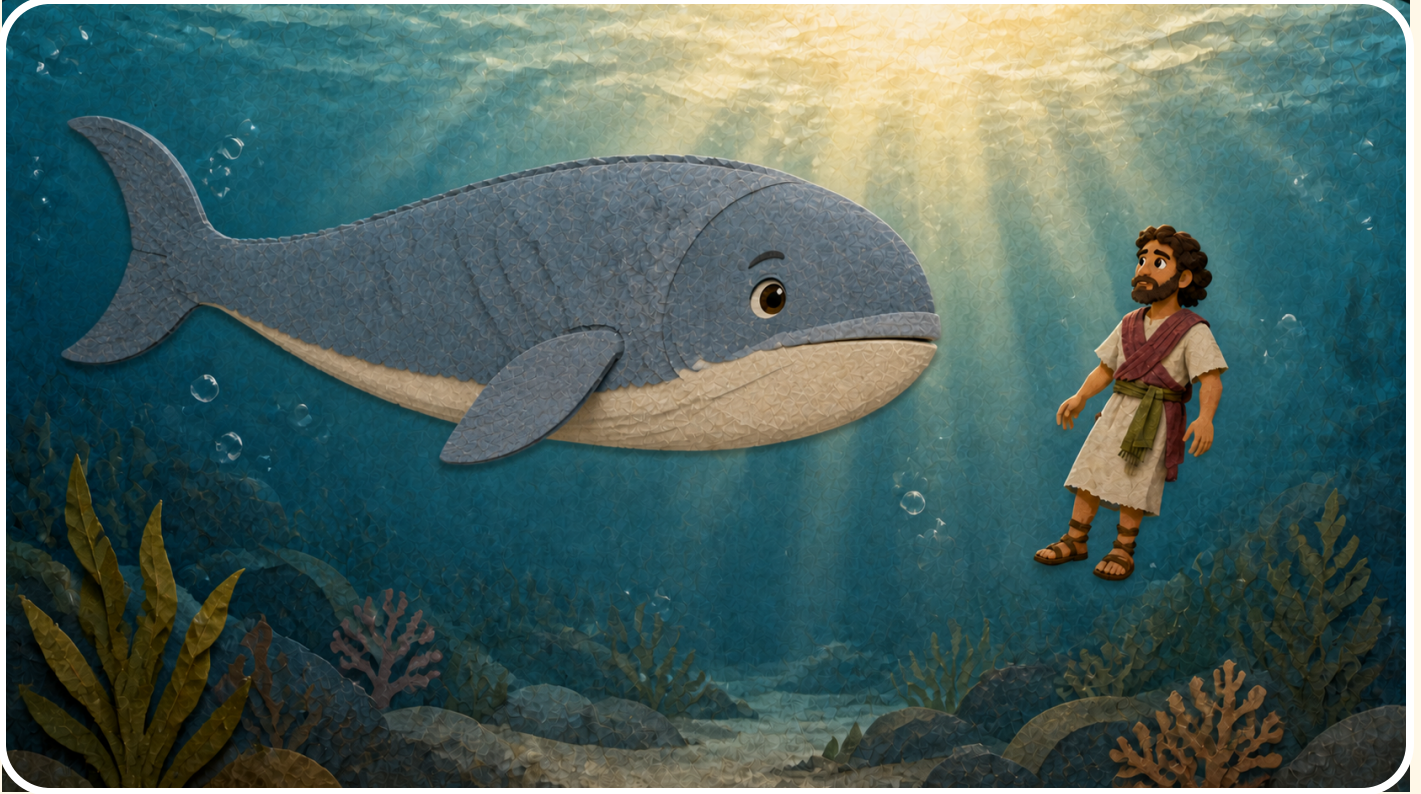


# Jonah and the Great Fish

## Sunday School Leader Guide



### THE BIG IDEA

**God patiently calls us to obey, hears us when we pray, and cares for every person with mercy.**

AGES

5-9

PASSAGE

Jonah 1-4

LENGTH

30-45 min

PREP

Low

# A complete 45-minute lesson

Use the full plan or shorten the Create section for a 30-minute session.

5 min

## Welcome

Ask: Have you ever wanted to avoid something you knew was right? Children may answer, draw, or pass.

5 min

## Watch

Play the film with captions. Ask the class to notice each new opportunity Jonah receives.

7 min

## Talk

Use the four discussion questions. Reveal teacher hints only when helpful.

7 min

## Play

Complete the story-order activity and practise the memory verse.

12 min

## Create

Use the digital canvas or activity book, then make a Prayer-in-the-Fish Pocket.

5 min

## Respond

Choose one prayer prompt and ask God for help with one next right step.

4 min

## Close

Repeat the big idea and send home the five-day Mercy Steps challenge.

# Questions, craft, and game

## TALK ABOUT IT

- What did God ask Jonah to do?
- What happened after Jonah sailed the opposite way?
- How did Jonah respond when God gave him another chance?
- What did the plant teach Jonah about God's mercy?

## MEMORY VERSE

- Jonah 2:9 - 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'
- Say it normally, cup your hands like a fish, place one hand over your heart, point upward, and say it again.

### SUPPLIES

Cardstock or paper plates, crayons, child-safe scissors, glue, and one small paper prayer slip per child.

