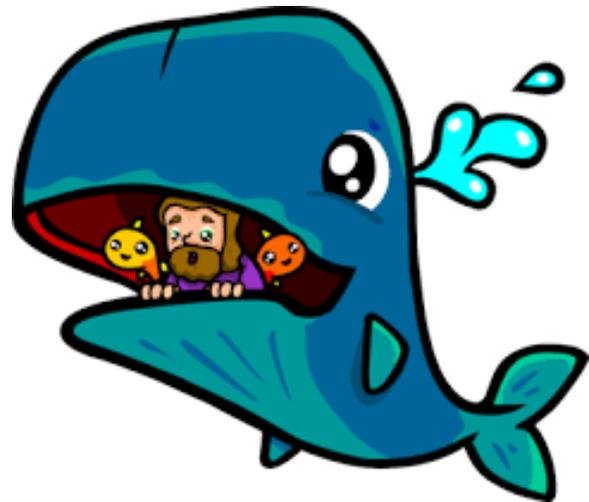


November 22, 2020

Jonah and the Big Fish

Jonah 1-4



Instructions for Families:

- Complete these activities in order at any time during the week, whenever it best fits your family schedule. Ideally, plan to do them all together at one time.
- All activity materials are common household objects, and are listed at the beginning of each activity.

Gathering

- **Materials:** Basic altar decor (placemat/cloth napkin, candle/lighter, cross or other item of religious significance).
- **Directions:**
 - **Note: if you have not yet made a family altar, do this first:**
 - Decide as a family where you will set up the altar. Some good options include in the center of the dining table, on a console table, or atop a low bookshelf. It should be easily visible to the children, but not still somewhat out of every day reach (ex: not a mantle, but also not on a coffee table.)
 - After you have decided where the altar will be, set up a few basic objects together:
 - Lay out a cloth napkin or placemat as a base.
 - Add a candle and a cross, or another object that reminds your family of God.
 - Gather the children and adults who will be participating in Sunday school together.
 - Point out the object that was added to the altar last week: picture of a lion
 - **Ask:** Last week, we learned about Daniel in the Lion's Den. What were key moments in that story?



- **Say:** Let's get ready to make our hearts and minds ready to listen to God today.
- Light the candle.
- **Say:** This candle light reminds us that God is with us. Now, let's say a prayer together to make our hearts and minds ready to listen to God.
- Invite a child to say a prayer. If no one volunteers, an adult may say a prayer, or lead the family in the below:
 - "Dear God, thank you for being here with us in our home. We are ready to listen and to learn about you. We love you. Amen."

Bible Story – Jonah and the Big Fish

- **Materials:** Storybook Bible, or Computer/Tablet/Phone with Internet Access
- **Directions:**
 - Find the story of Jonah and the Big Fish (Jonah 1-4)
 - Invite an older child to read the story aloud. Make sure everyone can see the pictures.
 - If you don't have a storybook Bible, or if you would prefer, watch a YouTube video.
 - YouTube Search Term- "Saddleback Kids Jonah and the Whale"
 - Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOSadLyqshg>
- **Ask Your Children:**
 - Why do think Jonah was running away from where God was calling him to be?
 - How would you feel if God called you to do something you didn't want to do because you were scared?
 - What did you learn from this story that you didn't know before?
 - What do you think God wants us to learn from this story?

