

September 15, 1996      Jonah  
4's, 5's & K              3JON02PK  
God Was Merciful to Jonah and Nineveh!

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - Jonah

The Principle - God was merciful to Jonah and Nineveh and didn't bring the punishment that they deserved.

The People - Nineveh

God's Attribute - God is full of mercy.

Aim Questions:

1. Who was last week's prophet? (Obadiah) What did we learn about God? (God is loyal to His people.)
2. What prophet did we hear about today? (Jonah)
3. What did Jonah do when God asked him to preach to Nineveh? (He disobeyed and ran away.)
4. What did God send when Jonah prayed for help? (A big fish) Was God merciful to Jonah when He sent a fish to help him? (Yes)
5. What does it mean to show mercy or to be merciful? (Not giving a punishment even though it is deserved) Repeat with me, "God is merciful."
6. What did the people of Nineveh do when Jonah preached that God would punish their sins? (They said they were sorry and promised to stop hurting people.)
7. How did God show mercy to the Ninevites? (He didn't punish them.)
8. What wonderful thing did we learn about God today? (God is full of mercy.)

 Hook:

**"Jonah" Center: (3JON02PKG1)** Place a large piece of butcher paper over the top of a table. In the center of the table, put a figure of Jonah. This could be a picture in a book, the GF1 picture of Jonah taped to a tongue depressor, or the puppet you intend to use to teach the story. Let the children touch the Jonah prop. "Jonah was a prophet like Obadiah. Remember Obadiah from last week? Prophets are special men God used to give others a message. Prophets tell others exactly what God wants them to say. The story of Jonah is in the Bible." Write the word JONAH lightly in pencil on the butcher paper. Let the children trace the word using a large pencil or a crayon. Have them say the word several times. Then let the child draw independently, encouraging likenesses of the Jonah prop. Say the name Jonah often in conversation.

**The "Storm" Center:** The story of Jonah is filled with exciting action. There is a part in the story when God sends a strong storm over the water. You can make stormy waters in a glass. Give each child a clear plastic cup. Pour about 1 teaspoon of vinegar in the bottom of the cup. You might even add a drop of blue food coloring for effect. Then give each child about 1/4 teaspoon baking soda to add to the vinegar. The reaction will be wild like the stormy water in the story of Jonah. The children will learn how God cares for Jonah. He was loyal to Jonah, though; you can be sure of that! After you have made the "storm in a glass," put the liquid into a large bowl that is sitting in the middle of the table. Stir in about 2 cups of water. Stir in one direction several times. There will be a "funnel

tunnel" that forms in the center of the bowl of water. Then do floating and sinking experiments. These things will keep the children interested in what you are doing and saying. Remind the children that part of Jonah's story takes place over water.

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**"The People" Center:** Bring coins of different metals, such as pennies, quarters, etc. It would be fun to have coins from other countries. Make rubbings by placing a white sheet of paper over the coins and rubbing with a pencil. Let the children cut out the rubbings and place them on the city of Nineveh on the large map available from the Children's Department. The people of Nineveh melted the metal and used it to make ugly idols. They worshiped and prayed to these idols. Have the children repeat the name Nineveh several times. Move the rubbings off the city from time to time. See if the children can find the city again.

**"Who Is God?" Center:** Use masking tape stuck to the floor to spell the word MERCY in very large letters. "God is full of mercy. This means that He sometimes does not punish people even though they deserve it. He gives them a chance to stop doing what is wrong without a punishment." Have the children move their bodies over the word MERCY in a variety of ways. They can walk, hop, trace, even lay their entire body over the word. Ask questions as the children are playing on the letters. "What happens when you get in trouble at home? Do you know God loves you still? Has your mom ever given you a second chance to behave? Can you say the word mercy with your teacher?"

**Housekeeping Center:** Give children different roles to play, including a dad, a mom and a disobedient child. Talk about deserving discipline when we disobey.

**Map Play:** Provide old maps and marking pens. Ask children to circle a pretend town where they live. Then ask them to draw the shortest line possible to another town that they plan to visit. Continue on to another town while letting other children have turns also.

**Puppet Center:** Using puppets representing children, have the puppets talk about their week at home. They might mention a time they did something wrong and got disciplined for it, like not eating everything on their plate so they couldn't have dessert. Perhaps they were asked not to leave the yard and suffered the consequences when they did wrong. "Someone in our Bible Adventure today was tempted to do wrong. Please join our circle and listen to find out what happens."



### **Book:**

#### ***Presentation Ideas -***

Use a map that shows Jerusalem, Joppa and Nineveh.

Show Obadiah's picture from last week and ask who remembers what we know about God from Obadiah's prophecy.

Always teach from an open Bible on your lap. Refer to it often. If you need reminder cards, place them in your Bible rather than teaching from a manual.

Dress up as Jonah and tell your story with an open Bible on your lap. Be dramatic! This is an exciting, true story.

For a special effect, turn on a portable fan. When you teach the part of the story about the storm, use a water spray bottle to send out a mist.

This would be a great story to tell using the flannel graph pictures. Be sure to request the story board and the easel. The flannel figures are at the Children's Table on Sundays.

**(3JON02ECGF1, 2, 3, 4)** Dress up as an artist. Wear a beret and an artist's smock. Cut out a piece of sturdy cardboard to look like a painter's pallet. Tape all the lesson pictures copied on white paper onto the pallet. As you tell the story, hold the black and white pictures in front of you, and add color

with bright markers. Once or twice during the telling of the story, show the children your work in progress. Pull off the top picture to reveal the next picture in the story to be colored.



Pull the Aim Questions out of the mouth of a toy fish.

### ***Bible Adventure -***

Last week we learned about God's prophet, Obadiah. God asked Obadiah to tell the children of Esau that they should be loyal to God's people, the sons of Jacob, and loyal to God. What does it mean to be loyal? To be loyal is to stick by someone. It is like being on a team. You always show up for practice. You work hard for the team. You always come to the games on time. You are loyal. You are always there for them. When the Israelites' holy hill was taken away from Jacob's children, the children of Esau should have helped them. They should have been loyal to God's people. Instead, they were happy when their relatives were hurt. The children of Esau were mean to the children of Jacob and took their sheep and cows. God wants us to be loyal to His chosen people and He wants us to be loyal to Him.

In the book of Jonah, right here in my Bible, it tells about another group of people who were not loyal to the true God. These people lived in the city of Nineveh. It was a big city with powerful people. They thought they were big stuff. They didn't love the true God of Israel. They loved idols of wood and metal that were carved by men. The people of Nineveh loved the idols because the idols didn't tell them to be loyal to God's people. These people were wicked and mean. They were cruel to God's people, the Israelites. In fact, they were cruel to everyone. They deserved to be punished, didn't they? I wonder what God thought about these wicked people? I wonder why God didn't stop them from hurting people? Let's find out.