### SAFE CRAFT

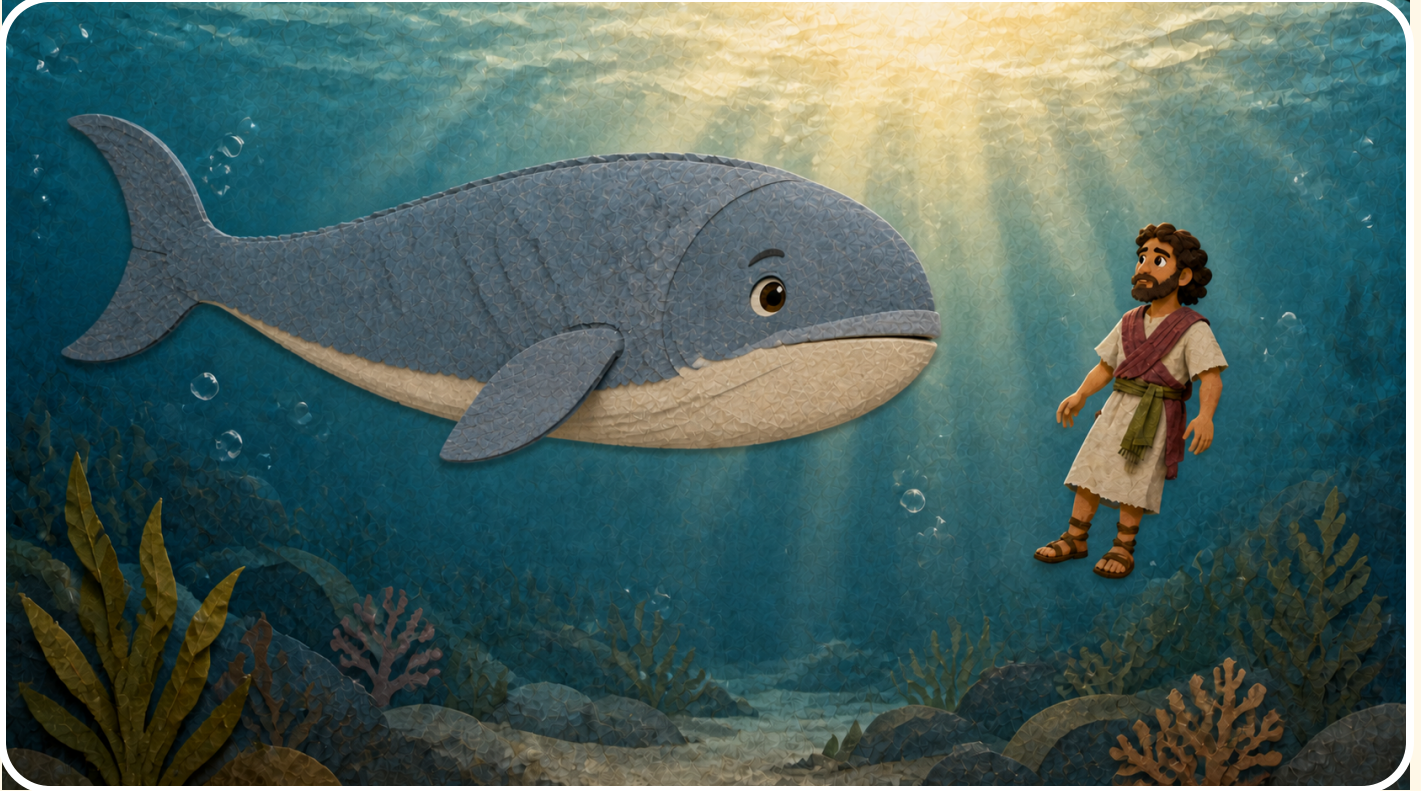
Fold and decorate a wide paper fish. Place a Jonah-shaped prayer slip inside with one next right step and one person to treat with mercy.

### GAME + SAFETY

Mark Nineveh and Joppa on opposite sides. Children walk - never run - toward each story clue, freeze for the storm, and finish together at Nineveh.

# Jonah and the Great Fish

God hears me when I pray and helps me choose mercy.



This book belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_



# God calls Jonah

Color Jonah, the hillside, and the path toward his next right step.



