

## **Jonah 1: 1-17. Running Away from God/Is running away from something always good?**

*1-2 One day, long ago, God's Word came to Jonah, Amittai's son: "Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer." 3 But Jonah got up and went the other direction to Tarshish, running away from God. He went down to the port of Joppa and found a ship headed for Tarshish. He paid the fare and went on board, joining those going to Tarshish—as far away from God as he could get. 4-6 But God sent a huge storm at sea, the waves towering. The ship was about to break into pieces. The sailors were terrified. They called out in desperation to their gods. They threw everything they were carrying overboard to lighten the ship. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down into the hold of the ship to take a nap. He was sound asleep. The captain came to him and said, "What's this? Sleeping! Get up! Pray to your god! Maybe your god will see we're in trouble and rescue us." 7 Then the sailors said to one another, "Let's get to the bottom of this. Let's draw straws to identify the culprit on this ship who's responsible for this disaster." So they drew straws. Jonah got the short straw. 8 Then they grilled him: "Confess. Why this disaster? What is your work? Where do you come from? What country? What family?" 9 He told them, "I'm a Hebrew. I worship God, the God of heaven who made sea and land." 10 At that, the men were frightened, really frightened, and said, "What on earth have you done!" As Jonah talked, the sailors realized that he was running away from God. 11 They said to him, "What are we going to do with you—to get rid of this storm?" By this time the sea was wild, totally out of control. 12 Jonah said, "Throw me overboard, into the sea. Then the storm will stop. It's all my fault. I'm the cause of the storm. Get rid of me and you'll get rid of the storm." 13 But no. The men tried rowing back to shore. They made no headway. The storm only got worse and worse, wild and raging. 14 Then they prayed to God, "O God! Don't let us drown because of this man's life, and don't blame us for his death. You are God. Do what you think is best." 15 They took Jonah and threw him overboard. Immediately the sea was quieted down. 16 The sailors were impressed, no longer terrified by the sea, but in awe of God. They worshiped God, offered a sacrifice, and made vows. 17 Then God assigned a huge fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the fish's belly three days and nights.*

The full story is on a link at the end of the activity sheet just before you scroll down to look at word searches etc.

Before you get going – have a look at this video that gives an overview to who Jonah was

<https://youtu.be/dLlabZc0O4c>

Then have a go at these True or False questions:

1. God wanted Jonah to go to the town of Nineveh
2. Jonah loved the town of Nineveh and really wanted to go there
3. Jonah ran away from Nineveh and tried to hide from God in Spain
4. It is possible to run away from God
5. It was a peaceful sea crossing and Jonah sunbathed on the deck
6. Jonah was swallowed by a great big fish
7. God spoke to Jonah again and told him to go to Nineveh
8. This time Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh
9. Everything worked out fine – and everyone lived happily ever after
10. Jonah was angry that God didn't punish the people of Nineveh
11. Jonah wished he was dead
12. God loved Jonah still and He loved the people of Nineveh too.

How about this interactive wordsearch- [https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws\\_Jonah2\\_0.htm](https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws_Jonah2_0.htm)

Which of these things are part of your plans for your life?! Have a go at this and then there are a couple of questions on the next page:

1= Not bothered/10 = Yes please

- Money (lots of it) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Husband/Wife (good looking) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Children (well behaved) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - A house (in nice part of town) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - A car (BMW Z4/Audi TT) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Friends (lots of them) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - A job (well paid, minimal hours) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Designer clothes (looking good) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Holidays (in the Caribbean) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Love (if you're lucky) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- What is the most important part of your plan?
  - How they would feel if your plans didn't work out?
  - Read the reading again and work out what made Jonah run..
  - Can you think of anything that God might ask you to do, that you might find difficult?.
  - What does Jeremiah 29:11 say about God's plans?

Here are 3 examples of things that we are asked to do in the Bible; they can be difficult but have a thing about if you do see these happening in today's society and in their own lives. Write down any thoughts you may have:

1. Honour your Father and Mother (Exodus 20:12)

2. Love your enemies and pray from those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44)

3. Do not judge, or you too will be judged (Matthew 7:1)

Bit of Lego action for you too 😊 <https://youtu.be/KOwoJsuGqd8>

OR Minecraft- <https://youtu.be/c0k7YXfJNV4>

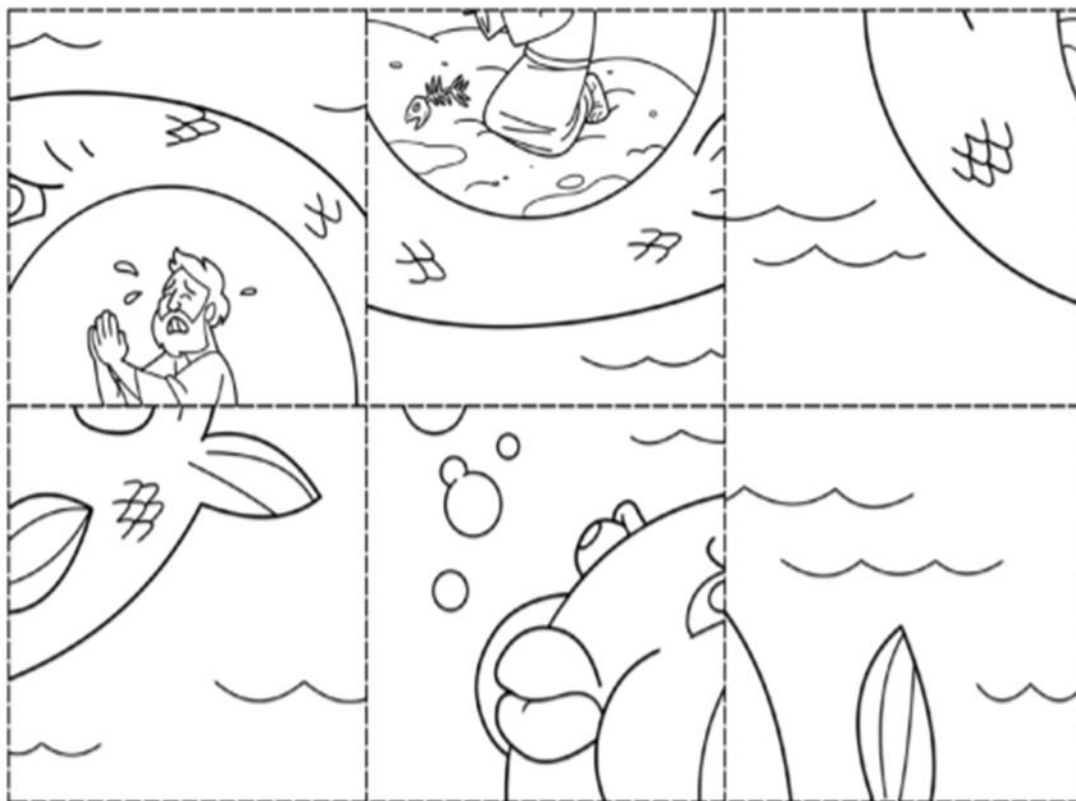
OK – this is the whole story that you can watch anytime if you want-<https://youtu.be/YkC2MKfi5Gk>

If you fancy – here is a BIG crossword puzzle- no necessarily to do with the reading today!  
[https://www.christianbiblereference.org/Crossword/cw\\_00-31.htm](https://www.christianbiblereference.org/Crossword/cw_00-31.htm)

HAVE A GOOD WEEK!

# Cut-Paste-Color!

Cut along the dotted lines & arrange in order below.



Jonah is swallowed by a big fish.