God is merciful and doesn't always give people the punishment they deserve. God wanted to warn the people of Nineveh that they would be punished if they didn't turn from their wicked ways. God sent a prophet named Jonah to give Nineveh His message. God said, "Jonah, go to Nineveh and tell the people to stop worshiping idols. Tell them to stop hurting my people." Jonah knew all about the people in Nineveh. They hated God's people and were cruel. They thought they were "hot stuff!" God wanted Jonah to be a missionary to the people of Nineveh. What do you think Jonah did?

Jonah thought about what he wanted to do, not what God wanted him to do. Jonah didn't want to go talk to those wicked people. Jonah made a bad choice and ran away from Nineveh in the opposite direction. Here is Nineveh on the map. This is where Jonah was, near Jerusalem. Jonah took off towards Joppa, right here. He walked straight to the shipyards in Joppa and found a ship that was ready to take off for the seas. He paid his money, walked on the boat and went down in the bottom of the boat to sleep and forget about everything. Have you ever been asked to come in for dinner and instead you pretended you didn't hear and you kept playing with your friend? Maybe you were asked to go to bed at a certain time but you stayed up longer, knowing you were wrong. Jonah knew he was doing wrong. He thought he was running away from God.

Do you think you can run away from God? Does He know where you are every minute? Yes, and God saw Jonah sleeping on the ship. Jonah deserved a spanking! Jonah deserved punishment for disobeying. God didn't "spank" Jonah. Instead, God sent a big storm. God made huge black clouds fill the sky. It got very, very dark. The wind blew so hard that the small waves turned into huge waves. The waves crashed against the sides of the boat and rocked it from side to side. The sailors on the ship were scared; they knew the ship wasn't strong enough for the storm. The sailors said to each other, "Pray to your idol for help!" but no help came. The captain of the ship woke Jonah and said, "You told us you were running away from the Lord. Tell us what you have done and how your God will stop the storm." Jonah then knew he couldn't hide from God. Jonah said, "I am an Israelite and I worship the true God of heaven. I know it is my fault that there is a storm. I have disobeyed God and He has sent a storm. If you throw me in the sea, the water will become calm." The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah in the sea, but they knew they would all die if the storm didn't stop. They talked and decided they had to throw Jonah over the side of the boat. The water calmed right down. God was in control. The sailors were amazed! They said, "Now we believe in the Israelite God. We promise to worship Him." God was merciful to the sailors and saved them from the storm.

God was merciful to Jonah who was going down, down, down in the water. Jonah knew he deserved to drown for his disobedience but he prayed to God for help. He said, "Help me, Lord God." God heard

Jonah's prayer and sent a big fish who swallowed him and kept him safe for 3 days. The whole time Jonah was praying to God. He said, "I was wrong to run away. I'm sorry. I promise I will obey you." God hears our prayers wherever we are. You can talk to God anytime, anywhere and He is glad to listen. Then the Lord commanded the fish to spit Jonah out on the dry land. Burp! There was Jonah on the seashore! He didn't look very good. His skin was all patchy and white from being in the fish for three days.

The second time, God said to Jonah, "Jonah, go to Nineveh and tell the people to stop worshiping idols. Tell them to stop hurting my people." Do you think Jonah obeyed God this time? Yes, he did. It took him three days to preach God's message. The first day, Jonah said, "God will destroy your city in 40 days if you don't stop hurting people." The second day, Jonah said, "God will destroy your city in 40 days if you don't stop hurting people." The third day, Jonah said, "God will destroy your city in 40 days if you don't stop hurting people." Guess what the people of Nineveh did? They believed God and knew He was going to punish them for their sins. They gave up their evil ways. They said they would stop hurting people. They didn't eat or drink anything and spent their time praying to God to be merciful. Is God full of mercy? Yes. He didn't destroy the city because He is merciful to people who say they are sorry and stop doing their wrong sins.

God wants us to tell everyone about Him, not just the people we live near or the people who act like us. God wants everyone to hear about His mercy. He is merciful and doesn't give us the punishment we deserve if we believe in Jesus who took our punishment. When we call to God for help, He hears our prayer and helps us. He forgives our sins.

**Prayer:** Let's pray. Dear God, You are so good to us and love us so much. You give us people to teach us what is right so we can obey you. Your words in the Bible help us go in the right direction. When we do wrong, You hear our prayer and forgive us. Thank You for showing mercy to us when we deserve punishment. In Jesus' name, Amen.



### Look:



**Jonah Craft Center: (3JON02PKG5)** Assemble the craft on class day according to the model. Let the children cut out and color the figures of Jonah and the fish. They can poke the brass brad into the body of the fish and the slit in the middle of the construction paper. They can also thread the string into the holes to make the hanger. Wrap tape around the end of the string to make threading the hole easier for the children. The big fish moves along the slit to swallow Jonah. Review the main details of the story. Talk about God's mercy in sending the fish to keep Jonah from drowning in the storm.



**Big Fish Craft Center:** Give each child 2 pieces of brightly colored paper. Let the child draw his best picture of a big fish on one of the papers. Encourage lots of detail. Then place the other blank piece of paper under the drawing. Staple the two pieces of paper together, leaving an area unstapled. The area should be large enough to fit torn pieces of paper towel that will be stuffed inside the fish between the two layers of paper. Have the child cut out the fish from the two pieces of paper stapled together using his drawing as an outline. After the fish is cut out, turn it over and draw the "back" of the fish on the blank paper side. Stuff the middle and staple the fish closed. Review how God used the big fish to show Jonah His mercy.



**Jonah Coloring Page for Missionary Center: (3JON02PKG3 or 3JON02PKG6)** Let the children color the picture of Jonah and the big fish. Tell the children what a missionary does. Missionaries are like Jonah. They tell others about the things God says in the Bible. Send a copy of today's coloring paper to the missionary your class has chosen to support this year. There are posters available at the Children's Table that have pictures of all the missionaries. You can show the children the poster and pray for the class missionary.



**Mercy Activity Center:** Find a container and make 4 slips of cut paper from a sheet of 8 1/2" x 11" typing paper. Write the numbers 1, 2, and 3 plus the word MERCY on the four slips. Place the folded slips inside the container. On class day, let the children pick a slip of paper out of the container. They will have picked either a number or the word MERCY. Have a child hold the paper figure of the ugly idol you used during the Bible Adventure time. Sit the child holding the idol in a

chair and stand another child with the slip of paper a few feet away. Tell the child sitting in the chair to pretend to be the naughty Ninevite praying to the ugly idol. God said this was to be punished. The child holding the slip of paper throws "punishment pills" at the idol. The punishment pills are soft sponges. Order 4 of these from the Children's Department. The number on the slip of paper determines how many "punishment pills" get thrown. Now if the word MERCY appears on the slip of paper, no punishment is administered. Remind the children that praying to idols is wrong. God showed mercy to the people at Nineveh by not punishing them and giving another chance to do the right thing.

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**Quiet Time Center:** Go to the library and check out a "quiet waves" sound effects tape. Play the tape as the children rest their heads on their desks for 5 minutes. This is a gift you are giving to the children. They have 5 whole minutes to think about our God of Mercy. Teachers, this is a great tool to use consistently in the classroom. It calms the atmosphere and it gives you a chance to praise and pray silently. Sit with the children, too.