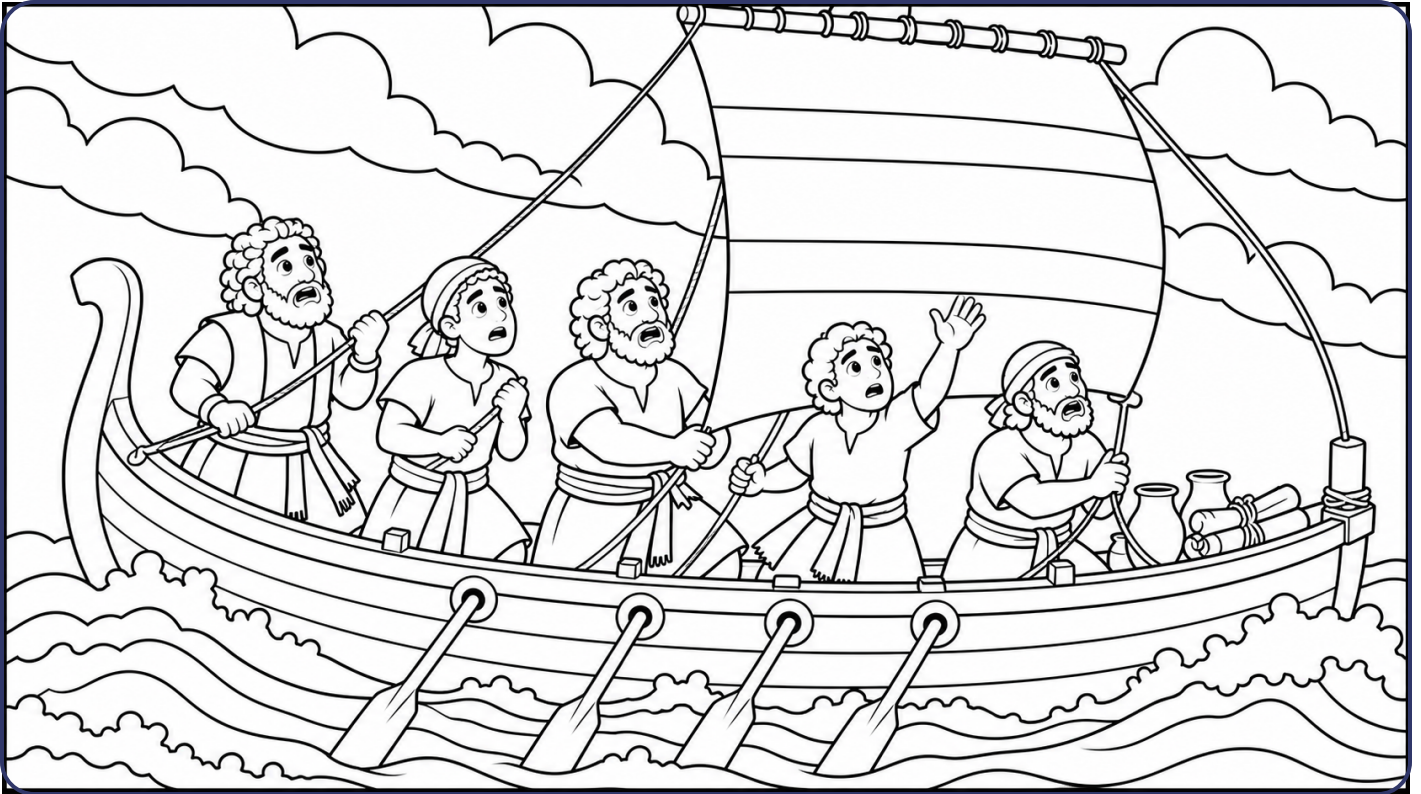
## AFTER YOU COLOUR

Draw one right thing God may be helping you do.

---

# The sailors face the storm

Color the upright ship, the sailors, the sail, and the waves.



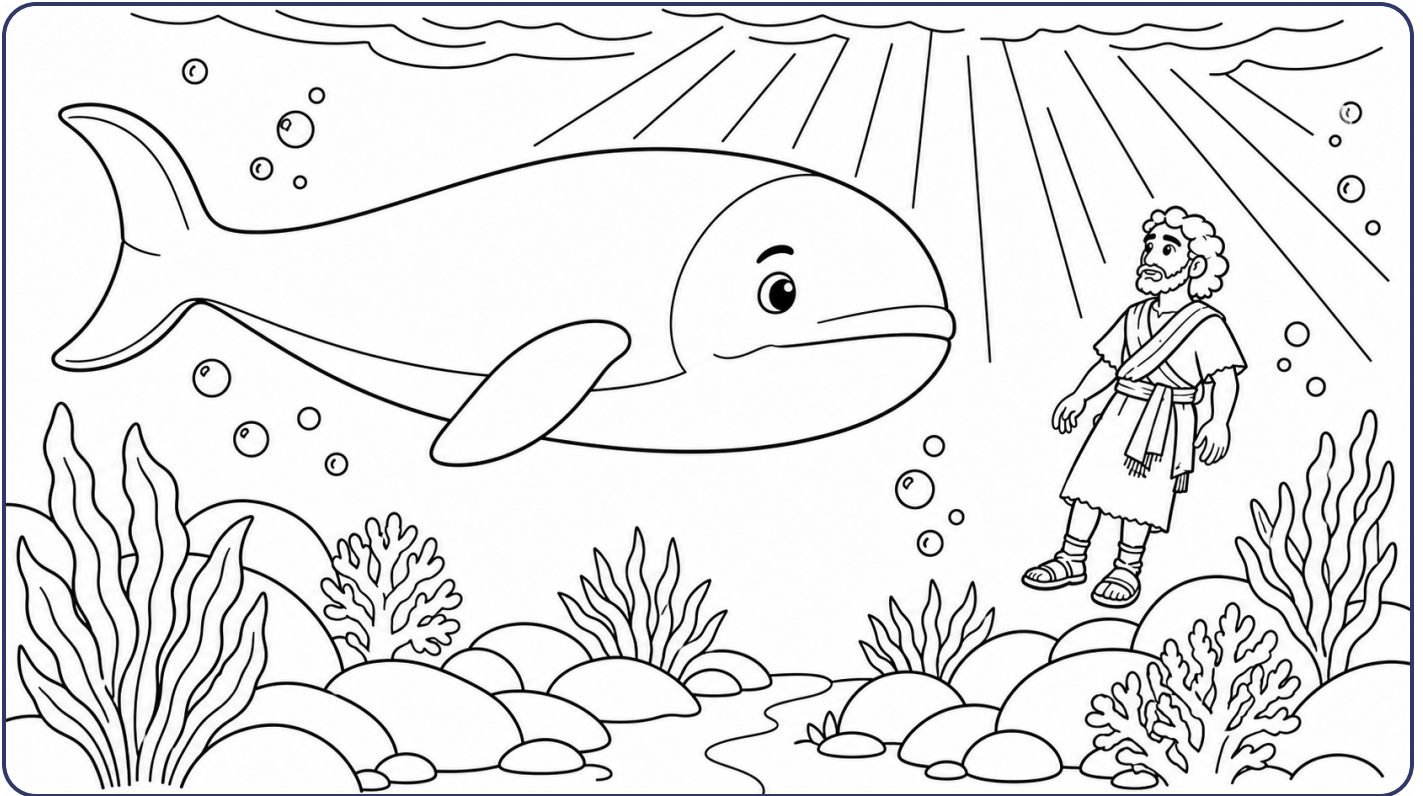
## AFTER YOU COLOUR

Write one honest choice Jonah made during the storm.

