

JONAH AND THE BIG FISH



Bible Reference: Jonah 1-3

Date: 6/28/26

Age: 2's/3's

1st Service

Memory Verse:

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” Psalm 56:3

Theme:

**Trust God No
Matter What**

Schedule

- **Arrival/Attendance/Directed Play.....8:55-9:10**
- **Clean Up and Gather For Story.....9:10-9:15**
- **Bible Story.....9:15-9:30**
- **Craft/Coloring Page:.....9:30-9:40**
- **Friends from Afar.....9:40-9:50**
- **Songs/Memory Verse/Prayer.....9:50-10:05**
- **Snack Time at Tables.....10:05-10:15**
- **Free Choice Play.....10:15-10:40**

Notes and Reminders

This is our last regular week of the ministry year before Summer Sundays begin! We are so grateful for all of the ways you have loved and served the kids in your room. You have been such a blessing to them and their families over these last months of partnering in discipleship and teaching!



OUTLINE



Arrival/Attendance/ Directed Play

8:55-9:10

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door. Set up the activities and introduce the children to the lesson through these activities. Encourage the kids to participate in both activities as they play together. You may need to ask the kids to come to the different areas so all of them have the opportunity to participate.

Where is Jonah?

- Place the four paper boats on a table. Direct children to close their eyes. While their eyes are closed, hide the paper Jonah under one of the boats. Explain that Jonah is hiding in one of the boats. Encourage the children to point to the one they think he is under. One by one, lift each boat until you reveal where Jonah is.
- **SAY** It was hard for us to guess which boat Jonah was in. In our story today, we will learn that Jonah was hiding in a boat because he didn't want to follow God's plan. But our story will teach us why it is important to trust God, even if we don't understand his plans for us!

How Many Fish?

- Use painter's tape to make a line on the floor on one side of the room. help children to stand on the line. Have a junior shepherd stand on the other side of the room. Instruct the children to say "Shepherd, shepherd, how many fish?" The junior shepherd may call out any number from 1-5. The children hop that many times toward the junior shepherd. Sometimes the junior shepherd should say "Zero, the big fish ate them!" At this, the children should run back to the line so they won't be caught by the big fish (the junior shepherd). Continue the game until the children reach the junior shepherd.
- **SAY** What a fun game! It reminds me of today's Bible story. A man named Jonah runs away from doing what God wanted him to do, kind of like how you all ran away when you heard the number zero. Jonah was swallowed up by the big fish and some of you were caught by our junior shepherd. But at the end of our game, nothing happened if we were caught. Let's listen to our Bible story to see what happened when Jonah was caught by the big fish!





Clean Up and Gather for Story

9:10-9:15

Invite the children to begin cleaning up toys and putting away their activities at 9:10. Then remind them to meet at the carpet for Bible story time. Remind the children that we are going to do our best to be good listeners.

Bible Story

9:15-9:30

Welcome Song

- Welcome all the children by singing their welcome song
- (Tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)
- Welcome, Welcome Everyone
- Now you're here Let's have some fun
- First let's clap our hands like so
- Then reach down and touch our toes
- Welcome, Welcome Everyone
- Now you're here Let's have some fun
 - You can call a group of children names to welcome them and they can stand up and wave if you'd like.

The words from today's story are written below. They are taken from pages 257-264 in the Beginner's Bible (2005/2016 edition). Feel free to use the printed images in your bin or the physical Bible in your room to tell the story.

Jonah and the Big Fish (Jonah 1:1-3:10)

- Jonah was a prophet of God. One day, God told Jonah, "Go to the city of Nineveh. Tell them to stop doing bad things."
- But Jonah ran away. He did not want to go to Nineveh. Instead he got on a boat to sail across the sea. God sent a big storm to stop Jonah. The sailors on the boat were afraid. They thought the boat was going to sink!
- Jonah told the sailors, "My God has sent this storm. If you throw me into the water, the sea will become calm again."
- So the sailors threw Jonah into the raging seas. Instantly, the sea became calm.
- Just then, Jonah saw a big fish coming! Gulp! The fish swallowed Jonah.
- For three days and nights, Jonah was inside the fish. He prayed to God, "Please forgive me."
- Then God told the fish to spit Jonah onto dry land. God told Jonah a second time, "Go and tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things."
- This time, Jonah obeyed God. The people in Nineveh were sorry for doing bad things, so God forgave them.