**Move Your Body Center:** Make a circle large enough for the entire class to sit inside by sticking masking tape to the floor. Tape 4 different colors of construction paper sheets equal distant from each other and about 3 feet away from the large circle. Place 7 or 8 bean bags on each piece of paper. Divide the class into 4 teams. Have each team sit on or near one of the colored pieces of paper. This becomes their team color. When you say "go," have the children run to the other team colors and take the bean bags back to their color. They can only carry ONE bean bag at a time. Every team goes at the same time, being careful not to be wild or knock anyone down. When you say "STOP," (or blow a whistle) have all the children go to the center circle. Count the bean bags on each colored paper. Tell the children that it is wrong to steal and to pretend to be the naughty Ninevites. They did not do the right thing, but God showed them Mercy. He sent Jonah to talk to them three times. Play this game three times. The last time put away all the bean bags and pretend you have repented.

**Snack Center:** Serve fish crackers as a snack today. Review the Aim Questions.

**"Jonah, a Whale of a Tale,"** by John Ryan. Read the book to a small group of children or read it to the whole group as a story reinforcement. Delete the last 3 pages that describe Jonah's anger after the people of Nineveh repented. Talk about God being merciful to Jonah by sending the fish to save him from drowning. God was merciful to Nineveh by sending Jonah to give His prophecy. This book is available if requested from the Children's Office.

**"The Story of Jonah,"** by Alice Joyce Davidson. This book is available if requested from the Children's Office. The first three and last three pages have been excluded. It is fun to review the story with pictures. See if the children can tell you the story. Be sure that the children know the point, that God was full of mercy to the sailors, Jonah and the Ninevites.

**Jonah Rhyme:** (Tune: "Three Blind Mice")  
God said, "Go!"  
Jonah said, "No!"  
Jonah went swish.  
God sent a fish.

Jonah decided to change his mind.  
He went to Nineveh just in time.  
The people repented and stopped their crime.  
Merciful God! Powerful God!

#### Songs:

**I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever**  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.  
With my mouth will I make known..thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness.  
With my mouth will I make known..thy faithfulness to all generations.  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

**Other Verses:**

I will shout of the mercies of the Lord...  
I will hum....



**Great Is Thy Faithfulness** (Morning by morning new mercies I see)



**Who Did Swallow Jonah?** (See "Prophets Songs for Preschoolers")

Who did, who did, who did, who did,  
Who did swallow Jo, Jo, Jo-nah?  
Who did, who did, who did, who did,  
Who did swallow Jo, Jo, Jo-nah?  
Who did, who did, who did, who did,  
Who did swallow Jo, Jo, Jo-nah?  
Who did swallow Jonah? Who did swallow Jonah?  
Who did swallow Jonah down?

Fish did, fish did, fish did, fish did  
Fish did swallow Jo, Jo, Jo-nah!  
Fish did, fish did, fish did, fish did  
Fish did swallow Jo, Jo, Jo-nah!  
Fish did, fish did, fish did, fish did  
Fish did swallow Jo, Jo, Jo-nah!  
Fish did swallow Jonah! Fish did swallow Jonah!  
Fish did swallow Jonah down!



**Took:**



**KNOW AND DO:** "We KNOW from Jonah that God gives mercy. He does not punish sometimes even when we deserve it. God uses your mom and dad to tell you what is right. You get in trouble sometimes for disobeying. Other times, Mom and Dad give you mercy, another chance to do the right thing. You DO want to show mercy to your family. When your brother makes you mad, you can tell him you are mad, but then pray that God will take your mad feelings away and send His mercy. How many chances did the people of Nineveh have to do the right thing? They had at least three. Stand the children in a circle and have them bounce a ball to each other. Stop when you've counted to three. The child who holds the ball answers two questions. Who gives us mercy? How can you give mercy to your brother, your sister, yourself, etc?"



**Memory Work Review of Prophet, Principle, People and Place: (3JON02PKG7)** Throughout our study of the prophets, we will limit our focus to five main geographical locations. These locations are Jerusalem, Samaria, Edom, Nineveh, and Babylon. Each of these locations has a symbol that the children will begin to identify with that location. The main people groups we will be studying will be the children of Jacob (Israelites) living around Jerusalem, the children of Jacob (Israelites) living around Samaria, the children of Esau (Edomites), the Ninevites (Assyrians) and the Babylonians. Each week you will show the place where the prophet goes on the large map provided by the Children's Department. Cut out the 3JON02PKG7 review symbols that have pictures of Obadiah and Jonah. Have the children say the names of the two prophets. Talk about what the prophets said about God as the children look at the pictures. Obadiah said God is loyal to His children. (Ask the Children's Department for last week's 3OBA01ECGF3 picture of a father holding a son.) God sticks

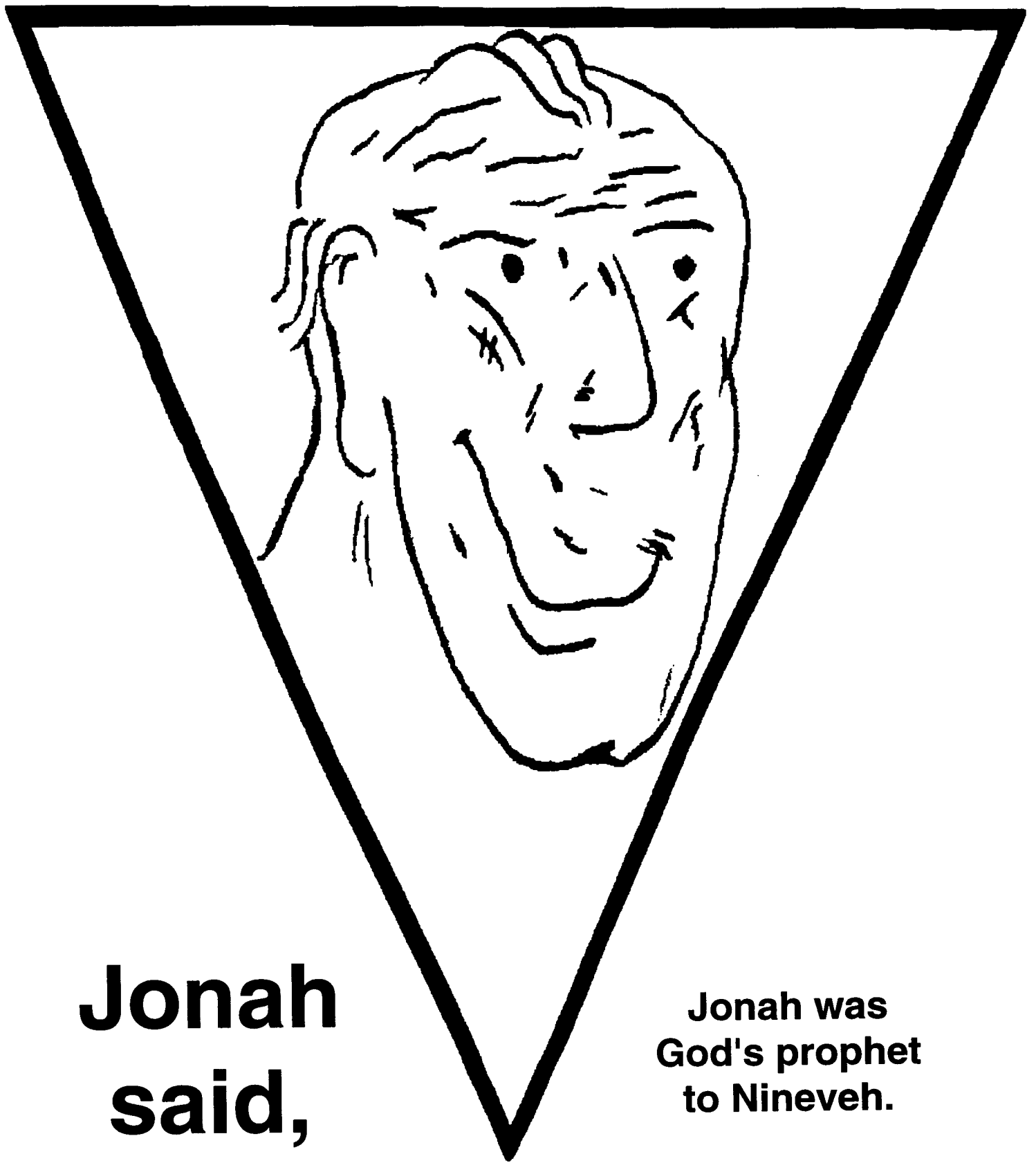
by you like a father holding his son. Jonah said God is full of mercy. He does not punish sometimes even when people deserve it. The little girl in the 3JON02PKG10 picture looks like she is sorry. The mom looks like she's giving the girl another chance to do right. Save all the symbols to review each week as you add a new prophet. Our prayer is for the children to be able to commit these facts to memory. This will take the place of a weekly memory verse. As we learn new things about God from the Old Testament prophets, He will use this Bible knowledge to change our lives.

