

# WHAT IS OBEDIENCE?

Mavuno Kids Teaching Guide

Jonah 1-4

1 May 2016



## May Week One: What is Obedience?

**Theme: Obedience is doing what we are asked to do**

**Bible verse Jonah 1 – 4**

**Memory verse: Deuteronomy 28:1: If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.**

### **0-3 year olds- Bath time is fun time**

“Its bath time”, Mummy called out. “Ryan! Come take your bath”, Mummy said. Ryan was busy playing with his Spiderman toy. This was his favorite toy. Ryan was walking Spiderman up the wall when Mummy walked into the sitting room.

“Ryan, how many times should I call you?” Mummy asked. “Look Mummy, Spiderman can walk on the wall,” Ryan happily said. Mummy looked at Spiderman then at Ryan. “Yes he can”, she replied. “Now come let’s see him swim in the bath water. Let’s go”, she gently took Ryan’s hand “When I call you Ryan you must obey at once”, and then went into the bathroom. “Yes mum”, Ryan replied. “Can I bathe Spiderman?” Ryan asked. “Of course you can, once I finish washing you”, said Mummy.

### **What about you?**

Do you do what you are told by Mummy? There is someone in the Bible who refused to obey God. Let’s hear his story.

### **Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 1-4)**

Jonah was told by God to go and tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things. Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh and he ran away from God. He went and boarded a ship going to Tarshish. When Jonah was on the ship a strong wind came over the water and a bad storm started. The sailors were frightened and started to throw things overboard. Nothing changed.

Finally they asked each other who had annoyed God and Jonah was thrown into the sea. A big Whale came and swallowed Jonah. Jonah said in the belly of the fish for three days. He asked God to forgive him and the fish spat him on the shore. Jonah obeyed God and went into Nineveh and warned the people. The people of Nineveh stopped doing bad things and God forgave them.

### **Questions**

Isn’t that a nice story?

What was Jonah told by God to do? (Ans He was told to go tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things)

What did he do instead? (Ans. He run away from God)

How about you? Do you run away when asked to do something by Mummy or Daddy?

Obedience is doing what we are asked to. What did Jonah finally do? (Ans He obeyed God and went to Nineveh)

How are we going to obey Mummy and Daddy this week? I will help my parents by

\_\_\_\_\_ -

**Prayer:**

Hold hands with your prayer partner and pray ‘Dear Jesus, forgive us for not always obeying. Please help us to do what we are asked to by our parents and teachers. Amen’

Remember, Obedience is doing what we are asked to do

**Memory verse: Deuteronomy 28:1: If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.**

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### **4-5 year olds- Homework**

Aunty Esther was carrying little Steph as they went to pick Ryan from school. Steph looked pretty in a bright yellow dress with very shiny shoes. The school bus was late and Aunty Esther was getting tired. Just then, the big red bus came. Steph giggled with excitement. Ryan stepped out of the bus with the help of his teacher and walked towards Aunty Esther and his sister Steph. “How was school?” Aunty Esther asked. “We played games and teacher taught us a song”, Ryan said clapping his hands. “And do you have homework?” Aunty Esther asked. “Yes I do. I will do it with mummy”, Ryan replied as they walked into the house.

“Mummy said you have to do it now”, Aunty Esther replied. “No, I want Mummy”, Ryan said angrily. “I want to show her my drawing”, Ryan said throwing his school bag on the floor. “Pick that up”, Aunty Esther told him. “Mummy said we do the homework then you will show her when she gets home, ok?” Aunty Esther said as she started to give Steph a banana. “Then when you finish you can have a banana”. Ryan looked thoughtful for a minute then he sat down on his blue chair picked up his bag and took out his book. He quietly did his homework saying, “When I finish I will show mummy!”

### **What about you?**

Do you obey your Aunty? There is someone who did not listen to God in the Bible. Let’s hear his story.

### **Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 1-4)**

Jonah was told by God to go and tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things. Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh and he ran away from God. He went and boarded a ship going to Spain. When Jonah was on the ship a strong wind came over the water and a bad storm started. The sailors were frightened and started to throw things overboard. Nothing changed.

Finally they asked each other who had annoyed God and Jonah was thrown into the sea. A big Whale came and swallowed Jonah. Jonah said in the belly of the fish for three days. He asked God to forgive him and the fish spat him on the shore. Jonah obeyed God and went into Nineveh and warned the people. The people of Nineveh stopped doing bad things and God forgave them.

