

Story 88: Jonah Tries to Run From God

God commanded Jonah, An Israelite prophet, to take a message to the neighboring city of Nineveh. God's message to the people of Nineveh was "Repent!" or He would destroy their city. Jonah was afraid to go. He got on a ship and went in the opposite direction. God sent a storm and the ship almost sank. Jonah told the ship's captain to throw him into the sea. The storm stopped when Jonah landed in the water. Then God sent a big fish that swallowed Jonah. Inside the fish, Jonah prayed to God and promised to go to Nineveh. The fish spit Jonah up on a beach. Jonah went to Nineveh and gave them God's message. The people believed the message and told God they were sorry for their sins. Because they repented, God did not destroy their city.

Read this story in the Bible in the Book of Jonah, Chapters 1-3.

Words to Know

neighboring – next to the nation of Israel

repent – to decide to turn away from wrong and do what is right

destroy – to put an end to something

opposite – 180 degrees in the other direction

sank – went under the water

swallowed – took into the mouth and passed into the stomach

spit – to eject from the mouth

Questions

1. What command did God give Jonah?
2. What was God's message to Nineveh?
3. Why didn't Jonah obey God?
4. What did Jonah do instead?
5. What happened after Jonah got on the ship?
6. What caused the storm?
7. What made the storm stop?
8. What happened to Jonah when he landed in the water?
9. What did Jonah do inside the fish?
10. How do we know God answered Jonah's prayer?
11. How did the people respond to God's message delivered by Jonah?
12. What did Jonah learn from this event in his life?

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