---

# The great fish finds Jonah

Color Jonah, the enormous gentle fish, and the underwater plants.



## AFTER YOU COLOUR

Draw or write one honest prayer you can bring to God.

---



# Jonah speaks in Nineveh

Color Jonah, the listening families, the king, and the great city gate.



## AFTER YOU COLOUR

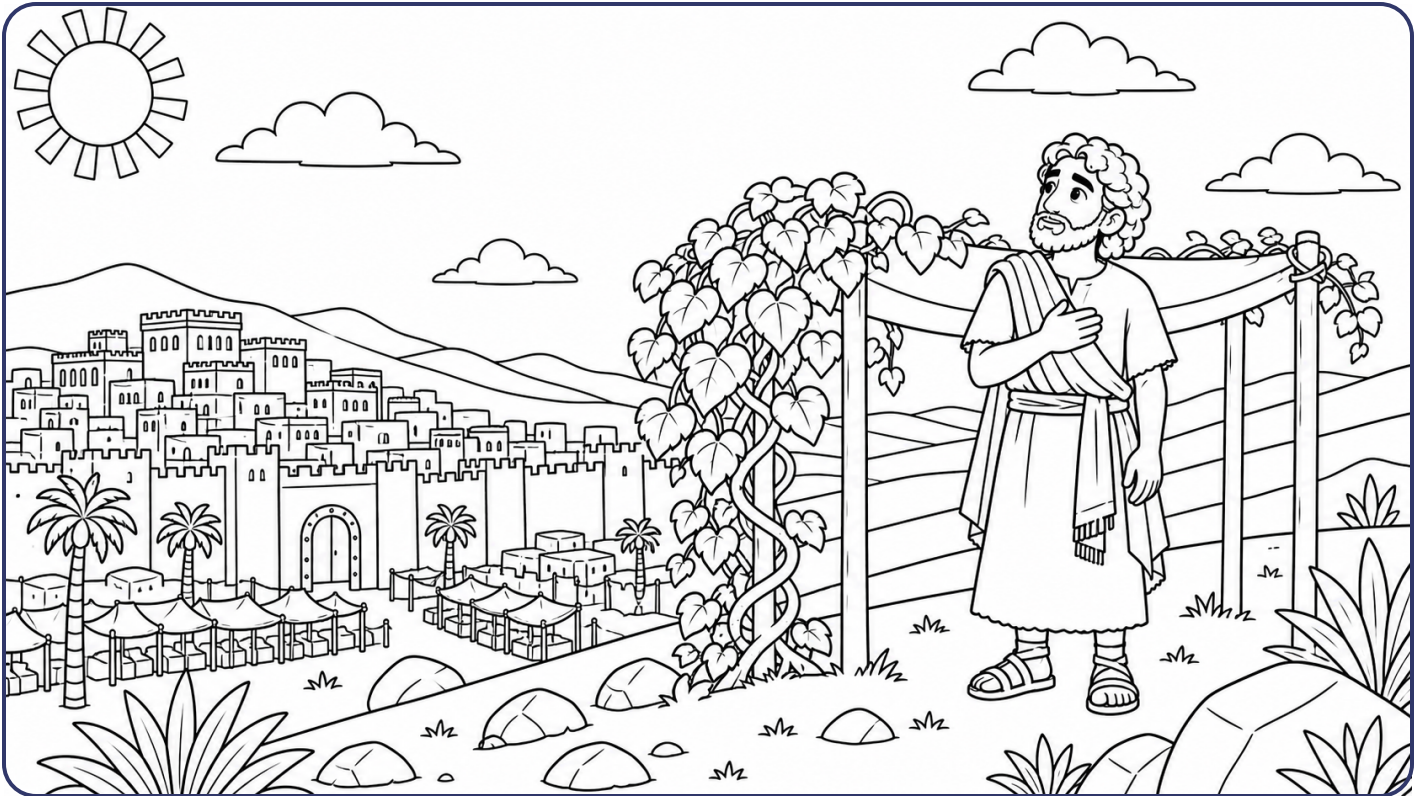
Draw one way the people showed they wanted to change.

---



# God teaches Jonah about mercy

Color Jonah, the leafy plant, the shelter, and Nineveh below.



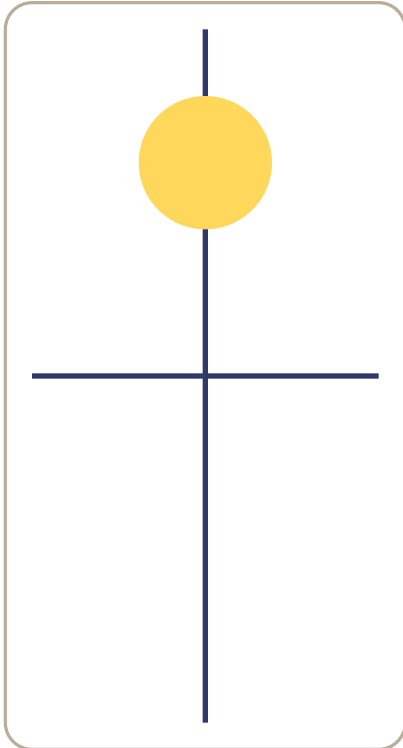
## AFTER YOU COLOUR

Write or draw people God cares about. Remember: every person matters.