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Isn’t that a nice story?

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What did he do instead? (Ans. He run away from God)

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Hold hands with your prayer partner and pray 'Dear Jesus, forgive us for not always obeying. Please help us to do what we are asked to by our parents and teachers. Amen'

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**6-7 year olds- Sing to Jesus**

It was Sunday! Steph and Ryan loved going to church. Today was extra special because they were going with their friend Ethan. “Let’s go dress for church”, Mummy told them. Steph giggled in excitement. When they finished Mummy took them to the car and they drove to church. Mummy signed them in at the gate then she went to the big church while the three children were ushered into their church by a smiling teacher.

Ryan was so excited, he started showing Ethan everything. He took him to the classes where the toys were kept. In a short while they were playing together on the carpet. Ms. Ashley came in and said, “Boys let’s go sing to Jesus”. Ryan said, “We are coming Teacher”. Ms. Ashley smiled and walked back to the others. After a few minutes the boys were still playing. Ms. Ashley went back to them and said, “Ryan, tidy up now and let’s go sing to Jesus. Obedience is doing what you are told. We are learning a new song today.” Ryan looked at Ethan and remembered how much fun he usually has singing to Jesus. He reached out to Ethan and said, “Ethan, it’s good to obey our teacher. Let’s go sing to Jesus. It’s going to be so much fun”.

### **Interaction**

Do you sometimes find it difficult to obey immediately and leave your game like Ethan and Ryan? There was someone in the Bible who didn’t feel like doing something he was told to do. Here is his story

### **Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 1-3)**

Jonah was told by God to go and tell the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things. Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh and he ran away from God. He went and boarded a ship going to Tarshish. When Jonah was on the ship a strong wind came over the water and a bad storm started. The sailors were frightened and started to throw things overboard. Nothing changed.

Finally they asked each other who had annoyed God and Jonah was thrown into the sea. A big Whale came and swallowed Jonah. Jonah said in the belly of the fish for three days. He asked God to forgive him and the fish spat him on the shore. Jonah obeyed God and went into Nineveh and warned the people. The people of Nineveh stopped doing bad things and God forgave them.

### **Questions**

Jonah was told by God to go and tell the people of \_\_\_\_\_ to stop doing bad things. Jonah did not \_\_\_\_\_ - the people of Nineveh and he \_\_\_\_\_ away from God. He went and boarded a ship going to Tarshish.

Finally they asked each other who had annoyed God and Jonah was thrown into the sea. A big Whale came and swallowed Jonah.. He asked God to \_\_\_\_\_-him and the fish spat him on the shore. Jonah \_\_\_\_\_ God and went into Nineveh and warned the people.

How about you?

Do you sometimes run away from your parents or teachers when asked to do something?

Obedience is doing what you are asked to do. Jonah asked God to forgive him and then he obeyed and went to Nineveh to warn the people

What will you ask your parents to forgive you for?

I will ask my parents to forgive me for \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer:**

Hold hands with your prayer partner and pray 'Dear Jesus, forgive us for not always obeying. Please help us to do what we are asked to by our parents and teachers. Amen'

Remember, Obedience is doing what we are asked to do

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**8 -9year olds- Goal!**

Ethan stepped out of the school bus and walked home. The sun was scorching hot and he was feeling thirsty. He quickly ran up the stairs calling out, "Aunty Beatrice! Aunty Beatrice!" What's all the noise?" Aunty Beatrice asked. Ethan smiled. Aunty Beatrice was dressed in her usual blue head scarf and a long matching skirt. Our team won the football match and I scored a goal toady! Replied Ethan so excited he jumped on the sofa sets.

"Calm down and stop jumping on those seats", Aunty Beatrice said while pulling Ethan down. "You might hurt yourself. Now do your homework then you can tell me all about the football game". "Let me go tell Ryan, please Aunty Beatrice please", Ethan begged. "Not now Ethan, you need to sit down, finish your homework and take a bath, then you can visit Ryan". "But Aunty Beatrice", Ethan continued, "I ran all the way because I really wanted to tell Ryan".

"Well you will tell him after you have finished your homework", Aunty Beatrice said to him. "You know he is also doing his homework so just wait". Ethan was so disappointed. He could not believe this. He had the story of his life and he could not tell his best friend Ryan. Aunty Beatrice went into the kitchen to prepare dinner. At once Ethan jumped for the door. Aunty Beatrice yelled from the kitchen, "Don't even think about it Ethan, homework first. You know obedience is doing the right thing first!"

