



Jonah: Salvation is of the Lord

Jonah 1 & 2

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Pens/Crayons/Markers
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of word search sheet
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



Jonah: Salvation is of the Lord

Objective of Lesson

Our God is powerful and full of mercy. All those whom God decides to save will be saved, and all those who cry out for mercy will receive it.

Scripture Reference

Jonah 1: 1-17 - 1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. 3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. 4 But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. 6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. 7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. 8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou? 9 And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the

LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land. 10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. 11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. 12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. 13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

14 Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee. 15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows. 17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

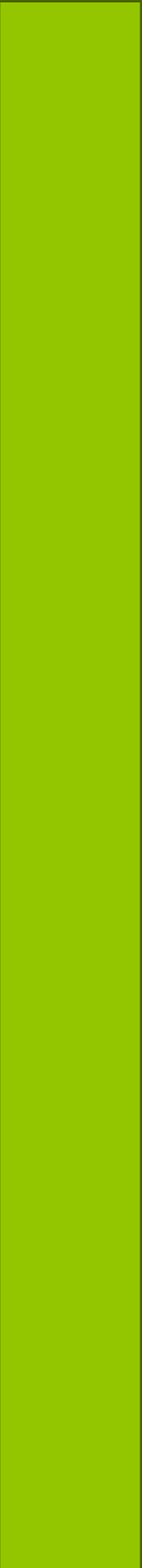
Jonah 2: 1- 10 1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. 3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. 4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. 5 The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. 6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. 7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. 8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. 10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Lesson Instructions

1. One day the LORD told Jonah, the son of Amittai, to go to the great city of Nineveh and say to the people, "The LORD has seen your terrible sins. You are doomed!" Instead of doing what God said, Jonah ran from the LORD. He did not want to do what God said. He did not like those people and did not want God to have mercy on them, but can people decide who God should save and who He should not save? No, and God is going to teach this lesson to Jonah in a very powerful and merciful way.
2. Jonah decided to run from God. Instead of following God's command, He went to the seaport of Joppa and bought a ticket on a ship that was going to Spain. He got on the ship and sailed away to escape God's command. Do you think this is going to work? Can you really run from God? Let's find out... When Jonah got on the ship and it sailed away the LORD made a strong wind blow, and such a bad storm came up that the ship was about to be broken into pieces. Who made the storm blow up? God did. God controls all things.
3. The sailors were frightened, and they all started doing things to try and make the storm go away. They did not believe in the true God, so they did not start praying to Him, but they started crying out to their false gods. When that did not work they started throwing the ship's cargo overboard to make the ship lighter, because they feared the ship would sink. Did any of this work? Can men do anything to get God to do what they want? No. Can men do anything to save themselves from death? No. We have no control over God or our own life.
4. All this time Jonah was down below deck sound asleep. The ship's captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep at a time like this? Get up and pray to your God! Maybe He will have pity on us and keep us from drowning." Finally, the sailors got together and said, "Let's ask our gods to show us who

caused all this trouble." God revealed to them that it was Jonah. They started asking him, "Are you the one who brought all this trouble on us? What business are you in? Where do you come from? What is your country? Who are your people?" Jonah answered, "I'm a Hebrew, and I worship the LORD God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

5. When the sailors heard this, they were frightened, because Jonah had already told them he was running from the LORD. They said, "Do you know what you have done?" The storm kept getting worse, until finally the sailors asked him, "What should we do with you to make the sea calm down?"
6. Jonah told them, "Throw me into the sea, and it will calm down. I'm the cause of this terrible storm." The sailors tried their best to row to the shore, but they could not do it, and the storm kept getting worse every minute. They prayed to the LORD, "Please don't let us drown for taking this man's life. Don't hold us guilty for killing an innocent man. All of this happened because you wanted it to."
7. They threw Jonah overboard, and the sea calmed down. The sailors were so terrified that they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made all kinds of promises. The LORD sent a big fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to God. He admitted to God and praised God for His power to save. He admitted that only He had the power to save and that all those who cry out for mercy will receive it.
8. This whole story is a picture of what ALL of God's people go through and what God teaches them about Himself when He saves them. All those whom God saves learn these same lessons Jonah learned. Just like Jonah we all rebel against the command of God, and just like Jonah God uses everything from terrible storms to fish to bring us to where God would have us and save us. Nothing we do can change His mind or keep God from saving who He will. It is God that saves.
9. Jonah KNEW that everything that happened to him was by God's hand. In



the end - Jonah knew God put him through all this because He was teaching him who was really in control of all things. Our God is powerful and full of mercy. All those whom God decides to save will be saved, and all those who cry out for mercy will receive it. Amen.

