

Jonah and the Great Fish (Jonah 1:1-2:10)

MEMORY VERSE:

"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
Matthew 12:40

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying, "Arise, go to _____, that great city, and cry out against it." JONAH 1:1-2
2. "But Jonah arose to flee to _____ from the presence of the LORD." JONAH 1:3

TRUE OR FALSE:

3. The sea remained as smooth as glass and the whole journey went by smoothly. JONAH 1:4

TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

4. Jonah "said to them, 'I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.' Then the men were exceedingly ____." JONAH 1:9-10
5. Jonah "said to them, 'Pick _____ up and throw _____ into the sea; then the sea will be calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of ____.'" JONAH 1:12

TRUE OR FALSE:

6. The men "picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging." JONAH 1:15

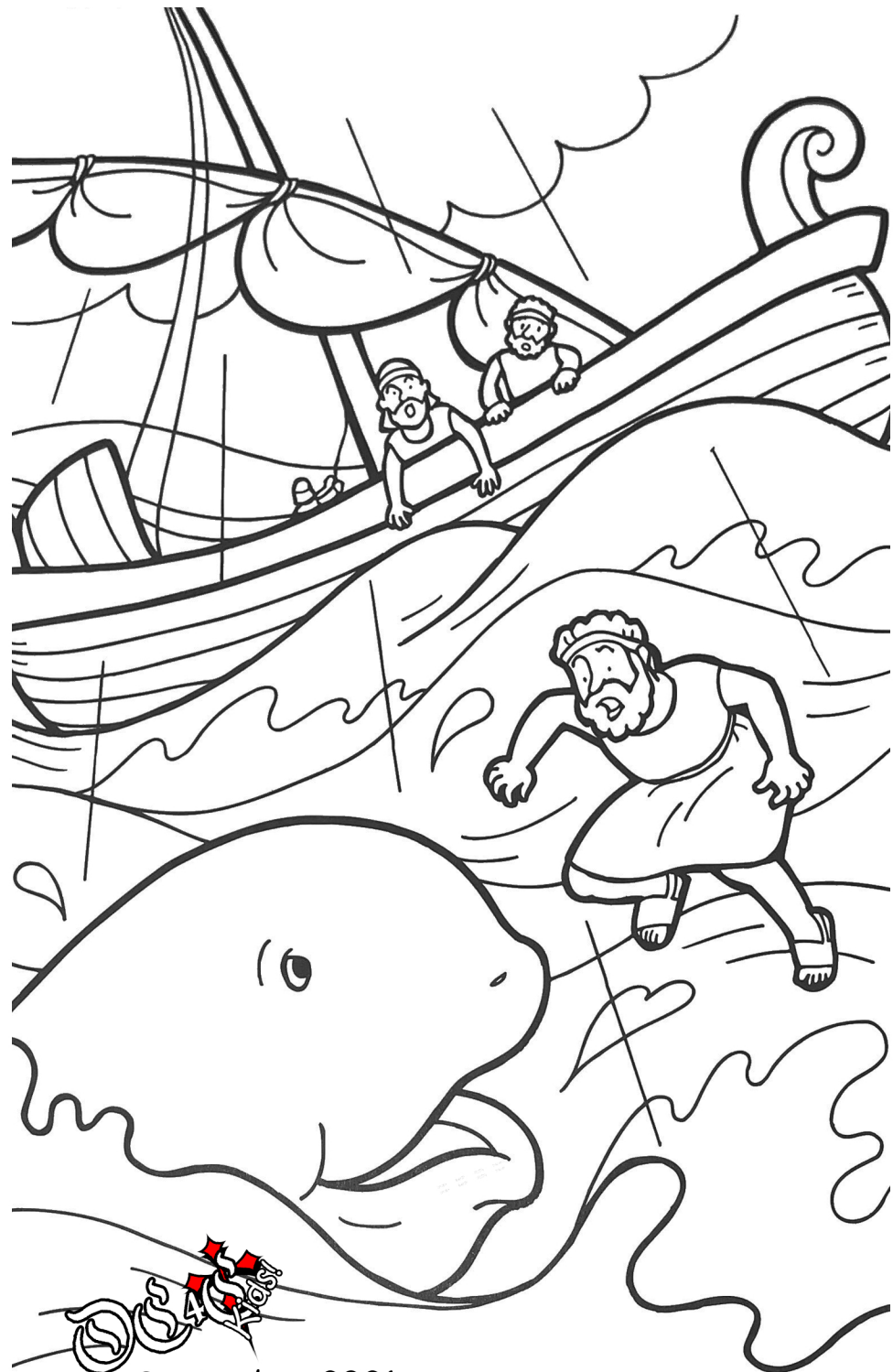
TRUE OR FALSE

7. "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." JONAH 1:17

TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

8. "Then Jonah _____ to the LORD his God from the fish's belly." JONAH 2:1
9. "So the LORD _____ to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land." JONAH 2:10





OR
"THE CHICKEN OF THE SEA"



THE BOOK OF JONAH
By Paul Dallgas-Frey

... continued from last time



Ninevah was a big City. It took three whole days to walk all the way from one side to the other. It had walls all around a hundred feet tall, and so wide three Chariots could ride, side by side.

THAT is a big City!

Jonah walked into the center of the City and he shouted out, "In 40 days God is going to destroy this City you think is so great!"

Now, that's not the kind of thing most people want to hear. And Jonah must have thought that no one would pay much attention to him.

But Jonah was in for a surprise.

The people of Ninevah listened to Jonah. The evil there must have been so bad, that everyone knew they couldn't go on like

that. They needed someone to show them the way out. And Jonah showed it to them. They could turn to their loving God.

And so, from the greatest to the least, they got rid of all their evil things (just like the sailors threw overboard the things that were making them sink when they were in trouble) - and they begged God for his forgiveness.

When the king heard the news of this, he didn't get angry as you might have expected.

Instead, he tore off his royal robe, and put on an old robe made of the cheap, scratchy stuff they made sacks out of. He took off the robe of a King, and put on the robe of a beggar, to show he understood that God is the real King, and compared to God, he was nothing but a poor beggar.

And then the King made a decree. There would be a fast. No one was to eat or drink, not even the animals of their herds. Everyone was to put on sackcloth, and cover themselves with ashes, to show how dirty they must be in the sight of God.

"Let us call out to God!" The King decreed. "Let us all stop the evil things we have been doing. Let us stop hurting each other, and maybe God will have mercy on us. Maybe he will forgive us, and not destroy our City like we deserve."

When God saw that they really were turning from the evil way they were living - and that they weren't just saying it - he had mercy on them.

God decided he would not destroy the City after all.

God saved their lives!

Continued next time ...