**Jonah Song Review: (3JON02PKG9)** There are several finger plays and songs that relate to Jonah in the song packet. Request a copy of the packet if you did not receive one from your department head. There is also a bin of instruments at the Children's Table every Sunday.

**Sea Stories:** Bring sea shells for the children to carefully hold and see. Talk about any trips to the ocean you have taken. Tell your best fishing story or "lost-at-sea" tale. Share how God showed you loyalty and mercy as it relates to your story. Let the children share their stories. Four and five-year olds love to talk. You might even make a call to the homes during the week and tell the children that they can bring things for "show and tell" that have to do with the ocean.

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**Jonah Maze: (3JON02PKG8)** Ask for copies of the Jonah maze. Follow the directions on the page. See if the children can identify the pictures to the side of the maze and match them to the map. Review the Aim Questions.



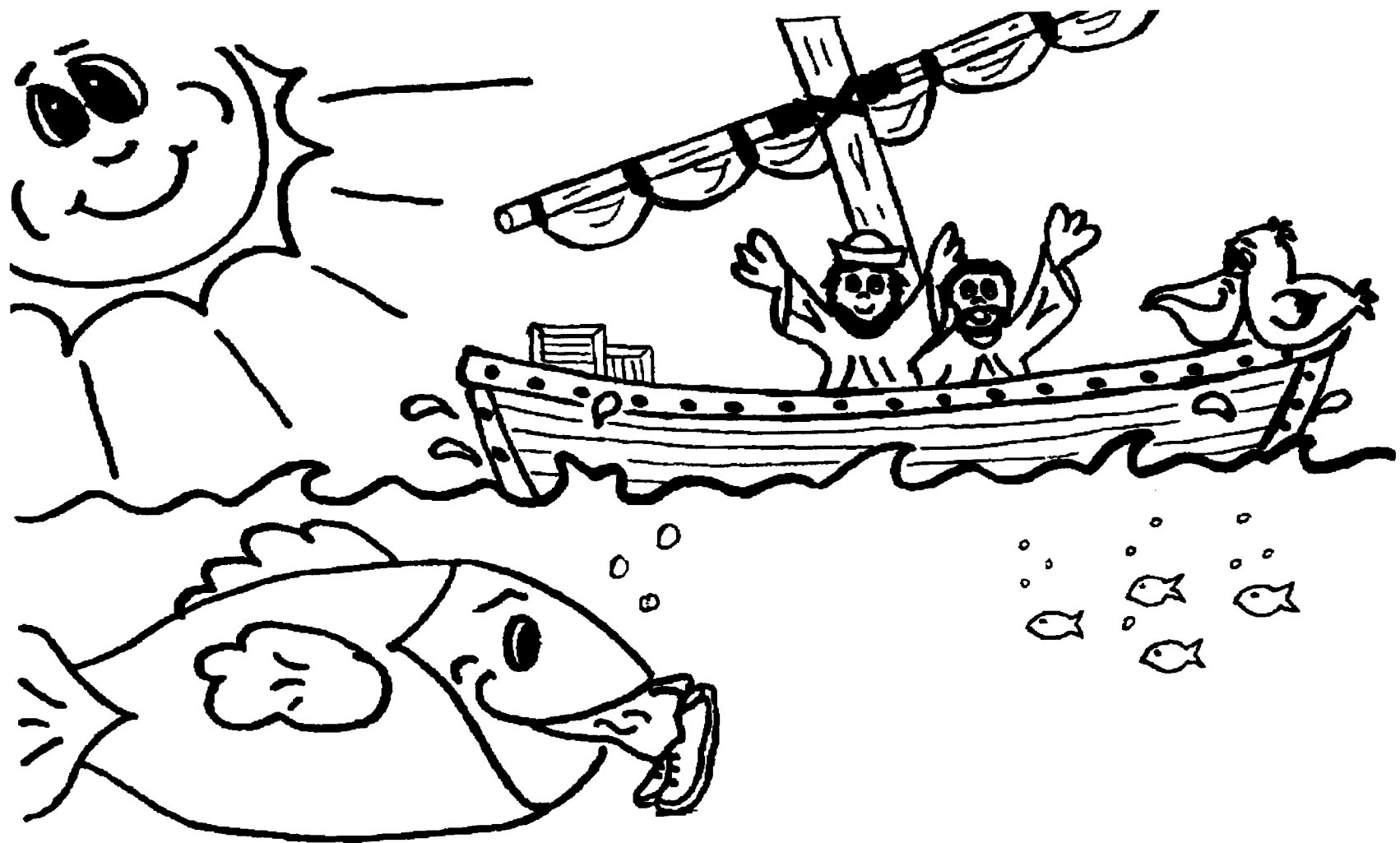
**Jonah  
said,**

**Jonah was  
God's prophet  
to Nineveh.**

**"God is full of mercy."**

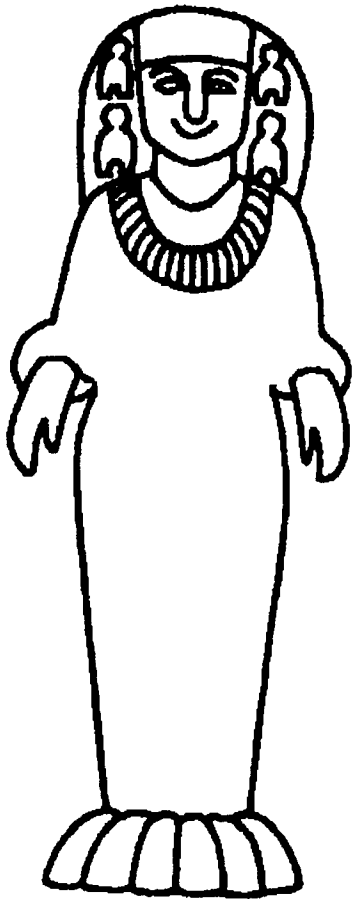


God showed His mercy to Jonah by sending a fish.