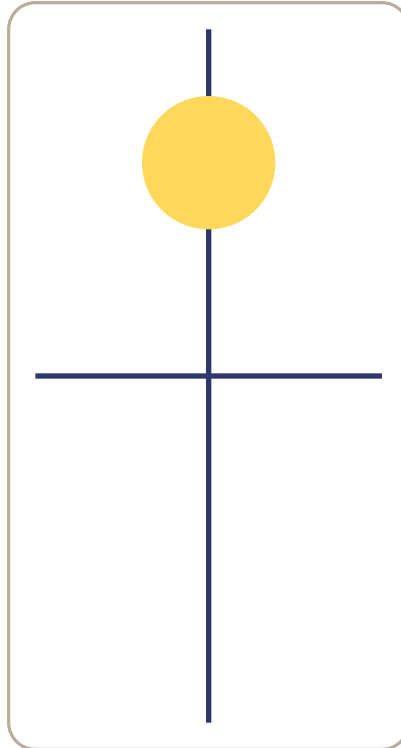
---

# One ship, two waves, three leaves

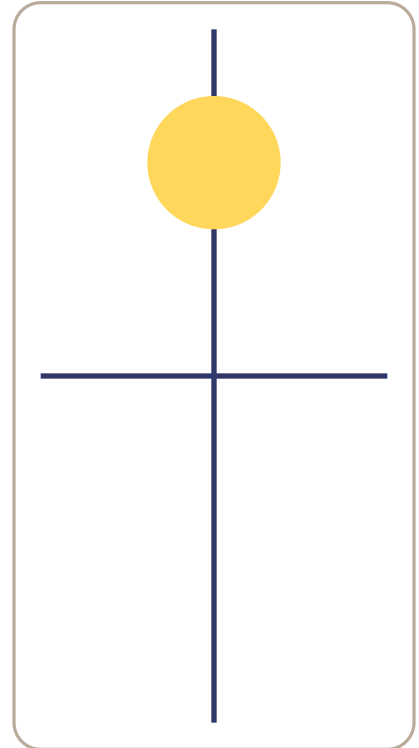
Write 1, 2, and 3 in the circles. Draw one prayer, obedience, or mercy choice in each space.



1



2



3

Jonah told the truth and prayed. Who can help you choose the next right step?

## STORY ORDER

# What happened first?

Write the numbers 1 to 5 in the boxes to put the story in order.

☐

The people changed, and God showed Nineveh mercy.

☐

God used a great fish to keep Jonah safe while he prayed.

☐

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh.

☐

Jonah obeyed and warned the people of Nineveh.

☐

Jonah sailed the opposite way, and a storm came.

## THINK ABOUT IT

What changed after Jonah prayed and obeyed?



MEMORY VERSE

# Salvation comes from the Lord

Jonah 2:9

TRACE THE WORDS

SALVATION COMES FROM THE LORD

.....

SALVATION COMES FROM THE LORD

.....

SALVATION COMES FROM THE LORD

.....