Ethan sat down immediately. He removed his books and started his Mathematics homework. He turned the final page and breathed a sigh of relief. His homework was done. He looked up just in time to see Ryan walking into their house. Ethan jumped up and said, "Ryan I scored a goal today! Our team won!"

**How about you?**

Do you find it difficult to obey when you have an exciting story like Ethan? Here is the story of someone else in the bible who also found it difficult to obey.

**Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 1-3)**

God gave Jonah a job to do. He wanted Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and warn them that God was planning to discipline all the people there because of their evil behavior. But instead of doing what God asked. Jonah ran away.

"But I don't feel like doing it. Can't God send someone else.?Besides that place called Nin....Nine... Nineveh? I don't even like the name. The place is too far and I don't feel like going there! I would rather go to Tarshish!It even sounds far much cooler. 'Jonah must have thought .

He joined some sailors on a boat and headed to a place called Tarshish.God knew where Jonah was. He decided to remind him that he can neither run nor hide from God. God sent a frightening storm. It

tossed the boat Jonah had boarded making it to almost capsize. Everyone was terrified. Jonah realized the storm was his fault. He knew he was in trouble. He felt sorry for putting innocent people into trouble. Jonah told the sailors to throw him into the sea so that they could save their lives.

Instead of letting Jonah drown God sent a big fish to swallow him. Jonah spent three days and nights in the belly of the fish which was like having a long ``time out`` in a very smelly place. When Jonah was in the fish he prayed and told God that he was sorry for not obeying him. God Let Jonah out of the fish giving him another chance. This time round Jonah was ready to obey God. He went and told the people of Nineveh that God wanted them to stop doing wrong.

### Questions

God gave Jonah a \_\_\_\_\_ - to do. He wanted Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and warn them that God was planning to \_\_\_\_\_ all the people there because of their \_\_\_\_\_ behavior. But instead of doing what God asked. Jonah \_\_\_\_\_ - away.

``But I \_\_\_\_\_ feel like doing it. Can't God send someone \_\_\_\_\_ --.?Besides that place called Nin....Nine... Nineveh? I don't even \_\_\_\_\_ the name. The place is too \_\_\_\_\_ and I don't feel like going there! Jonah must have thought .

Jonah had good reasons for not wanting to go to Nineveh. He probably did not like the place and he thought it was too far. We too sometimes do not like the chores we are assigned to do and sometimes we are sent at very inconvenient times.

Which chores don't you like being asked to do?

I do not like being asked to \_\_\_\_\_

Which times don't you like being sent?

I don't like being sent when \_\_\_\_\_

Even if God knew that Jonah did not like the task, He still sent him anyway. This is because God loved the people of Nineveh and he wanted them to stop doing bad things and God knew that Jonah was the right person to do it. Many times we may not understand why we keep being sent but we do it because the person sending us knows the reason why. Ours is to obey because that is what God wants to us to do.

Which tasks do you promise to start doing, even if you do not enjoy them?

I promise to do \_\_\_\_\_ even if I do not enjoy doing it

**Prayer:** Hold hands with your prayer partner and pray 'Dear Jesus, forgive us for not always obeying. Please help us to do what we are asked to by our parents and teachers. Amen'

**Remember, Obedience is doing what we are asked to do**

**Memory verse: Deuteronomy 28:1: If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.**

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### **10-13 year olds- Toby's birthday party**

Ethan, Steph and Ryan were very excited. Their parents had given them permission to attend Toby's birthday. Toby was older than them and he had many friends. At first Ryan had not wanted to go with his sister Steph but Mummy insisted that the only way he was allowed to go was if he went along with her. As the party continued, Toby called a few boys aside and said, "There is another party in town do you want to go?" Ryan and Ethan both answered, "Yes, let's go". Toby pulled some other boys together and off they went.

Steph made many new friends at the party. She was having so much fun that she did not realize she had not seen Ryan or Ethan for a while. On noting this, she went to every room calling their names. They were nowhere to be seen. Mummy had given her a mobile phone to call her in case of an emergency. She quickly pulled it out and called her mum.