God showed His mercy to Jonah and the sailors in the storm

Idol  
of  
Nineveh



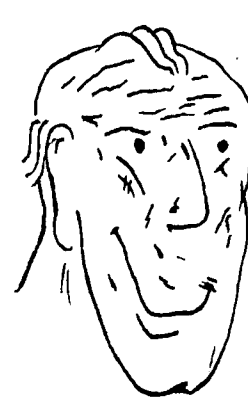
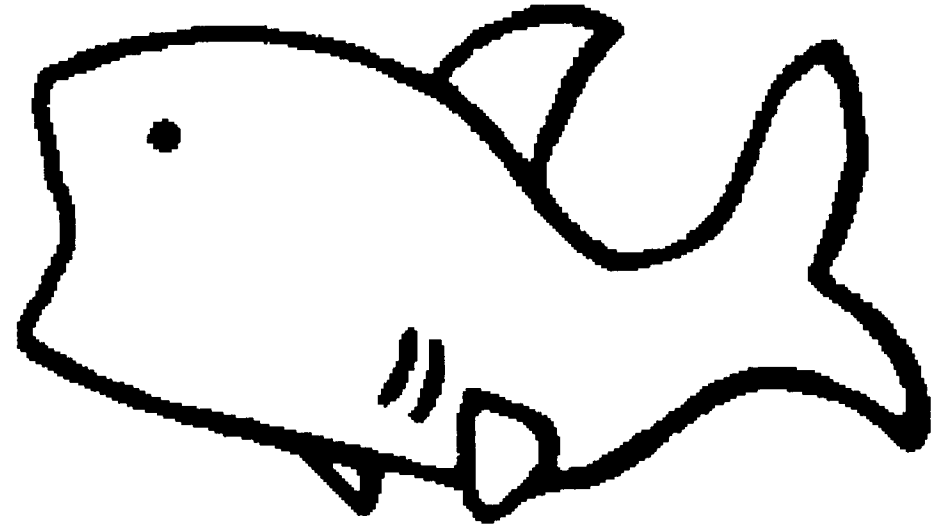
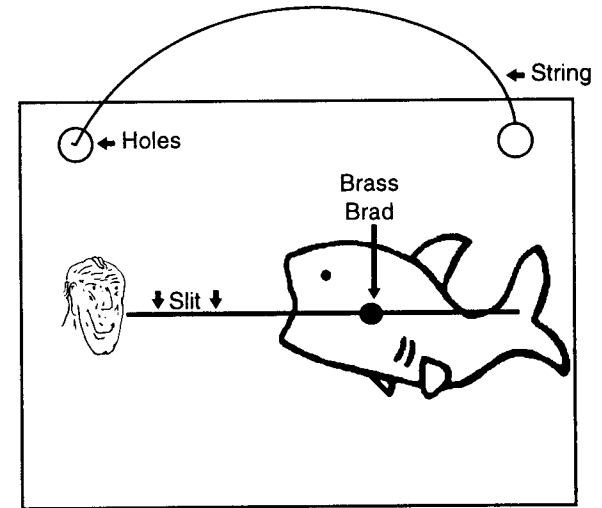
The people of Nineveh  
worshiped idols and  
were cruel to people.

When people don't love God and listen to Him,  
they don't love other people either.