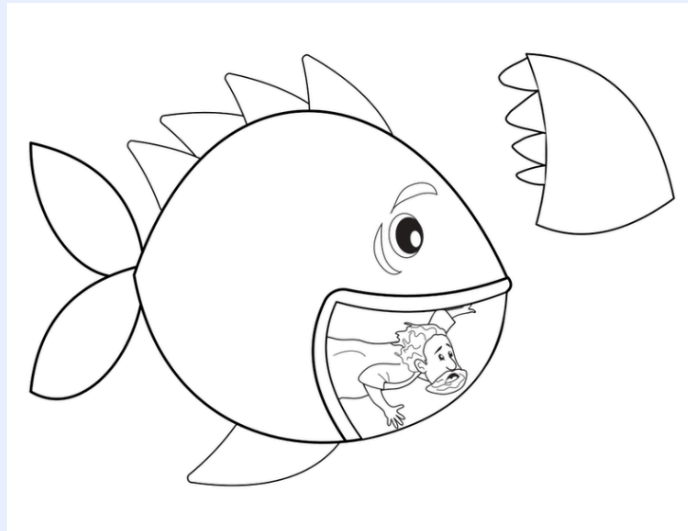
Craft/Coloring Page

9:30-9:40

After the story, have the children go to their tables and prepare for a craft to go along with the lesson. Our **BIG IDEA** of the week is: Trust God no matter what!

Pass out the fish craft to each child, and place crayons or markers on each table. Show the children how to open the fish's mouth to see Jonah inside!

As children finish, distribute the coloring page with today's story on the back for children to complete. Have the children place both the craft and coloring sheet in their bin when they are finished.



Friends from Afar

9:40-9:50

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.





Songs/Memory Verse/Prayer

9:50-10:05

There is a list of songs for today's lesson on the TV. Use the directions located with the remote to access them.

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- Dear God, thank you for using the story of Jonah to teach us to trust you. Remind us to follow you even when we are afraid. In your name we pray, Amen.

Memory Verse

- "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3
- Remind kids that our story today shows us how God helps His people! We can put our trust in Him to help us when we follow His plan and listen to Him.
 - When I- point to yourself
 - Am afraid- wrap your arms around yourself and shiver
 - I put my trust- lay your hands on your heart
 - in you- point to the sky with both hands
- This is the kids' final week learning this verse. Some children may remember the verse from past weeks, while others are learning it for the first time!

Snack Time at Tables

10:05-10:15

Prior to serving the snack have the children use hand sanitizer before choosing a seat at the table. Each child will have veggie straws on a napkin and a small cup of water. **NOTE:** some children with allergies will have their own snack or drink...parents usually remind shepherds of this at drop off. If a question, please contact Kid Min Staff in hallways. Thanks.

While the children are eating their snack, please read the read aloud book that is in the bin labeled Read Aloud book for snack time. Thanks.





Free Choice Play

10:15-10:40

Once the snack and read aloud are finished, the children may choose free play until their parents come to pick them up.

At dismissal, please make sure to check the child's tag number to match the parent's tag. Have the children take home any papers from their bin. Finally, check them off the attendance as being picked up (the last column for the date).

Thanks so much for shepherding the little ones this week. We appreciate you!





Jonah and the Big Fish

Jonah 1:1—3:10

Jonah was a prophet of God.
One day, God told Jonah,
“Go to the big city of Nineveh.
Tell them to stop doing bad things.”



But Jonah ran away. He did not want to go to Nineveh. Instead he got on a boat to sail across the sea.