Within no time Mummy came for her. Together they searched the whole house but Ryan, Ethan, Toby and a few others boys could not be found. Worried sick, Mummy took Steph home. She explained to Daddy what had happened and together they left Steph with Aunty Esther as they hurriedly went out to look for Ryan. At the staircase they met Ethan's mother. She gave them one look and she knew something was wrong. They explained to her that some boys including Ryan and Ethan had left the party and no one could find them.

Ethan's Mum took out her phone called the police. The police inspector told them they had picked up some boys in town and they were on the way bringing them home. They all stood at the gate anxiously waiting. "They have passed their curfew", Ryan's mum said. "They even left Steph alone. Those boys!" Ethan's mum exclaimed!

A blue police car pulled over next to them. The three boys got out of the back seat, sheepishly staring at the ground. They knew they were in a lot of trouble!

### **What about you?**

Have you ever disobeyed your parents like Ethan, Ryan and Toby did? What happened? Here is the story of someone else in the bible who was in trouble for disobeying.

### **Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 1-3)**

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(Adapted from [www.kidsofintegrity.com](http://www.kidsofintegrity.com).)

### Questions

Jonah chose to run away from God to avoid doing what he was being asked to do. What do you normally do to avoid being sent? Do you (put a tick on all that apply)

Pretend you didn't hear?

Say you'll do it but you know you won't?

Negotiate hard to show why you're not the best person for the job?

Find a really good legitimate excuse not to do the job?

Do it anyway but with an attitude?

Joyfully drop all your plans and do it!

Jonah had good reasons for not wanting to go to Nineveh. He probably did not like the place and he thought it was too far. We too sometimes do not like the chores we are assigned to do and sometimes we are sent at very inconvenient times.

Which chores don't you like being asked to do?

I do not like be asked to \_\_\_\_\_

Which times don't you like being sent?

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What do you normally do to avoid being sent?

I normally \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid being sent.

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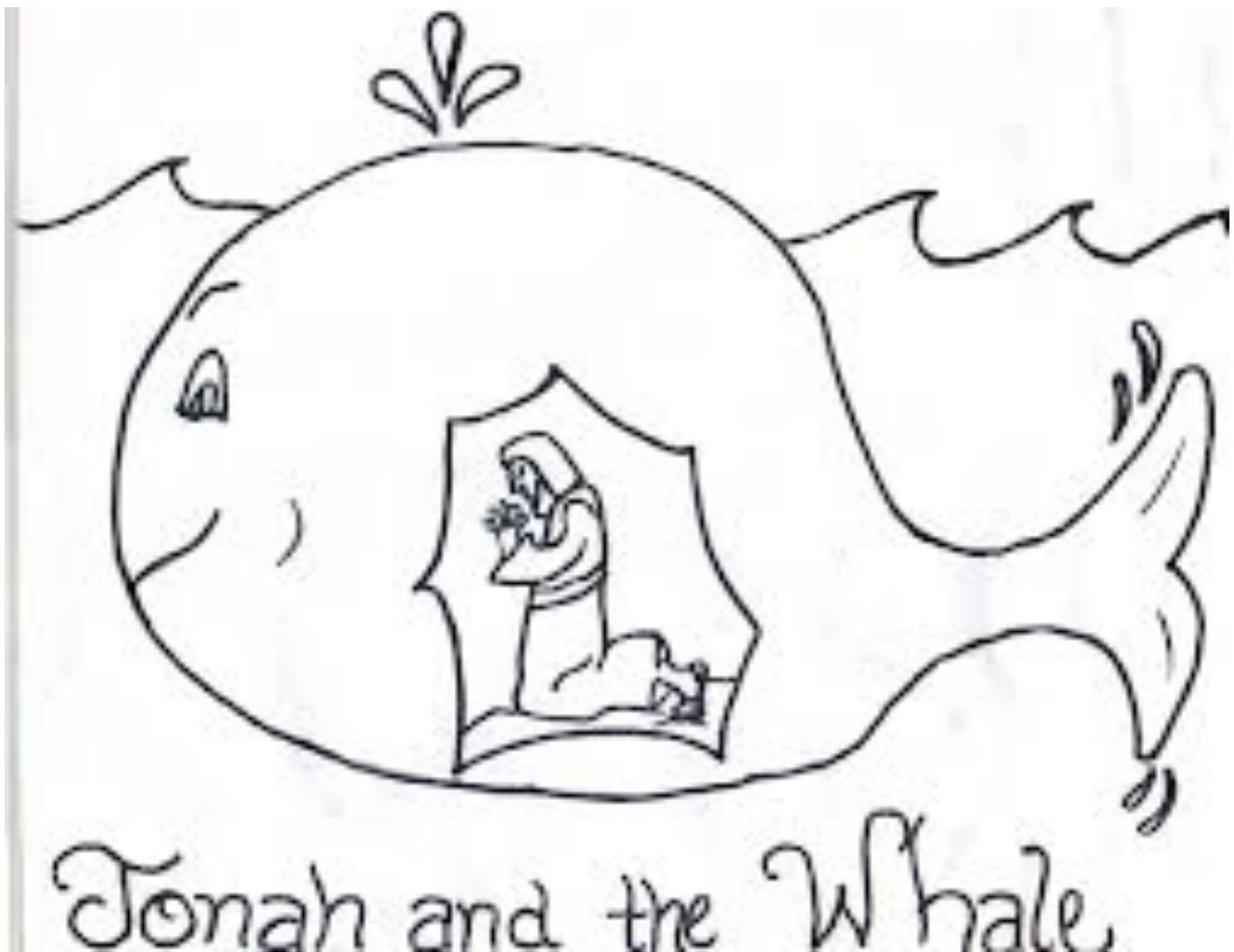
May Week One: What is Obedience?