Jonah 1



# JONAH, NINEVEH AND THE BIG FISH



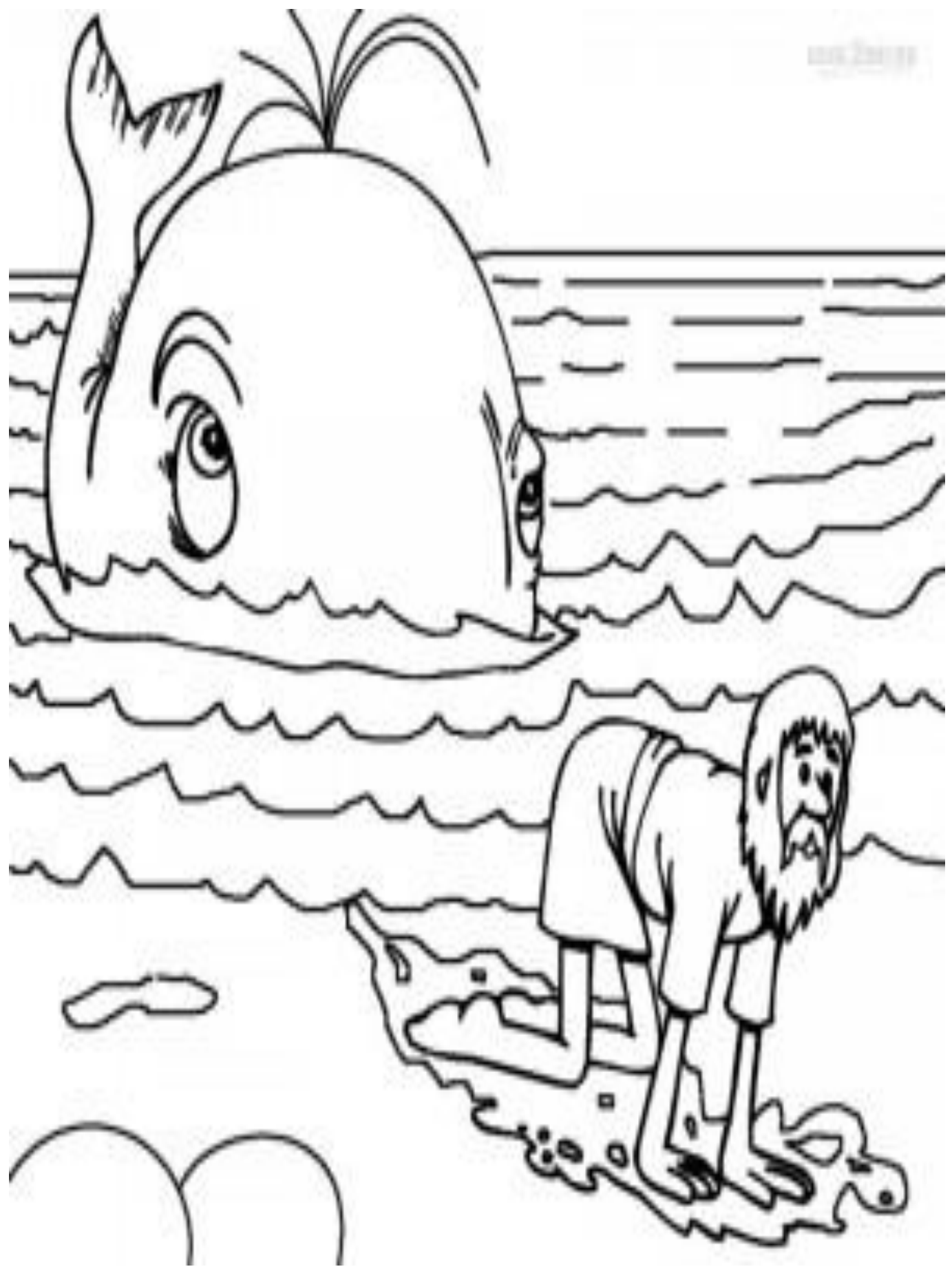
Discover the hidden words.

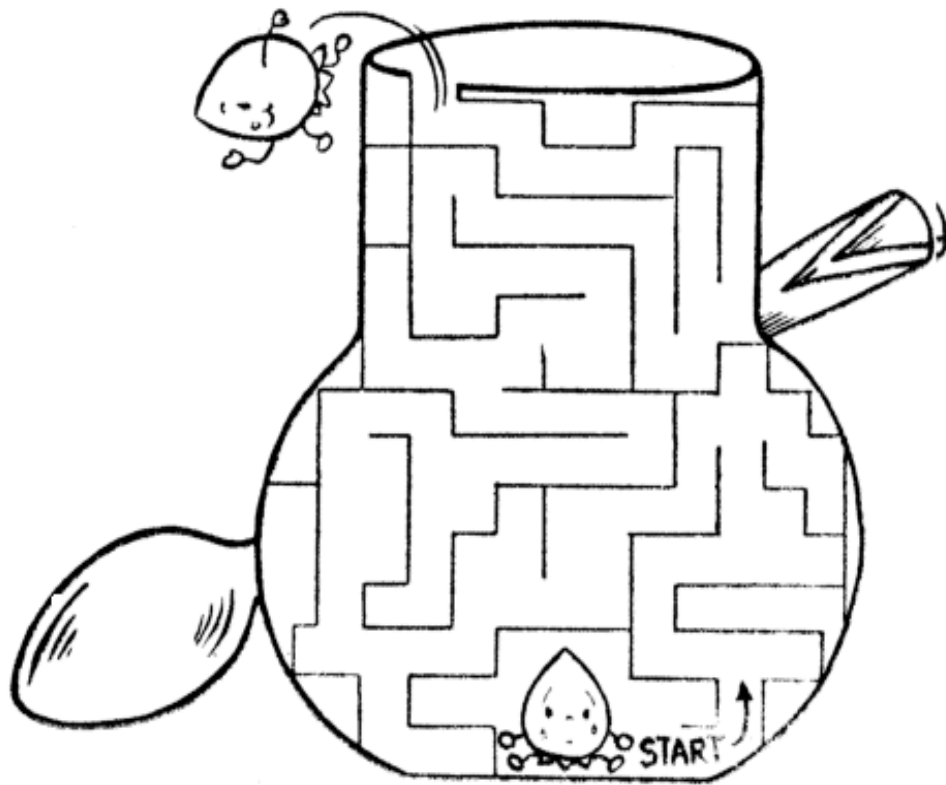
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F	P	O	O	R	M	L	S	E	P	E	C	E	S	K
M	Z	N	X	B	M	S	A	M	V	B	R	R	H	K
F	I	S	H	U	R	I	L	D	H	E	O	C	I	Y
W	U	M	S	Z	M	E	K	Z	B	U	N	Y	P	Z
T	K	X	O	G	S	O	V	G	G	P	B	I	Z	O
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## Word Bank

