



# Jonah

God loves not only His chosen people, but all human beings. So He chose Jonah and guided him to save the people of Nineveh. He wants to guide all of us on the way to happiness.



One day God told the Prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell its people that their city will be destroyed in forty days. Jonah knew their wicked ways and wanted them to be punished. So he boarded a ship and sailed off in the opposite direction. God sent a great storm as Jonah remained fast asleep. When the captain woke him, Jonah said he was running away from God and it would be better if they threw him into the sea and saved themselves.



**Know Now:** Nineveh in 7.5 square kilometre area was an ancient Assyrian city of Upper Mesopotamia, located on the outskirts of Mosul in modern-day northern Iraq. It is located on the eastern bank of the Tigris River, and was the capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. Today it is a common name for the half of Mosul.  
**Art:** The statue of Jonah and the whale is a marble sculpture by Lorenzetto in the niche to the left of the altar in the Chigi Chapel, the Basilica of Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome. The sculptor followed the original designs of his mentor, Raphael, who was the architect of the chapel.





As soon as Jonah was thrown out, the storm became calm. Afraid he would drown, Jonah called God to help him. God sent a huge fish that swallowed Jonah. For three days Jonah remained inside the fish. He felt sorry and asked for forgiveness. And the good Lord commanded the fish to vomit Jonah out onto dry land. God spoke to Jonah again and he went to Nineveh. People listened to him and changed their wicked ways. Thus, Nineveh was saved.



He said, "Go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to the people the message I have given you." God saw what they did; he saw that they had given up their wicked behavior. So he changed his mind and did not punish them as he had said he would.

Jonah. 3: 2, 10

God used a special creature to stop the prophet Jonah from running away. You could be the big fish right away. Have family members and friends hide while you count to ten. Each time you find a hiding member, give him or her a hug and say, "God sees you and so do I." Then have that person help you find the others. As you find each person, give group hugs and say together, "God sees you and so do we!!!"





When captain of the sinking ship asked everyone to pray to their god, Jonah was fast asleep. You have read how Jonah was thrown out. Now he is inside the whale. Help Jonah find his way out of the whale