Theme: Obedience is doing what we are asked to do

4-5Years

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **3,**  
**4,5 Years**

**What is obedience? *Jonah Obey*s**



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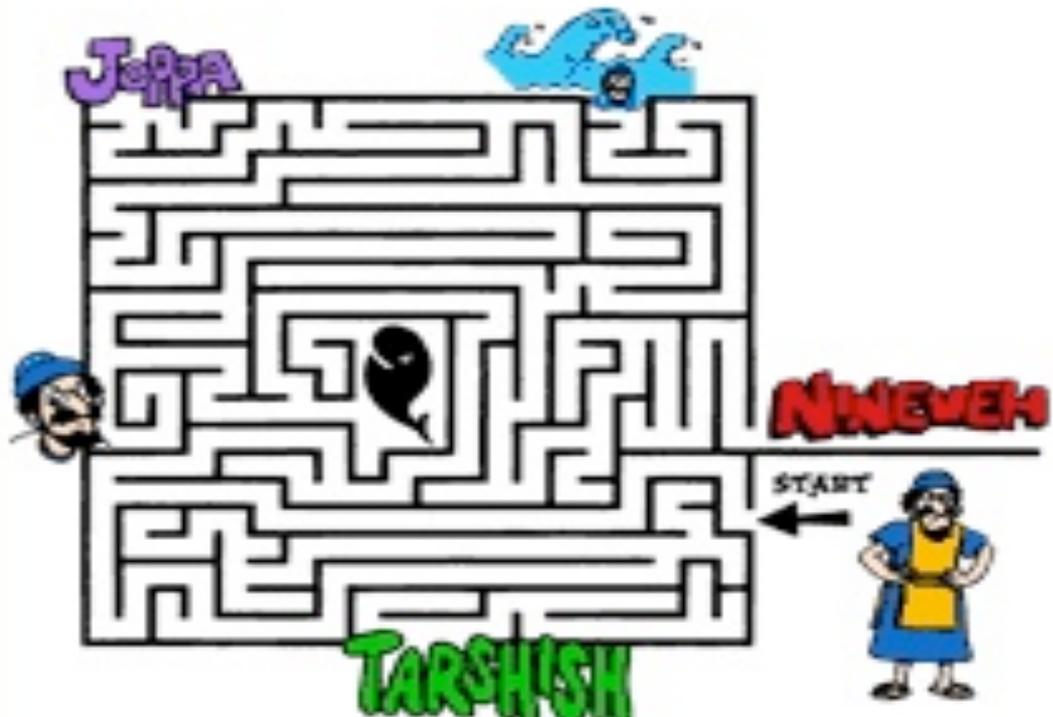
**6-7 Years**

BibleWise

Oh No, Jonah!

Jonah Changes His Mind  
—Jonah 1-3

God gave Jonah a job to do, but Jonah didn't want to do it. When Jonah tried to run away to Tarshish, he got into trouble. Help Jonah find his way to Joppa and then on to Nineveh so he can do what God asked him to do.



