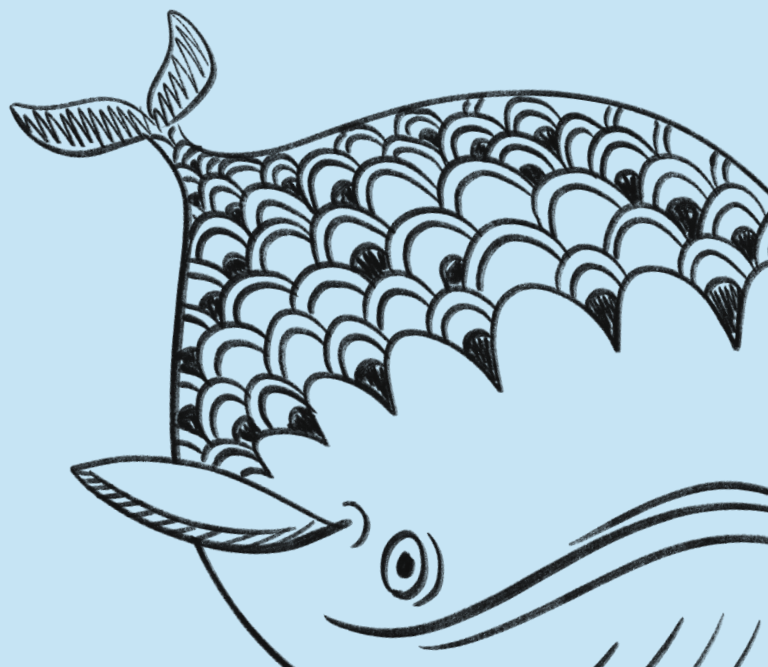


THE BOOK OF

JONAH





DIRECTIONS

Each week you will read the explanation on the front of that week's card, then you'll find the book of Jonah in the bible. Read (or listen to) the scripture listed on the back of card, then watch a video to see an overview of the book of Jonah. After the video, spend time answering the discussion questions as a family.

AN INTRODUCTION TO JONAH:

In the bible we see a repeated cycle—people try to live in whatever way they want, start to feel bad, ask God for forgiveness, then decide to live however they want again. When we meet the people of Nineveh, they're in a time where they are living lives separate from God, so God wants to give them a warning.

WHO IS JONAH?

Jonah was a prophet, which means God chose him to give a message to God's people. In the Old Testament God used prophets to tell his people what would happen, to help them turn from their sin, and to help them know that God had a great rescue plan in place. Jonah was a prophet, but he wasn't perfect. Will he give God's message to the people of Nineveh, or will he do what is right in his own eyes? That's what we'll discover in the coming weeks.



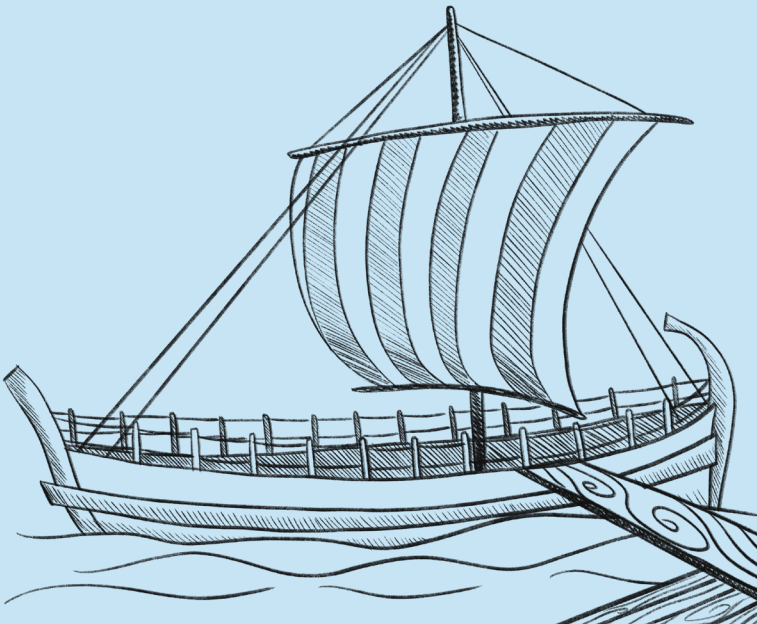
FACTS ABOUT JONAH

Year in history: Jonah takes place around 760 B.C. That means it happened before Jesus was born.

Place in the bible: We find the book of Jonah in the Old Testament.