Say it four ways

1

normally

2

fish hands

3

hand on heart

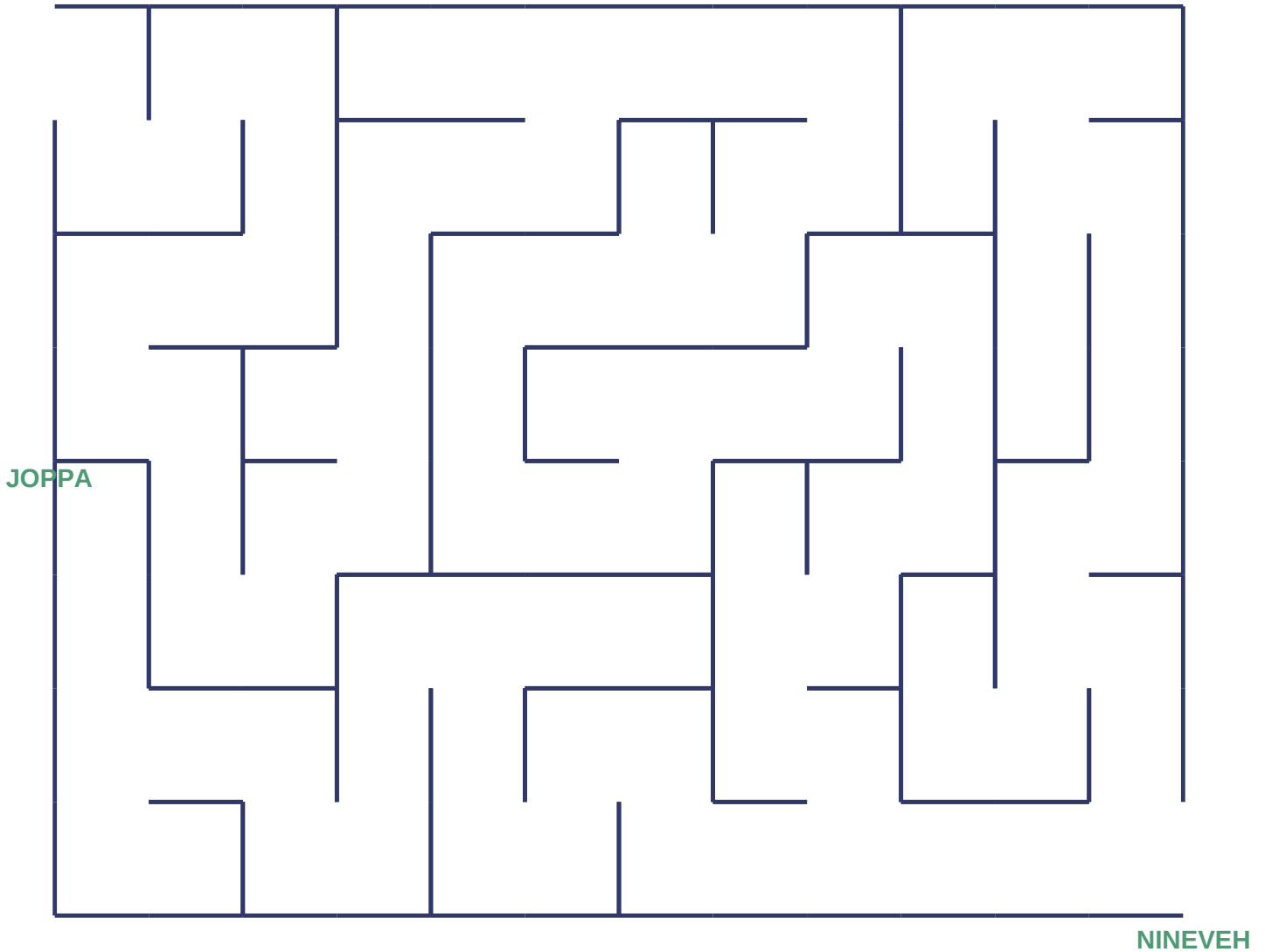
4

point upward

MAZE

# Guide Jonah to Nineveh

Find a path from Joppa on the left to Nineveh on the right.



God gave Jonah another chance. What is one next right step you can take?

# Make a Prayer-in-the-Fish Pocket

Ask an adult to help with scissors. Open the fish pocket to remember that Jonah prayed and God heard him.

## SUPPLIES

Cardstock or a paper plate, crayons, glue, one small prayer slip, and child-safe scissors.

1

Fold a paper plate or wide oval of cardstock in half to make a fish-shaped pocket.

2

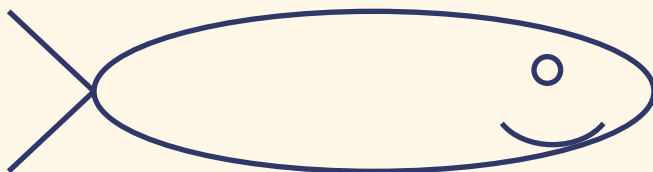
Draw one large kind eye, a curved mouth, fins, and a tail. Decorate both sides with bright colors.

3

Glue the lower edge, leaving the top open. Ask an adult for help with any cutting.

4

On the prayer slip, draw one next right step and one person to treat with mercy. Place it inside the fish.



DRAW AND COLOR YOUR FISH POCKET HERE

## DRAW AND PRAY

# A next right step I can take

Draw or write one thing you can pray about, one right step you can take, or one person you can treat with mercy.

A large rectangular box with a dashed inner border, intended for drawing or writing. The box is empty and occupies the central portion of the page.

## THINK AND TALK

- What did Jonah do after God gave him another chance?
- How did God respond when Nineveh changed?
- Who can you treat with mercy this week?



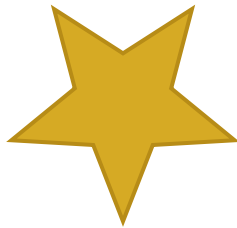
BERNSTONE STORIES

# Mercy Steps Certificate

This certificate celebrates

---

for learning to obey, pray, and care for every person.



**SALVATION COMES FROM THE LORD**

Jonah 2:9

---

TEACHER OR PARENT

---

DATE

# God calls Jonah

Color Jonah, the hillside, and the path toward his next right step.