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**8-9 Years**

# Jonah Anagram



**Word List:**

forgiven, Nineveh, prayer, repent, ship,  
spit, storm, swallowed, thrown, whale

ehinnv \_\_\_\_\_

hips \_\_\_\_\_

morst \_\_\_\_\_

adellosww \_\_\_\_\_

hnortw \_\_\_\_\_

aehlw \_\_\_\_\_

ipst \_\_\_\_\_

aeprry \_\_\_\_\_

eenprt \_\_\_\_\_

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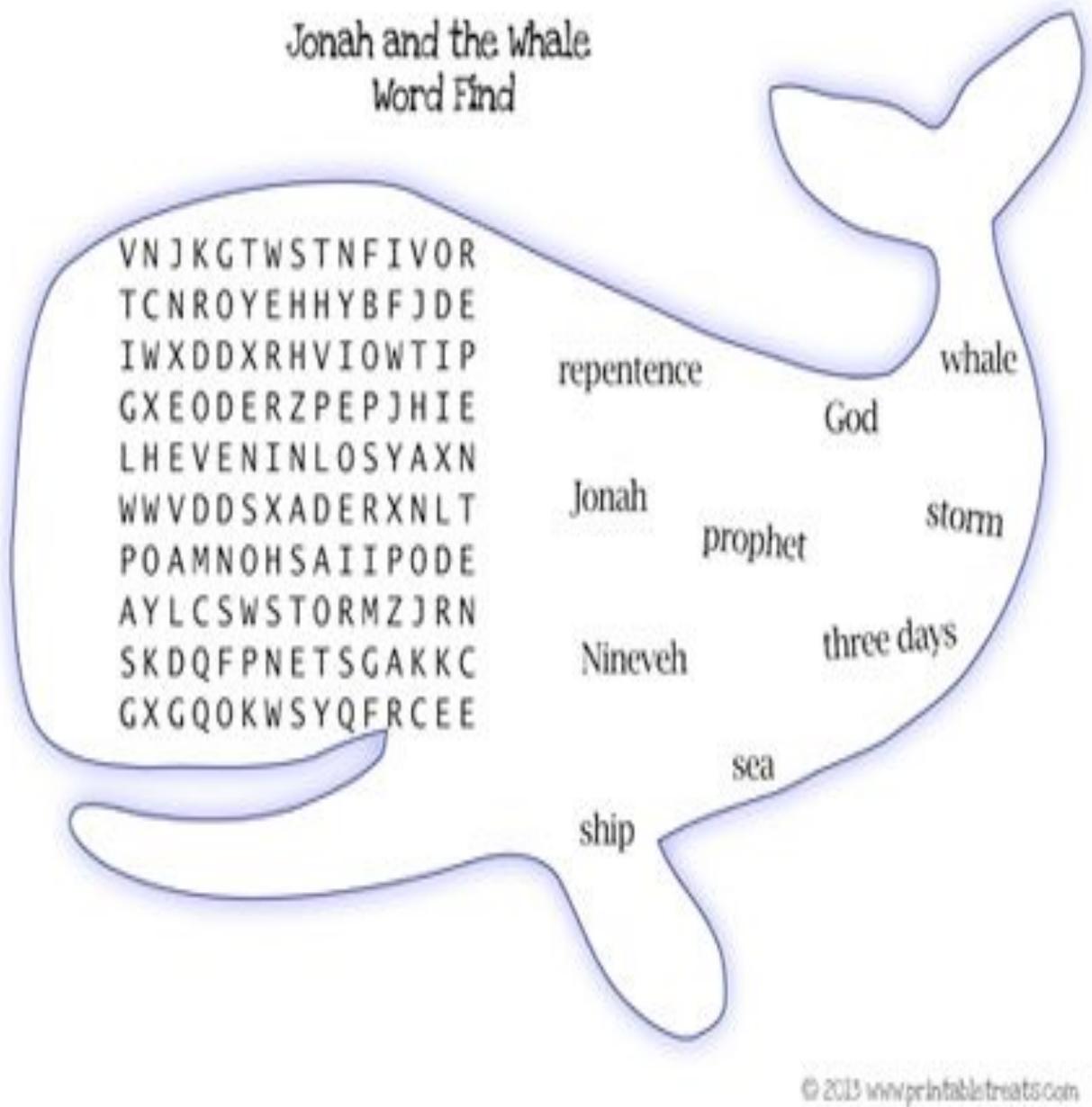


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**10-13 Years**



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