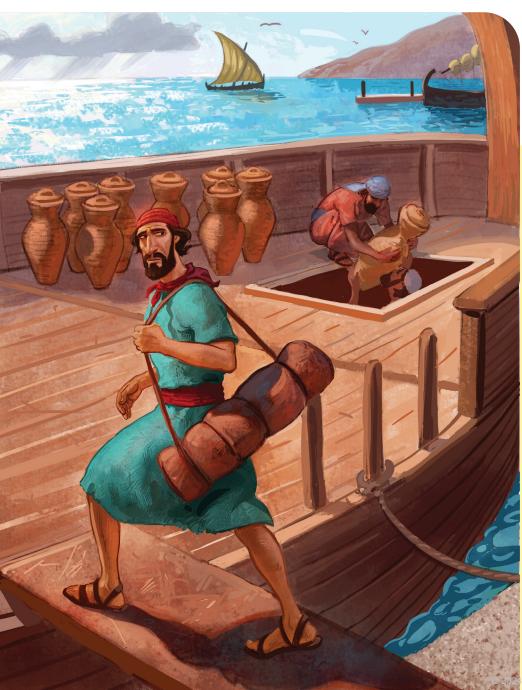
## A LESSON FOR JONAH



Text Truth: All people are important to God.

Bible Verse: God is patient and does not want any to perish but all to come to Him. 2 Peter 3:9

Bible Verse Paraphrase: God wants all people to come to Him.

2 Peter 3:9

## **JONAH 1-4**

Nineveh was a large, important city. But the people who lived in Nineveh did not obey God. They did wrong things and hurt one another.

God loved the people in Nineveh and wanted to help them. So, one day, God spoke to a man named Jonah. God had an important job for Jonah to do.

"Jonah, go to Nineveh. Tell the people I am tired of their meanness and bad choices," said God.

But Jonah did not want to do this. He did not care about the Ninevites. Jonah decided to run away. He hurried to a town by the sea and got on a boat to sail away.

But God cared about Jonah, too. God wanted Jonah to learn that all people are important to God, just as Jonah was. God decided to teach Jonah a lesson.

While Jonah was on the boat, God sent a strong wind and storm. The wind and waves rocked the boat so hard it almost broke into pieces.

While the rain fell and the wind blew, Jonah went to sleep! He did not know about the storm. But the sailors on the boat did, and they were afraid.

Jonah knew God had sent the storm to make Jonah remember what God had told him to do. Jonah got off the boat and ended up in the water. Right away the storm calmed.

Jonah asked God to take care of him in the water, and God did. Jonah knew it was time to obey God. Jonah went to the city of Nineveh and told the people what God said.

## Jonah's Long Trip

Because God loves all people, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell everyone about Him. Jonah did not want to go. Jonah could have obeyed God and taken the short path, but he disobeyed God and went the other direction.



God wants all people to come to Him.