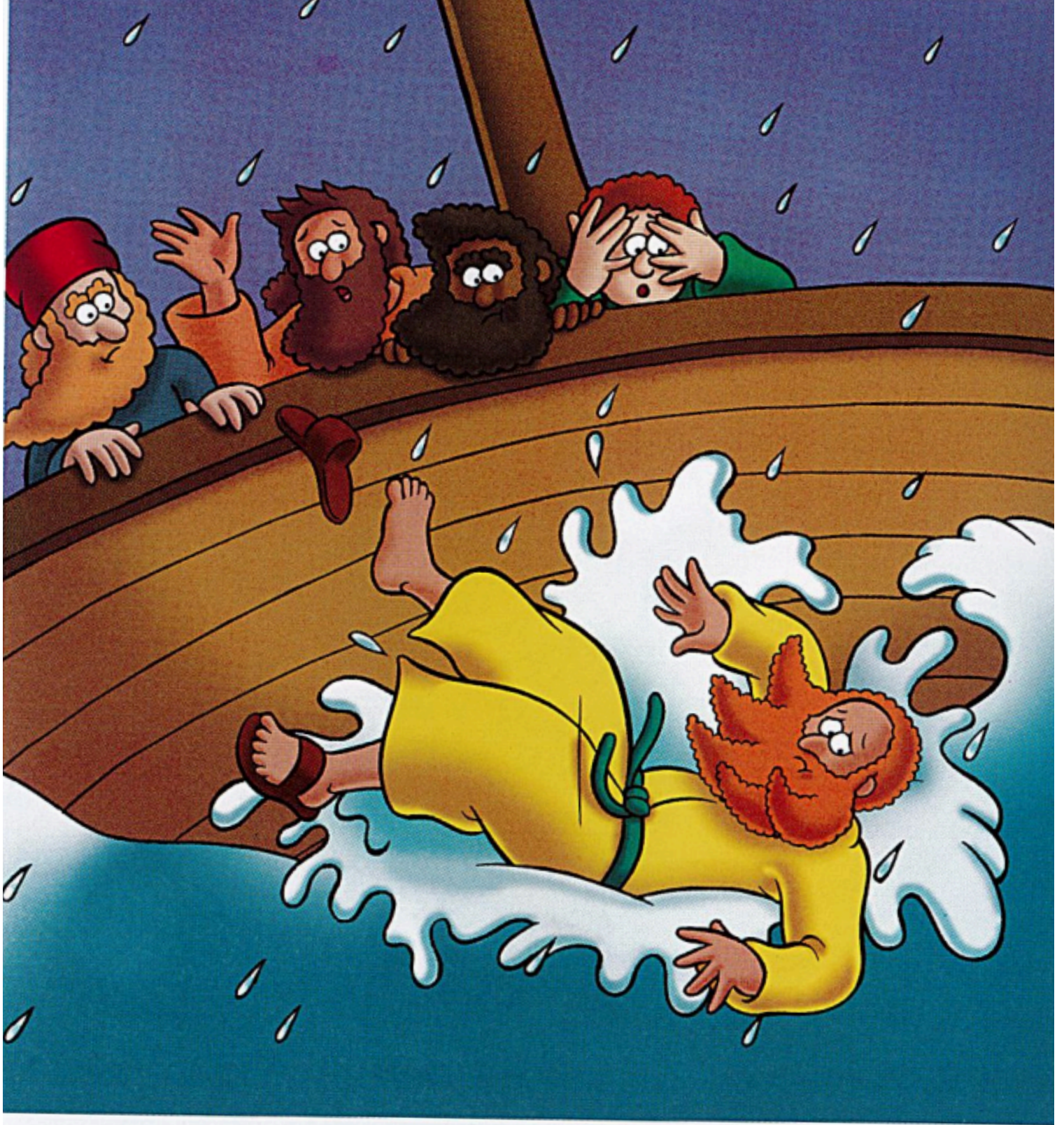
God sent a big storm to stop Jonah.

The sailors on the boat were afraid.

