forgave them and didn't punish them as Jonah felt he should.

When Jesus was on earth, he told the people he was talking to, that in order to believe his teaching, they wanted to see God do something miraculous that they could see themselves. Jesus said, like the prophet Jonah who was in the belly of the big fish for 3 days and 3 nights, he would be in the tomb for 3 days. (Matthew 12:38-41)

Jesus died for the wrong things we have done and rose again from the dead, promising that one day we, who trust in him, will be forgiven for our mistakes and go, one day, to live with him in heaven.

The Bible says:

'Jesus died for us when we were unable to help ourselves.

We were living against God, but at just the right time Christ died for us.'

Romans 5:6

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you love us so much that you don't keep us the way we are now, but that you help us to change, to live better lives.

Thank you that you don't treat us as deserve but you offer us forgiveness and love and you promise us, that one day, we will come to live in heaven with you.

Amen

Links for the story of Jonah and a crossword

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmA1nAFqNCE&t=4s> - Heather reads the story

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jO2QsF_nnIU


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOSadLyqshg>

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/t.asp?t=https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/crosswords/c-crossword-jonah.gif>

You can make Jonah and the big fish using a paper plate.

Cut out the mouth. Colour it and you can draw a little Jonah to stick on your big fish!!





But God showed
His love for us in
that while we were
still sinners,
Christ died
for us.

Romans 5:8

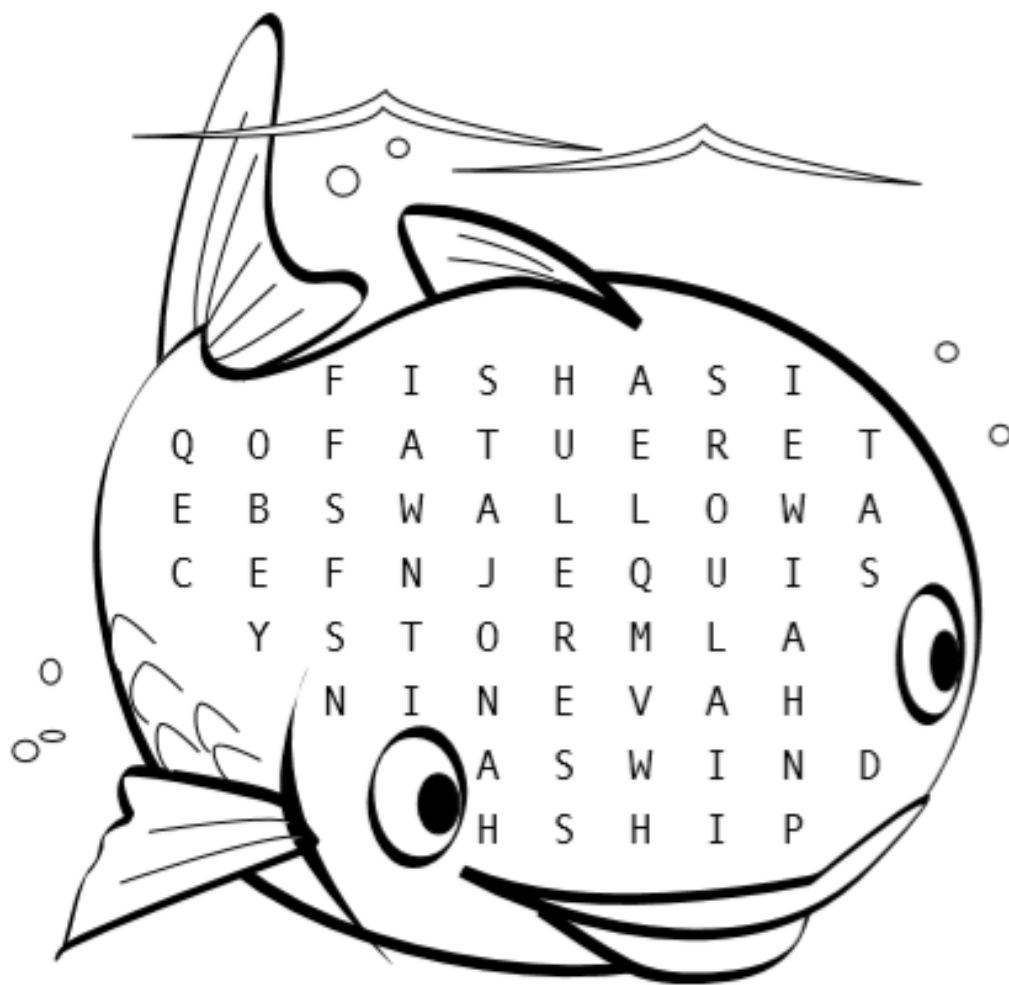
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Jonah and the Big Fish

Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



FISH
JONAH
NINEVAH

OBEY
SEA
SHIP

STORM
SWALLOW
WIND