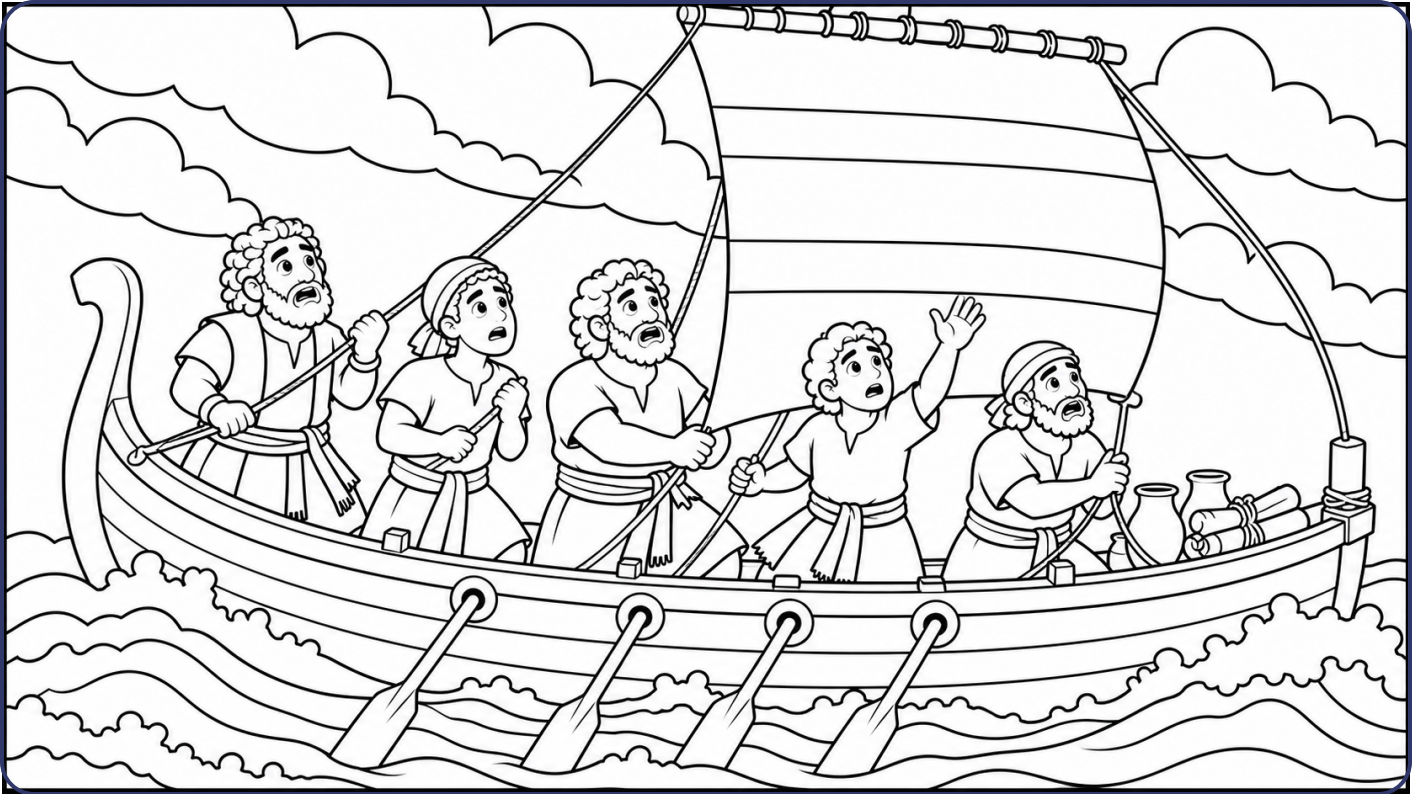
## AFTER YOU COLOUR

Draw one right thing God may be helping you do.

---

# The sailors face the storm

Color the upright ship, the sailors, the sail, and the waves.



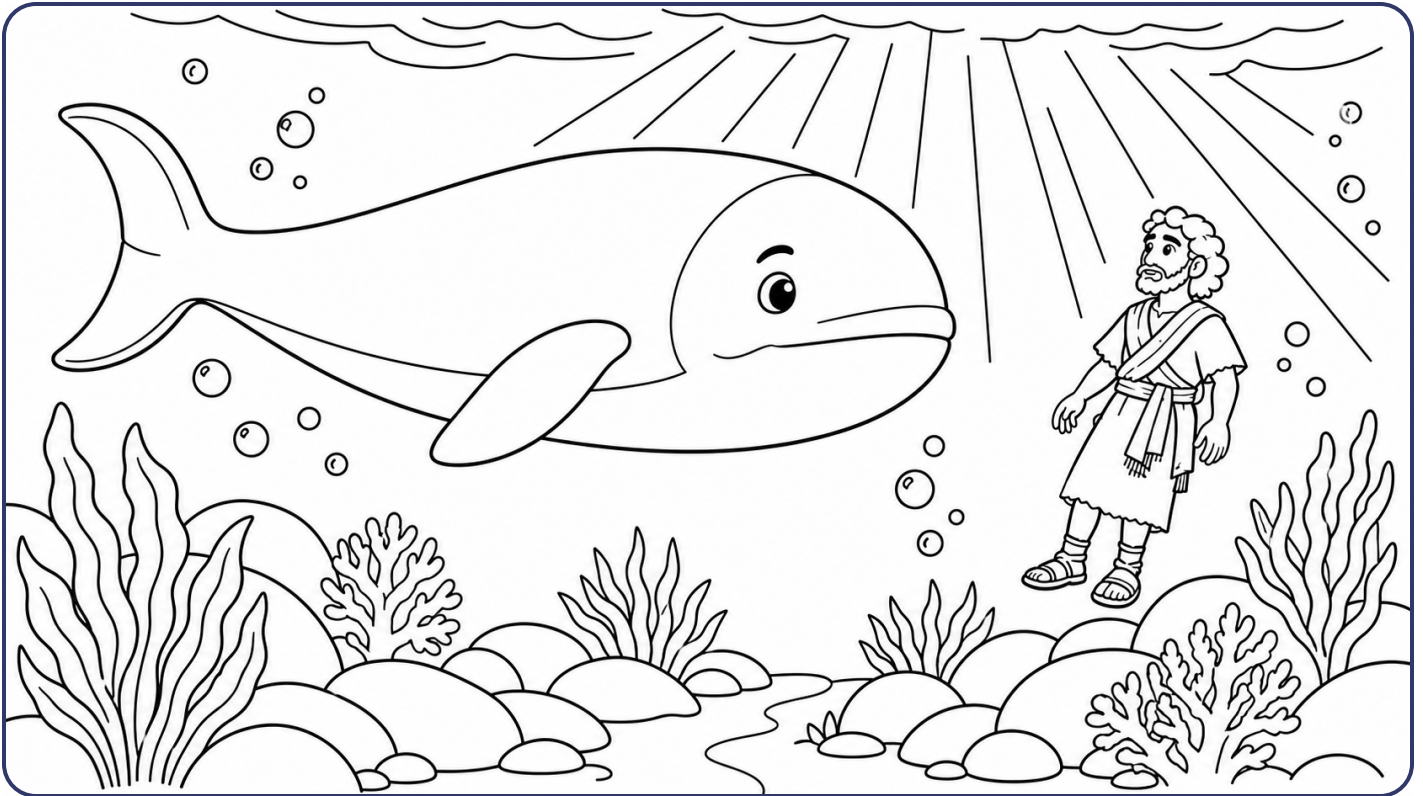
## AFTER YOU COLOUR

Write one honest choice Jonah made during the storm.