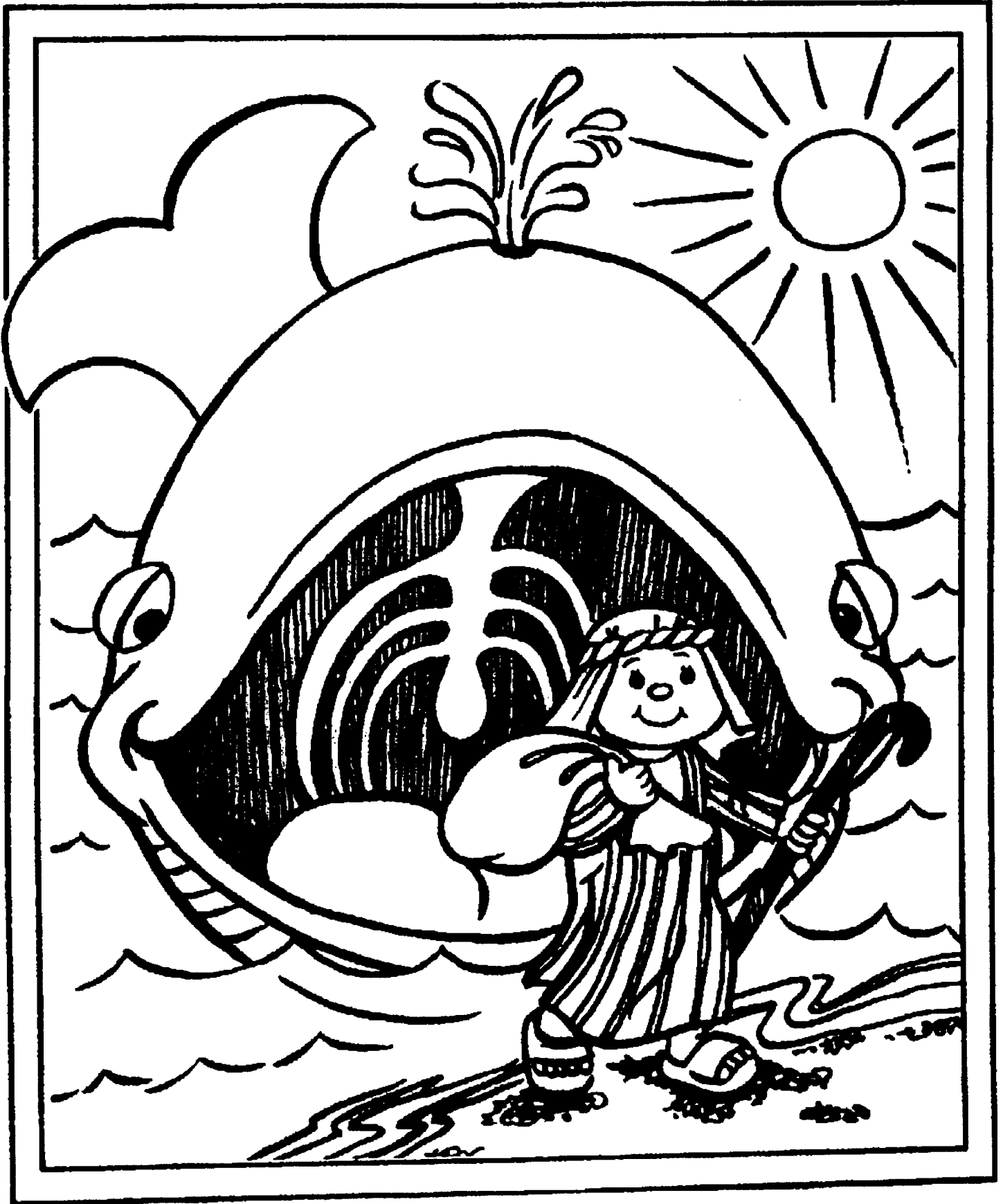


# Jonah Craft Center

Cut out the figures of Jonah and the big fish. The children can color the figures. They can poke the brass brad into the body of the fish and the slit in the middle of the construction paper. They can thread the string into the holes to make the hanger. The big fish moves along the slit to swallow Jonah.



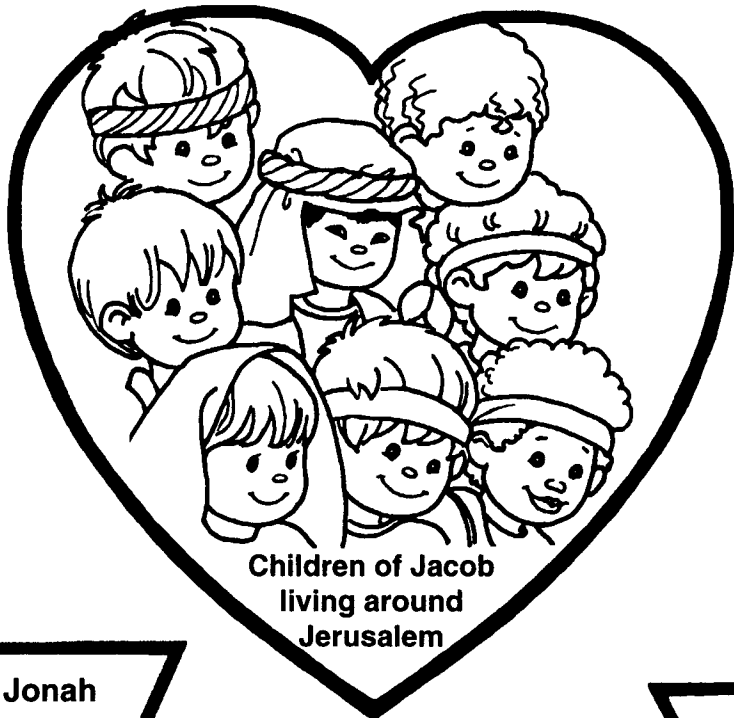
God sent a big fish to show Jonah His mercy.



How did God show mercy to the people of Nineveh? 3JON02PKG6

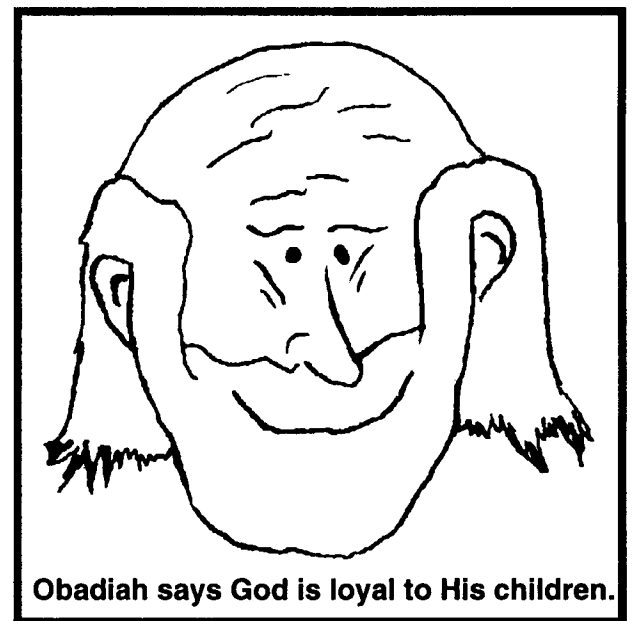
# Memory Work Review

Review the prophet, principle, people and place each week by matching the triangle, heart and square shapes to the large map made available by the Children's Department.



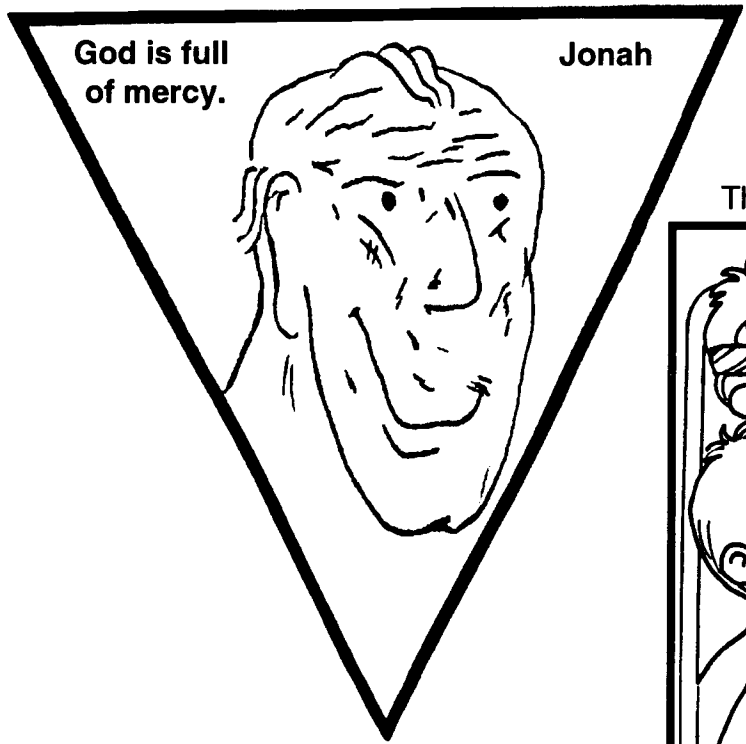
Children of Jacob living around Jerusalem

Obadiah went to the children of Esau.



Obadiah says God is loyal to His children.