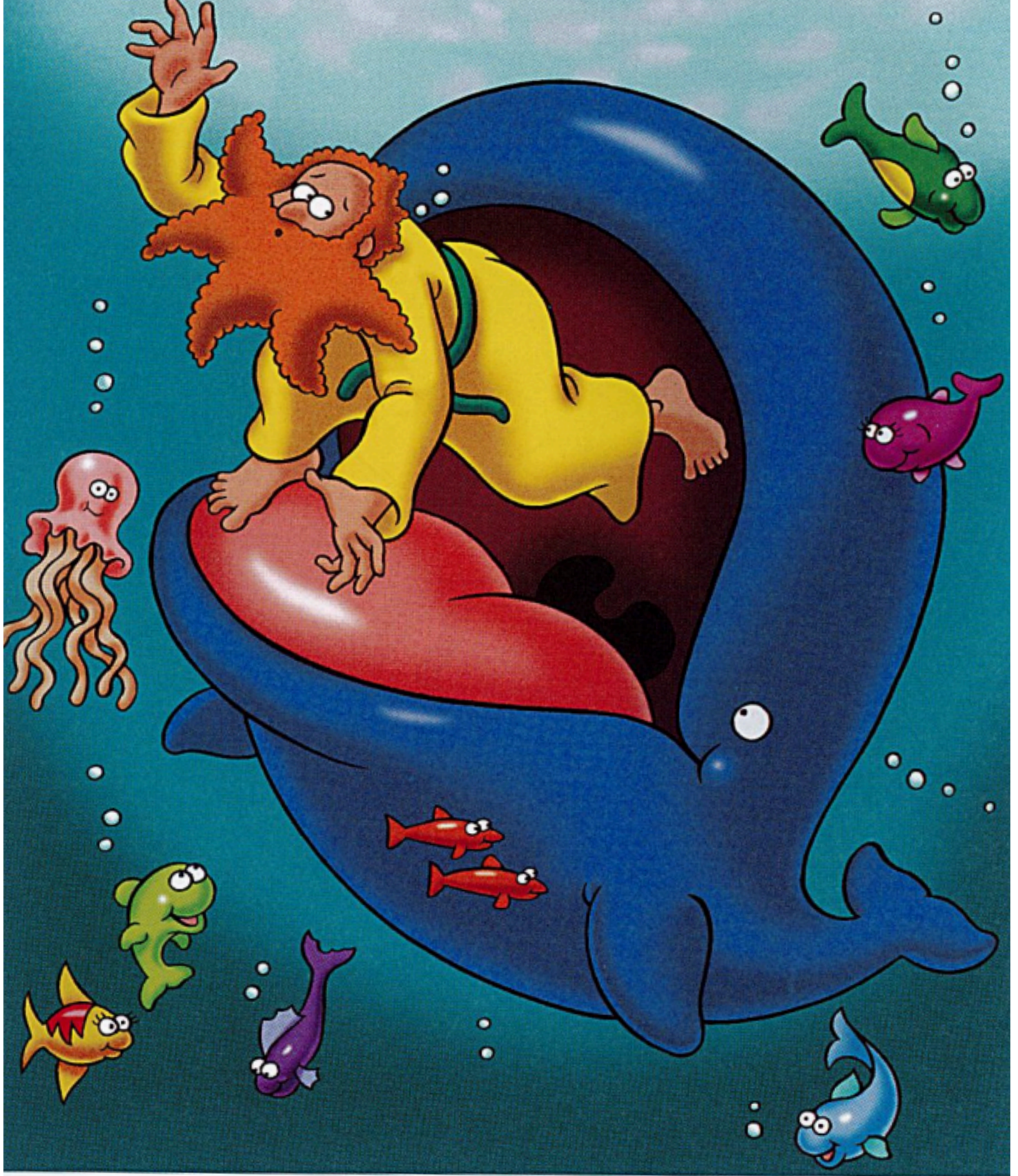
They thought the boat was going to sink!