---

# The great fish finds Jonah

Color Jonah, the enormous gentle fish, and the underwater plants.



## AFTER YOU COLOUR

Draw or write one honest prayer you can bring to God.

---



# Jonah speaks in Nineveh

Color Jonah, the listening families, the king, and the great city gate.



## AFTER YOU COLOUR

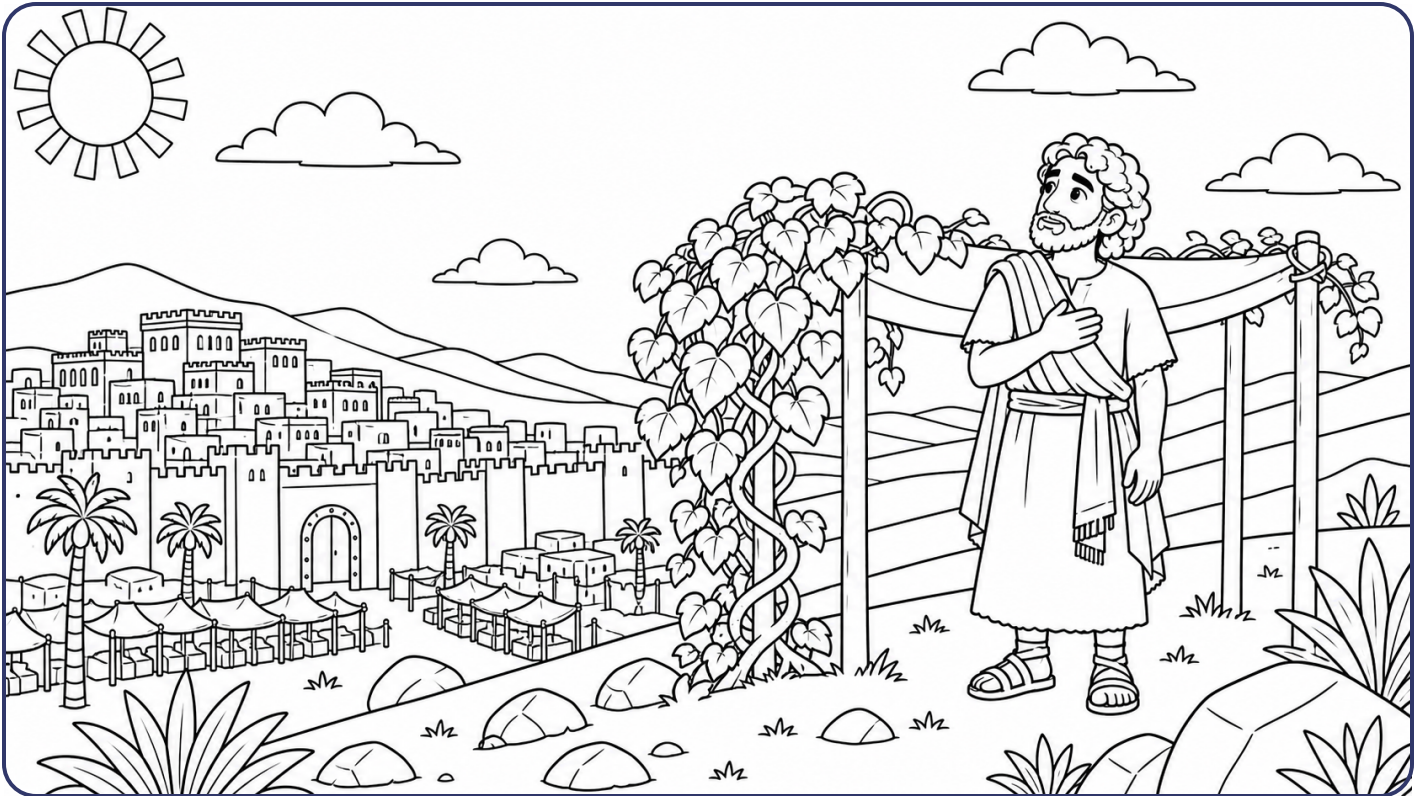
Draw one way the people showed they wanted to change.

---



# God teaches Jonah about mercy

Color Jonah, the leafy plant, the shelter, and Nineveh below.



## AFTER YOU COLOUR

Write or draw people God cares about. Remember: every person matters.

---

# Five days of mercy steps

Open one prompt each day. Talk for a minute, pray together, and choose one merciful next step.

☐

## 1 - LISTEN

Name one next right thing God may be helping you do.

☐

## 2 - PRAY

Tell God honestly about one trouble or worry.

☐

## 3 - OBEY

Choose one small step toward what is right.

☐

## 4 - MERCY

Show kindness to someone you find difficult.

☐

## 5 - CARE

Pray for your family, neighborhood, and city.

## FAMILY PRAYER

God, thank You for calling us, hearing our prayers, and giving second chances. Help us obey, take the next right step, and care for every person with mercy. Amen.