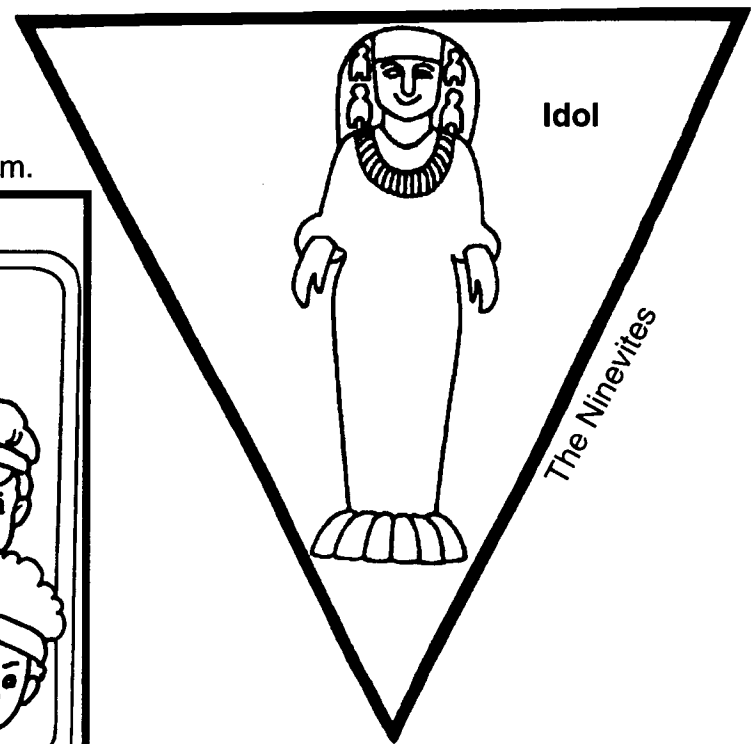
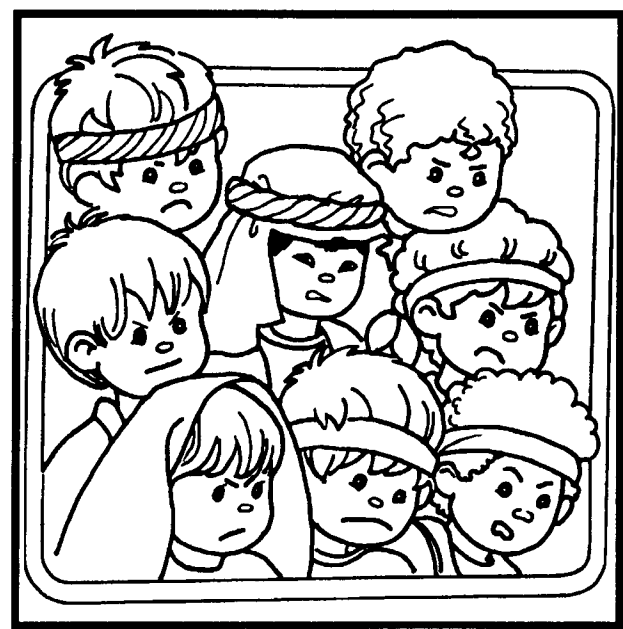
Jonah went to Nineveh.



God is full of mercy.

Jonah

The children of Esau lived in Edom.

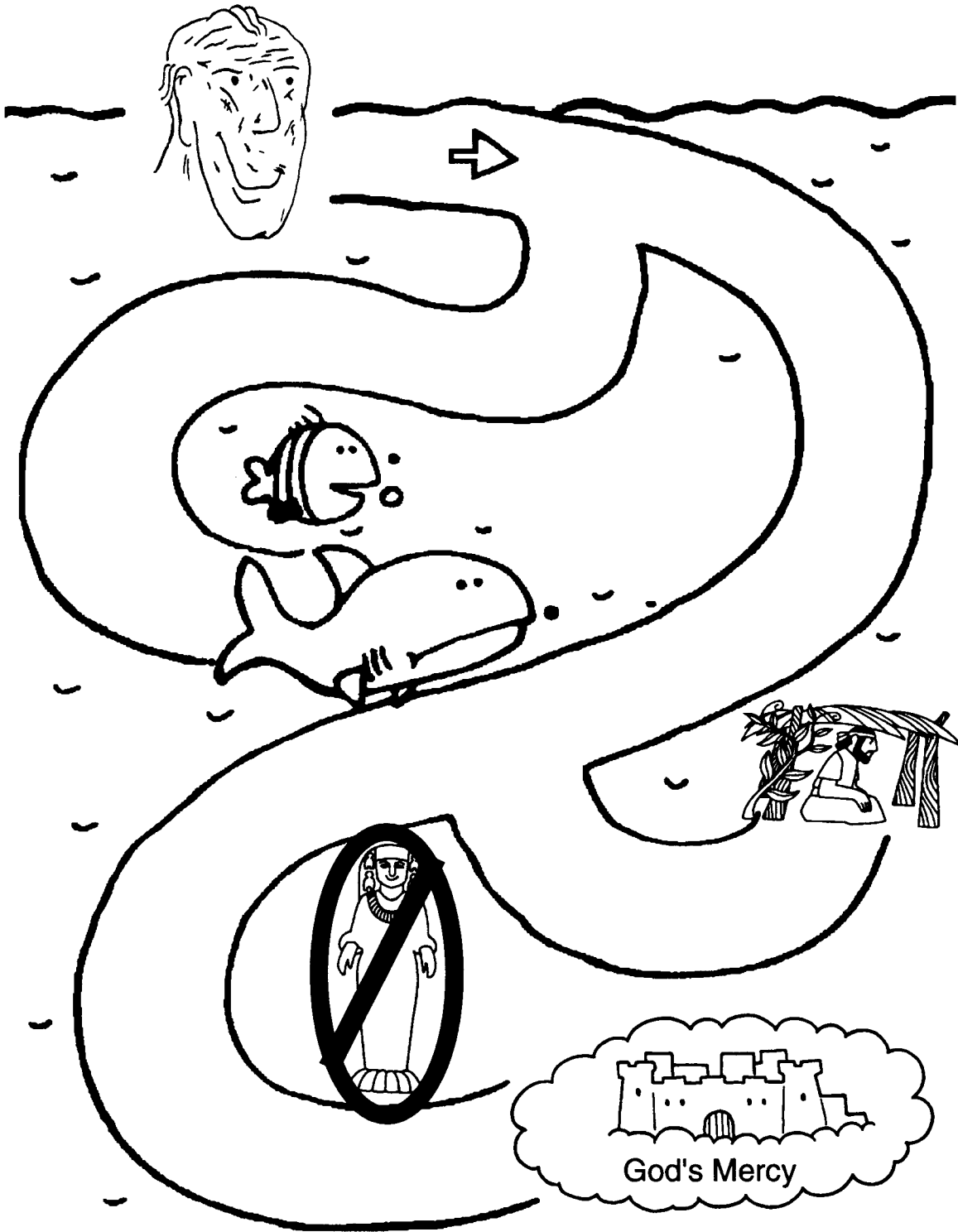


Idol

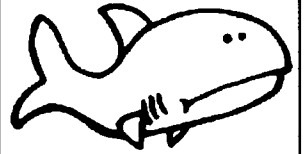
The Ninevites

# Jonah Maze

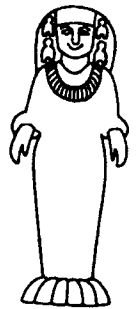
God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Jonah disobeyed and went to Joppa. Can you find the path to Joppa? Draw a red line to Joppa. Can you find the path to the idol God told the people at Nineveh to smash? Draw a green line to the idol and "smash" it. Draw a blue line to God's mercy; don't spend time feeling sorry for yourself in the vine house.



