



Grades 4-5 • Lesson 97

God Sends Jonah

Jonah 1:1-3, 1:17, 3:3-5, 3:10, 4:1-3, 4:11; Matthew 12:38-41

Jonah's account is mixed up! Each sentence has a mistake in orange. Choose the correct word from the word bank and write it in the blank. Look up the verses if you need a hint.

Name _____

1. GOD CALLED **NOAH** TO GO TO NINEVEH. (JONAH 1:1-2) _____
2. JONAH GOT ON A **DONKEY** GOING IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. (JONAH 1:3) _____
3. THE STORM CAME BECAUSE JONAH WAS TRYING TO FLEE FROM THE **ASSYRIANS**. (JONAH 1:10) _____
4. THE SHIP'S CREW THREW JONAH INTO THE **PRISON**. (JONAH 1:15) _____
5. A GREAT FISH **CHASED** JONAH. (JONAH 1:17) _____
6. JONAH **SANG**, AND THE FISH VOMITED HIM ONTO DRY LAND. (JONAH 2:1) _____
7. JONAH OBEYED GOD AND WENT TO **TARSHISH**. (JONAH 3:3) _____
8. JONAH WARNED THE PEOPLE TO TURN FROM THEIR **FUN** (JONAH 3:4) _____
9. THE PEOPLE REPENTED AND PUT ON **SILK**. (JONAH 3:5) _____
10. GOD SHOWED **JUSTICE** BY SPARING THE PEOPLE FROM DISASTER. (JONAH 4:2) _____



**JONAH, LORD, MERCY,
NINEVEH, PRAYED,
SACKCLOTH, SEA, SHIP,
SIN, SWALLOWED**

Answers: 1. Jonah, 2. Ship, 3. Lord, 4. Sea, 5. Swallowed, 6. Prayed, 7. Nineveh, 8. Sin, 9. Sackcloth, 10. Mercy



Answer the questions based
on the memory verse.
Use the colors for help!

The Lord delights in his children as what? _____

Whom does the Lord reprove? _____

What should we not despise? _____

My son, do not despise **the LORD's discipline** or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves **him whom he loves**, as **a father** the son in whom he delights. Proverbs 3:11-12

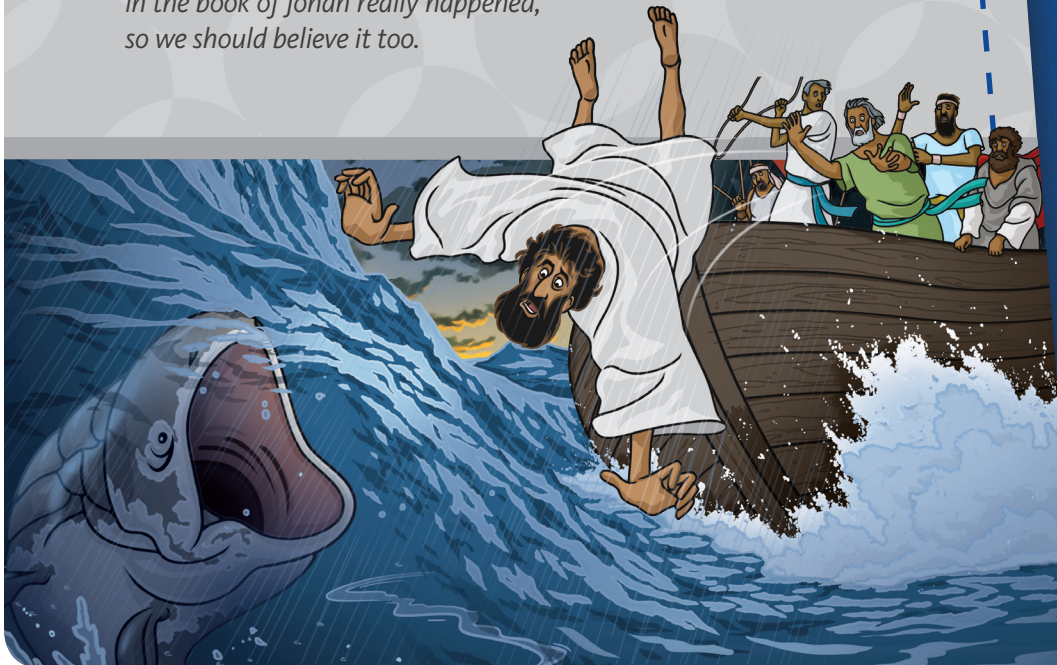
What You Heard *In the Word*

- When God called Jonah to take a message to Nineveh, Jonah disobeyed and boarded a ship going in the opposite direction.
- God showed Jonah mercy by sparing his life and giving him a second chance to obey. God showed mercy to the people of Nineveh when he sent them a prophet, forgave them, and spared their city.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose you heard a friend say that he doesn't believe that anyone could be swallowed by a big fish and live, so he doesn't believe the Bible's account of Jonah is true. **What could you say?**

I know that every word of God is true. I don't question God's Word because God cannot lie. As the Creator of everything, God could easily control a fish and keep a man alive. I'm not the only one who believes the account of Jonah either. Did you know that Jesus spoke about Jonah and Nineveh in the New Testament? He said that Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and nights. Jesus knew the events in the book of Jonah really happened, so we should believe it too.



HomeWord *For Parents*

Jonah was a prophet of God who was called from his ministry in Israel to deliver a message to the people of Nineveh (Jonah 1:1). Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a nation known for godlessness, idolatry, and cruelty. The Jews despised these pagan Gentiles. This hatred was part of the reason why Jonah disobeyed God's command and boarded a ship headed to Tarshish, which was in the opposite direction from Nineveh. But Jonah couldn't outrun God!

The Lord sent a great storm on the sea until the ship's crew threw Jonah overboard, where God caused a great fish to swallow Jonah. He was in the belly of the fish three days and nights! Finally, Jonah prayed to the Lord. God heard his prayer and spoke to the fish, which vomited the prophet onto dry ground (Jonah 2:1 & 10).

God answered Jonah's prayer and gave him another opportunity to go to the Ninevites and preach the message of repentance. This time Jonah obeyed!

Jonah warned the people of Nineveh of the coming disaster if they would not repent within 40 days (Jonah 3:4). And the people believed and repented, from the least of them to the king (Jonah 3:5). They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth as a sign of their repentance. Then God relented and did not bring the disaster he had planned (Jonah 3:10). His abundant grace and mercy were bestowed on Jonah and on the people of a pagan city. However, this did not please Jonah. He was angry with God for showing mercy, and God had to correct his attitude.

God's grace and mercy are just as evident today. He sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins. He will hold back the punishment for sin and offer forgiveness to everyone who cries to him in repentance and faith.