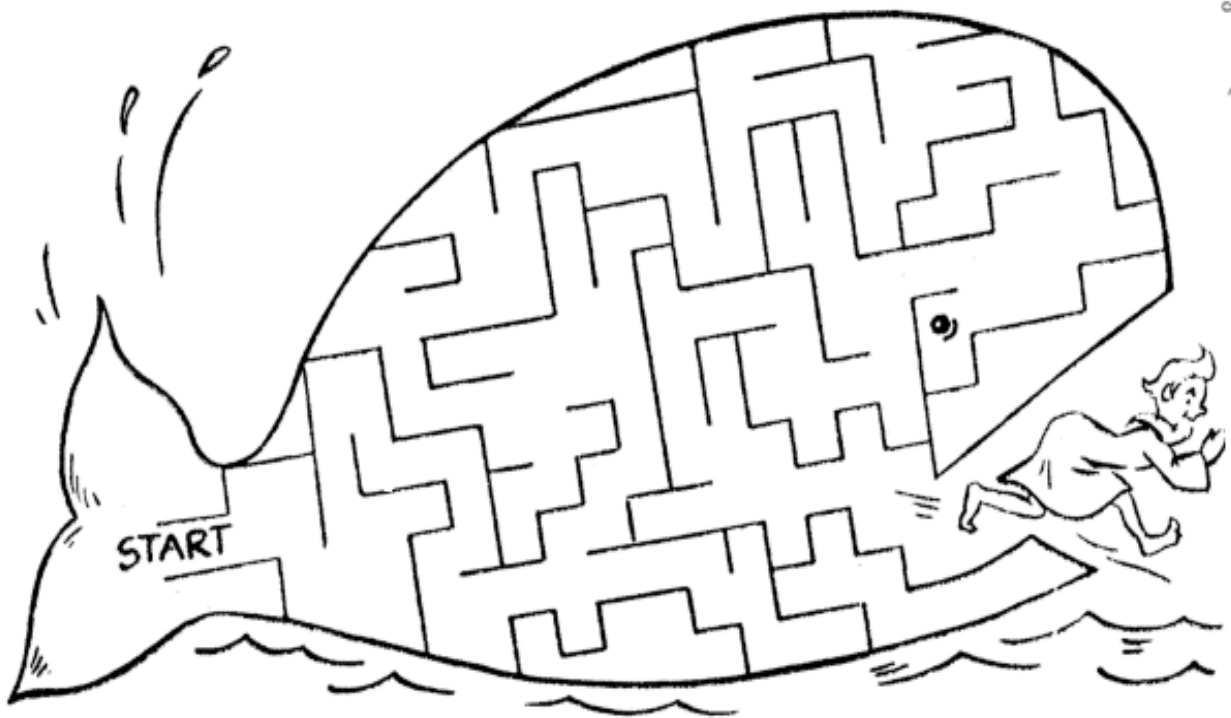
- |           |             |        |
|-----------|-------------|--------|
| FISH      | SHIP        | REPENT |
| JONAH     | ISLAND      | STORM  |
| MERCY     | NINEVEH     | BELLY  |
| OVERBOARD | FORGIVENESS | GOD    |







Help the strawberry out of a jam!



Jonah found his way out of the big fish. Can you?