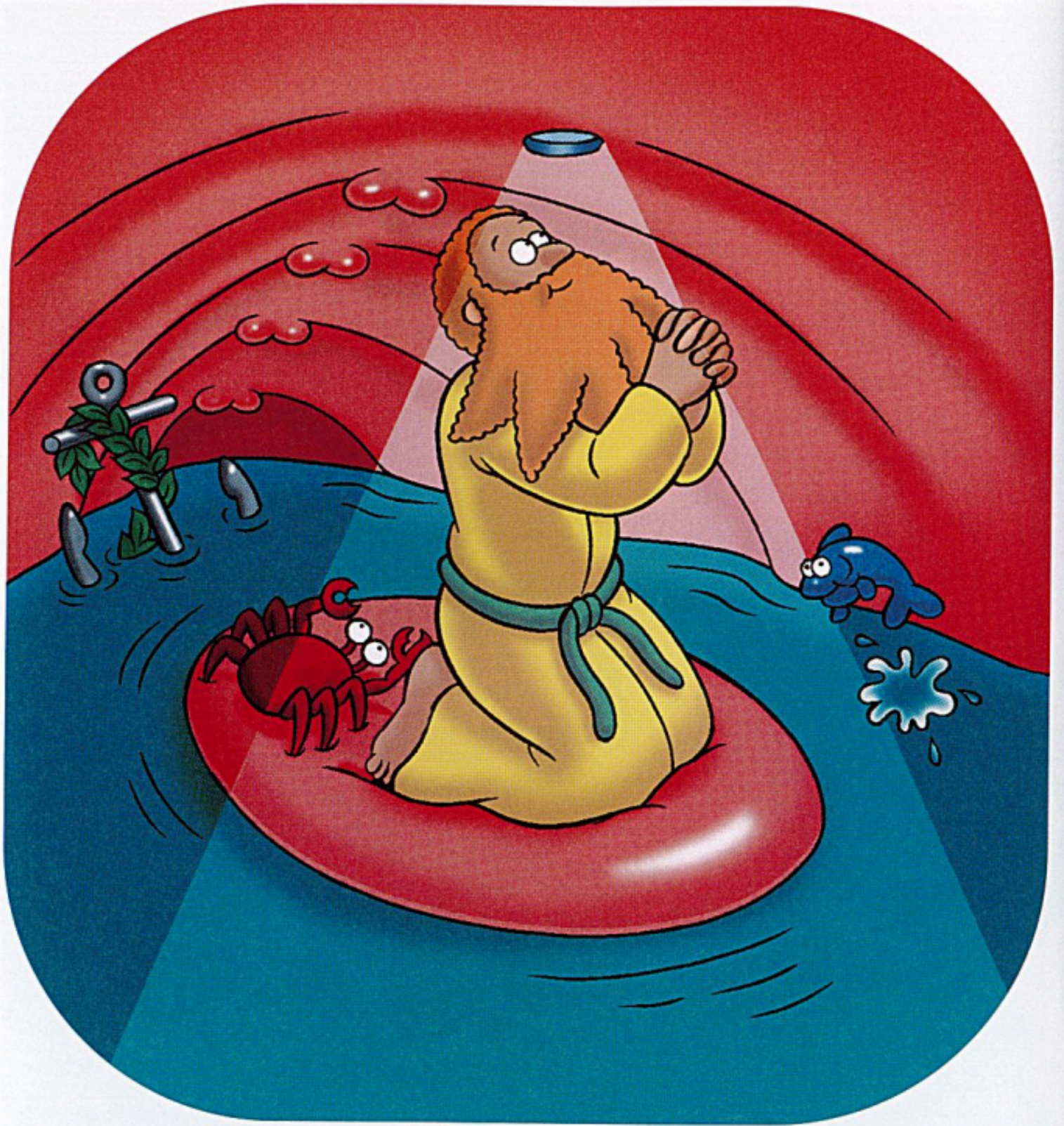
Jonah told the sailors,
“My God has sent this storm.
If you throw me into the water,
the sea will become calm again.”



So the sailors threw Jonah
into the raging sea.
Instantly, the sea became calm.



Just then, Jonah saw a big fish coming!
Gulp! The fish swallowed Jonah.



For three days and nights, Jonah was inside the fish. He prayed to God, "Please forgive me."



Then God told the fish to spit Jonah onto dry land. God told Jonah a second time, “Go and tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things.”



This time, Jonah obeyed God.
The people in Nineveh
were sorry for doing bad things,
so God forgave them.

Jonah disobeys God.

Jonah 1:1—2:10



Jonah disobeys God.

Jonah 1:1—2:10

God was not happy with the way the people in Nineveh acted. God told Jonah to warn the people in Nineveh that God would punish them for all the bad things they kept doing. But Jonah didn't like the people in Nineveh and didn't want them to get a warning. So Jonah decided to disobey God. Jonah got on a boat that was going the other way.

God wanted Jonah to obey Him. God sent a storm that made the boat start to sink. The people on the boat were afraid. Jonah said, "God sent this storm because I ran away from Him. If you want this storm to stop, you must throw me overboard." The people on the boat threw Jonah into the water. Suddenly, the sea was still.

Jonah went down, down, down. Jonah wanted to breathe, but he couldn't. Jonah saw a giant fish swimming toward him! Jonah tried to swim away, but the giant fish opened its giant mouth and swallowed Jonah. Gulp!

Jonah was in the belly of the big fish. Now Jonah could breathe. It must have been very smelly! Jonah was sorry he had disobeyed God. He prayed and promised to obey God. Finally, God made the fish swim to the shore and spit Jonah up on the beach.