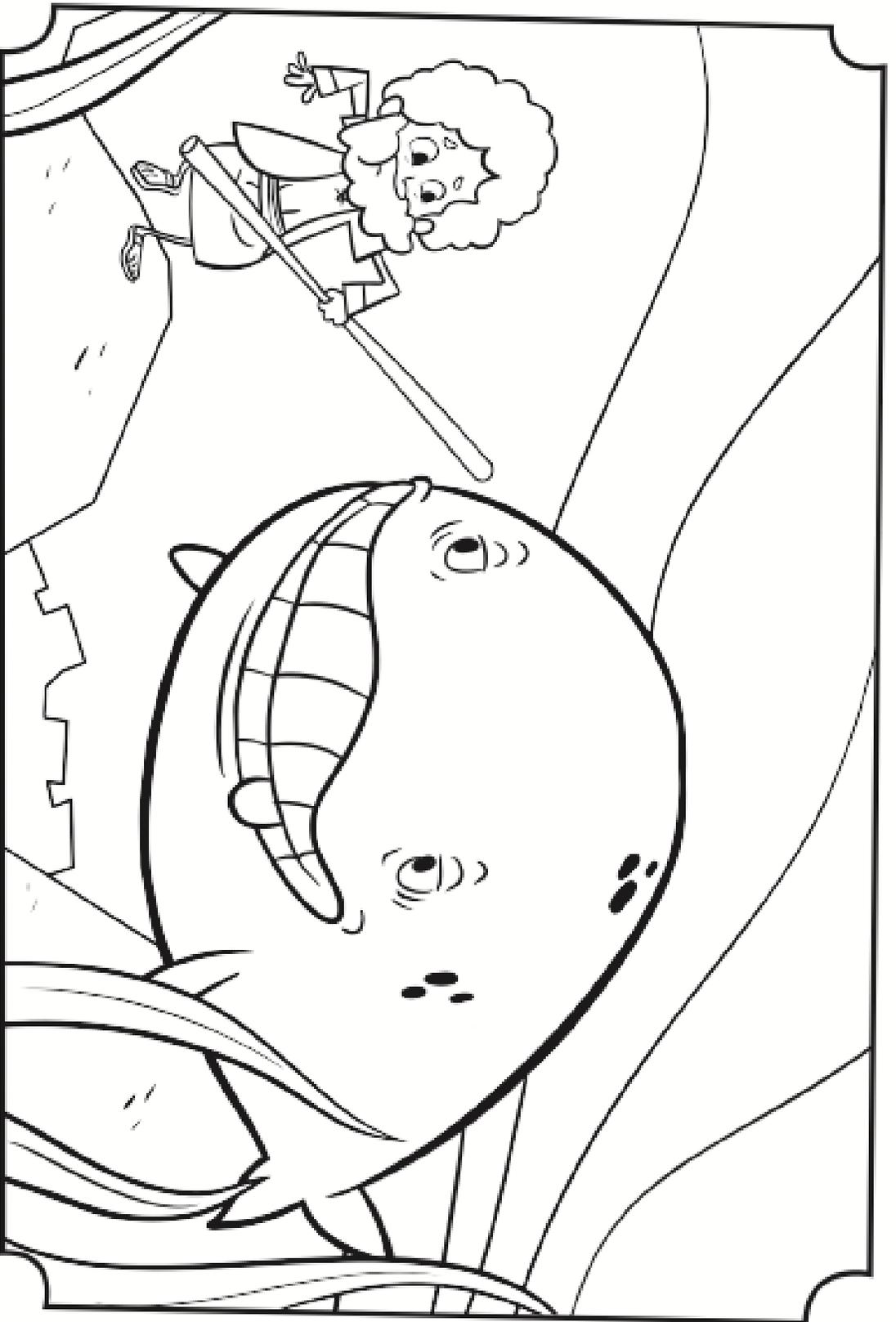
Age-Level Activity:

- **Directions:** Give each child some time to do an age-appropriate activity on their own to further explore the Bible story.
- **Pre-K—2nd Grade—Jonah in the Whale**
 - **Materials:**
 - Blue Balloon
 - Paper
 - Crayons/Makers

- **Instructions:**
 - Cut out a man on paper (make sure he is small enough to fit in the balloon—6 cm tall is perfect!)
 - Blow up the balloon and then let the air out
 - Put your fingers inside the balloon to make the neck of the balloon very wide
 - Place the Jonah inside and blow up the balloon!



- **3rd-5th Grade -Jonah and the Whale Coloring Page**
 - **Materials:**
 - Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils
 - **Instructions:**
 - Use the coloring page provided and complete the activity.
 - Read through the verses in the Bible for better understanding of the story.
- **Closing Prayer:**
- Gather everyone back together around the altar.
- Invite each child to share something about their age-level activity, if they wish.
Today, we will adding a picture of a Whale
 - Draw a picture of a whale on an index card or post-it note. Place it on the altar.
- Share about this week's "Sads, and Glads."
 - Encourage everyone (adults too) to name one thing from this week that makes them sad, and one thing that makes them glad.
- Ask a child to do the prayer, if none are willing have an adult close out in prayer.



God told the prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah went the other way - and he ended up in the belly of a whale! After the whale spit him out, Jonah went to Nineveh like God had asked.



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