Who wrote the book? Jonah

Who else is in the book of Jonah? The people of Nineveh

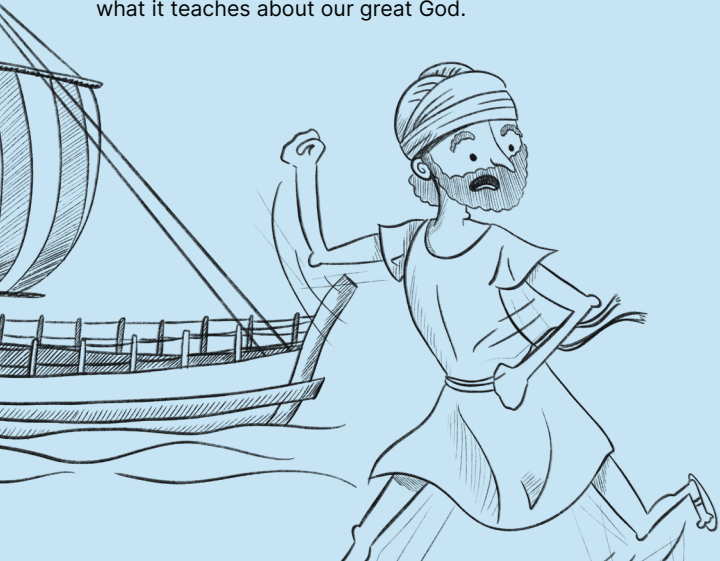


WEEK 1

JONAH ON THE RUN

Have you ever gone fishing? If you have, you know that sometimes you catch the tiniest of fish, and other times you think you've caught a big fish but it turns out to be a stick. While fishing, did you ever see a fish so big you could fit inside? Believe it or not, this is what happens in the book of Jonah.

The book of Jonah is a really neat story, but it also can be sad, because the people in the story, including Jonah, don't always follow God's commands. Like you and me, sometimes we think we know what's best and we try to live on our own. But thankfully, God is always with us and working to help us trust and follow him. That's what happens in the book of Jonah, and it's what happens in our lives too. Let's read this week's scripture and see what it teaches about our great God.



WEEK 1

READ AND WATCH

Read the scripture then scan the QR code for this week's video.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE:

Jonah 1:1-16



POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did God ask Jonah to do and how did Jonah respond?
- In Crossing Kids our preschoolers learn that God is with his people and our elementary kids learn that God is relational. Based on what you know about God, do you think Jonah could really run from him? **Why or why not?** *No! God is omnipresent, which means he is everywhere, all the time. He knew exactly what Jonah was doing, and where he was going.*
- Are there ways you try to run from God or try to get out of following his commands?

WEEK 2

THE DARK AND STINKY BELLY

In Jonah chapter one we learn that Jonah tried to get away from God by hopping on a boat and going to the middle of the ocean. But God is always with his people which means he always knows what we're doing and where we're going.

This week we're studying Jonah chapter two. In this chapter Jonah is in the belly of the big fish. What would that have been like? Stinky? Dark? Scary? The bible doesn't tell us what it's like, instead it tells us how Jonah responded to God. God is relational. He invites his people to come to him in prayer, and that's what we see Jonah do in today's story. God is also with his people. Do you think God was with Jonah in the belly of the fish?



WEEK 2

READ AND WATCH

Read the scripture then scan the QR code for this week's video.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE:

Jonah 2:1-10



POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- The bible says Jonah was in distress. What does he do while in distress?
- What does Jonah acknowledge about salvation in his prayer? *It comes from God.*
- What do we learn about God through Jonah's prayer?

WEEK 3 LET'S GO TO NINEVEH

God is much more powerful than us, so when he has a plan to rescue his people his plan will always work. Every. Single. Time. But sometimes, sin gets in the way. It got in Jonah's way when God asked him to go to Nineveh, and sometimes gets in our way, too. Thankfully, God is relational and wants to be with his people. He will provide a way to be with them even if it means getting their attention over and over again. Will that prove true in this week's story? Let's read to find out.



WEEK 3

READ AND WATCH

Read the scripture then scan the QR code for this week's video.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE:

Jonah 3:1-10



POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **What did God tell Jonah? How did Jonah respond?**
- **What was the warning given to the people of Nineveh?**
- **How did the people of Nineveh respond? How did God respond?**

WEEK 4

GOD'S COMPASSION, JONAH'S ANGER

Did you read last week's chapter to see what happened to the people of Nineveh? In chapter three we learn that the people of Nineveh took the warning God gave them through Jonah seriously. They trusted the one true God and turned from their evil ways. And what did God do? He had compassion on them! That's because God is relational. He is with his people and he wants to have a relationship with them. That includes you and me! But what happens when we think we know better than God? Let's find out in today's story.



WEEK 4 READ AND WATCH

Read the scripture then scan the QR code for this week's video.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE:

Jonah 4:1-11



POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why was Jonah so angry in today's story?
- Share about a time when you didn't think someone deserved to be forgiven, or maybe even didn't deserve God's love.
- Is there sin you need to turn from? Share, then pray to God for forgiveness and thank him that through Jesus those who trust in him are forgiven.