Lesson Activities

- Coloring page
- Word search



Take Home Lesson Overview

Jonah: Salvation is of the Lord

Scripture Reference:

Jonah Chapters 1 & 2

Lesson Overview:

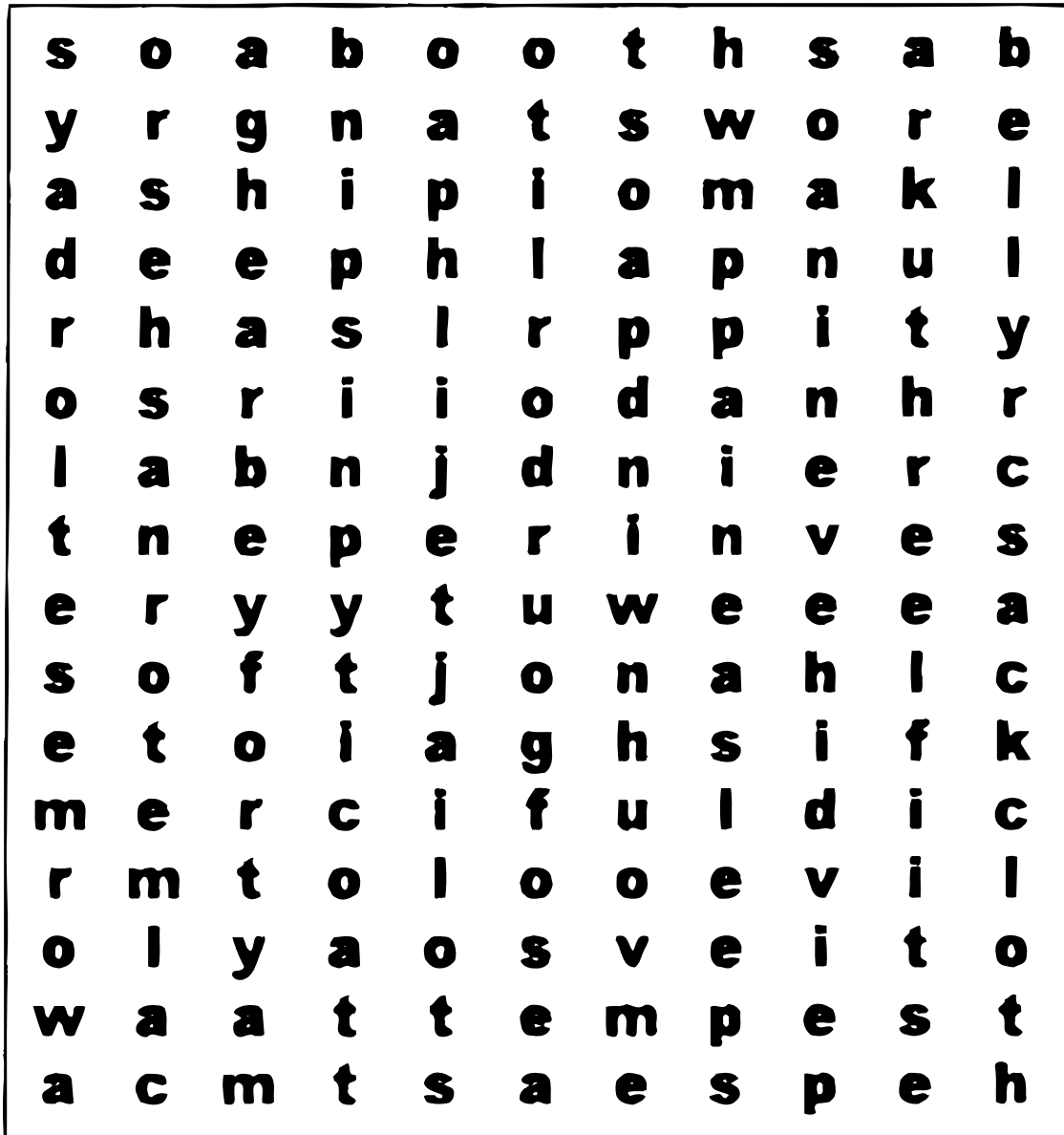
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Jonah KNEW that everything that happened to him was by God's hand. In the end - Jonah knew God put him through all this because He was teaching him who was really in control of all things. Our God is powerful and full of mercy. All those whom God decides to save will be saved, and all those who cry out for mercy will receive it. Amen.



God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah.

JONAH WORDSEARCH



worm, gourd
Tarshish
tempest
ship, mariners
asleep, east
wind
Nineveh
belly, fish
billows, forty
sackcloth
repent, angry
Joppa, Jonah
merciful, deep
booths, pity
city, ashes
lost, flee
lots, three
Lord, evil
calm, die
cry, days