Joppa



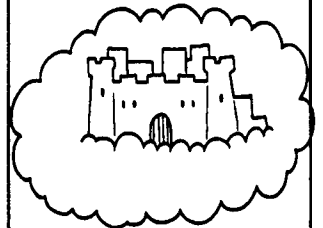
Idol



Vine Shade



God's Mercy



## WHO DID SWALLOW JONAH?

F 1<sup>st</sup> voice 2<sup>nd</sup> voice 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Both  
 1. Who did, who did, Who did, who did, Who did swal-low  
 C7 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo, Who did, who did, Who did, who did,  
 Both F 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Who did swal-low Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo, Who did, who did,  
 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Both  
 Who did, who did, Who did swal-low Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo,  
 C7 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Who did swal-low Jo-nah, who did swal-low Jo-nah,  
 Both F  
 Who did swal-low Jo-nah down? —

2. Whale did... swallow Jo, Jo, Jo, Jo... (3 times)  
 Whale did swallow Jonah... down.

## JONAH

God told Jonah, "Go to Nineveh."

Jonah said, "No way!"

Jonah ran and hid on a boat.

He thought he had got away.

But God knew right where Jonah was.

Though Jonah tried to sail.

Splash! He ended up inside

The belly of a whale!

Then Jonah prayed. God sent the fish

To the sandy shore with a swish, swish, swish!

It spit out Jonah. NOW Jonah obeyed.

He walked into Nineveh that same day.

Jonah 1,2



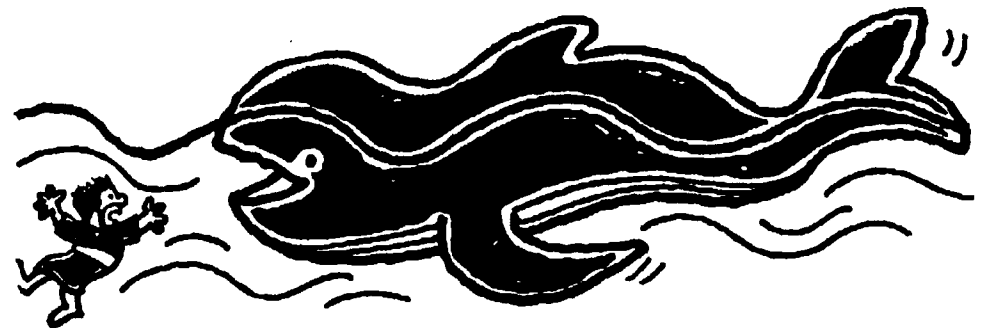
SHAKE HEAD, NO.

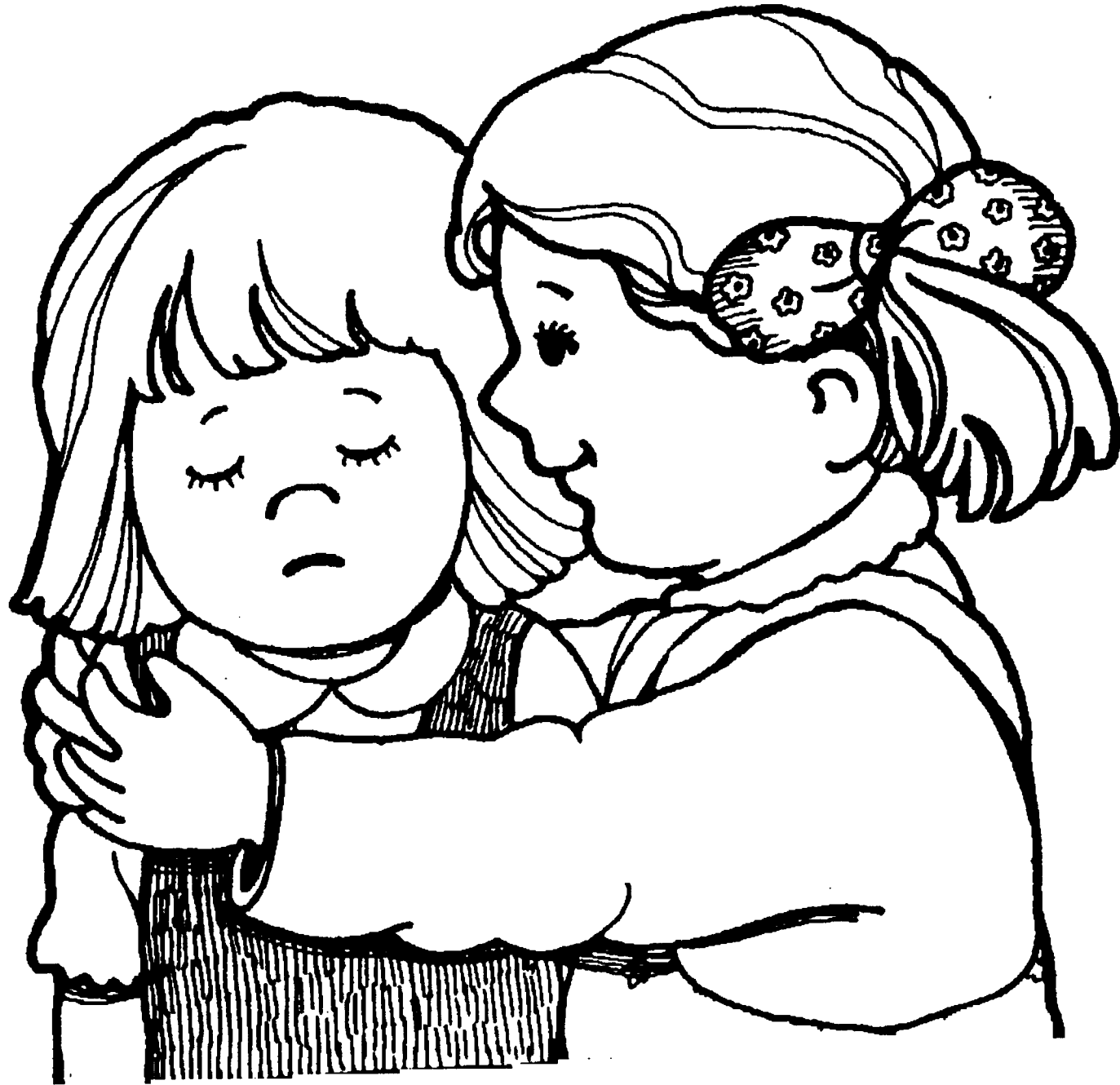


RUN HAND UNDER OTHER.



"SWISH" HANDS.





God showed mercy to Jonah and the people of Nineveh. Do you think this mother is showing mercy to her daughter?