Theme

We can't hide from God.

Scripture

Jonah 1-3

Have any of you heard about a man named Jonah?

Jonah was a prophet of God; he would listen to God and tell the people what God said. One day, God said to Jonah, "Go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people who live there that they are a very wicked people and that they need to change their ways." Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh.

He didn't like the people in that city, and maybe he was afraid of them. So Jonah decided to run away and hide from God. He caught the first ship out of town and headed in the opposite direction from where God told him to go. Jonah learned a very important lesson that day. He learned that you might run from God, but you cannot hide. Jonah got on that ship and hid way down deep inside. "Surely God won't find me here," Jonah thought. (Invite children to curl up in a ball and try to hide.)

But God sent a big storm and tossed that boat around so much that the other sailors thought they were going to drown. They found Jonah in the bottom of the ship and asked him, "Who are you and what are you doing here?" Jonah answered, "I am a worshiper of the God of heaven, who made the land and the sea." Jonah told the sailors that he was running from God because he didn't want to go to Nineveh as God had told him to do.

When the sailors learned that Jonah was running from God, they were even more afraid. "What should we do to stop this terrible storm?" the sailors asked.

"Throw me overboard into the sea," Jonah answered, "and the sea will become calm." The sailors picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea and the storm stopped at once.

Did Jonah drown in the sea? No! God sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he was inside the fish for three days and three nights

Spending all that time inside the great fish gave Jonah plenty of time to think. He prayed to the Lord from inside the fish. He confessed that he had been wrong to run from the Lord and promised to fulfill his promises to God.

God caused the fish to spit Jonah out onto the shore Then the Lord spoke to Jonah again and said, "Get up and go to Nineveh and deliver the message that I have given you."

This time Jonah obeyed the Lord's command and went to Nineveh.

Just as God had something for Jonah to do, he has a plan for you and me. I hope we will learn a lesson from Jonah. When it comes to doing what God wants us to do, we might run, but we cannot hide from God!

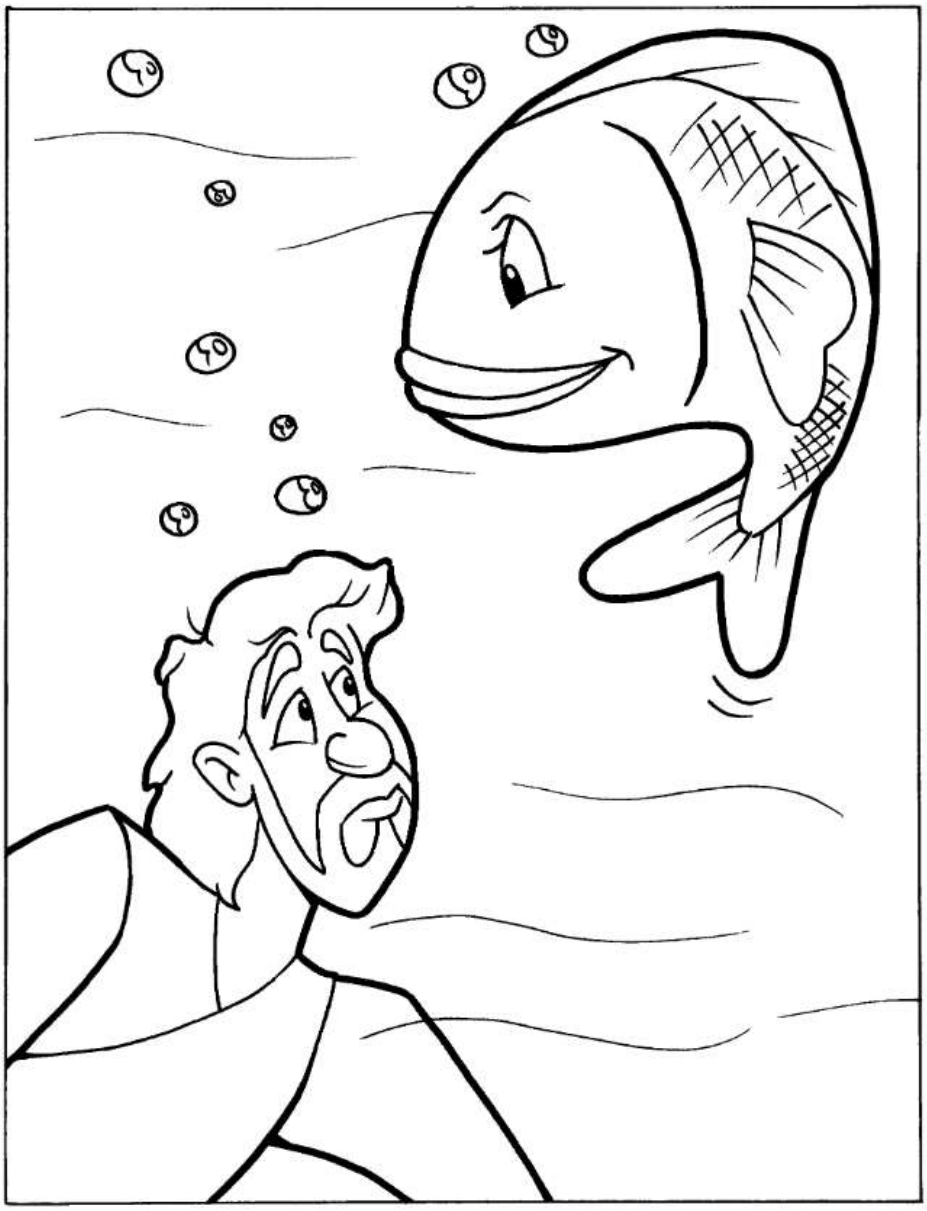
God, we know can't hide from You. You know what we do and what we think. Give us the strength and courage to do all the things that You want us to do. In Jesus' name, amen.

FISH ON A STICK:

Give cardstock paper and markers to the children to draw and cut out a large fish that can be taped to the top of a craft stick or a longer paint stick. Let the children tell the story of Jonah using their fish sticks. If time permits, the story can be told using other props such as a boat, a fish, sailors glued to craft sticks if desired.

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH

(JONAH 1:1-3:3)



"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 1 : 1 7

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Jonah Runs from God

The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are." Jonah 1:1

The puzzle is based on Jonah 1:1 through 3:3.

A number of words have been removed from each sentence and listed below the sentence. Use the listed words to fill the blanks in the sentence.

God spoke to Jonah and told him to go preach in the city of _____.

Jonah got on a _____ heading in the opposite direction from where God told him to go.

God caused a great _____ to come upon the sea.

The sailors tossed Jonah into the sea to _____ the storm.

God sent a great _____ to swallow Jonah.

Jonah was in the fish for _____ days.

While in the fish, Jonah repented and promised to go _____ in Nineveh.

God caused the fish to spit Jonah out onto the _____.

God spoke to Jonah a _____ time and told him to go to Nineveh.

This time, Jonah _____ God and went to Nineveh.

Nineveh	calm	obeyed	ship	three
fish	shore	second	storm	preach

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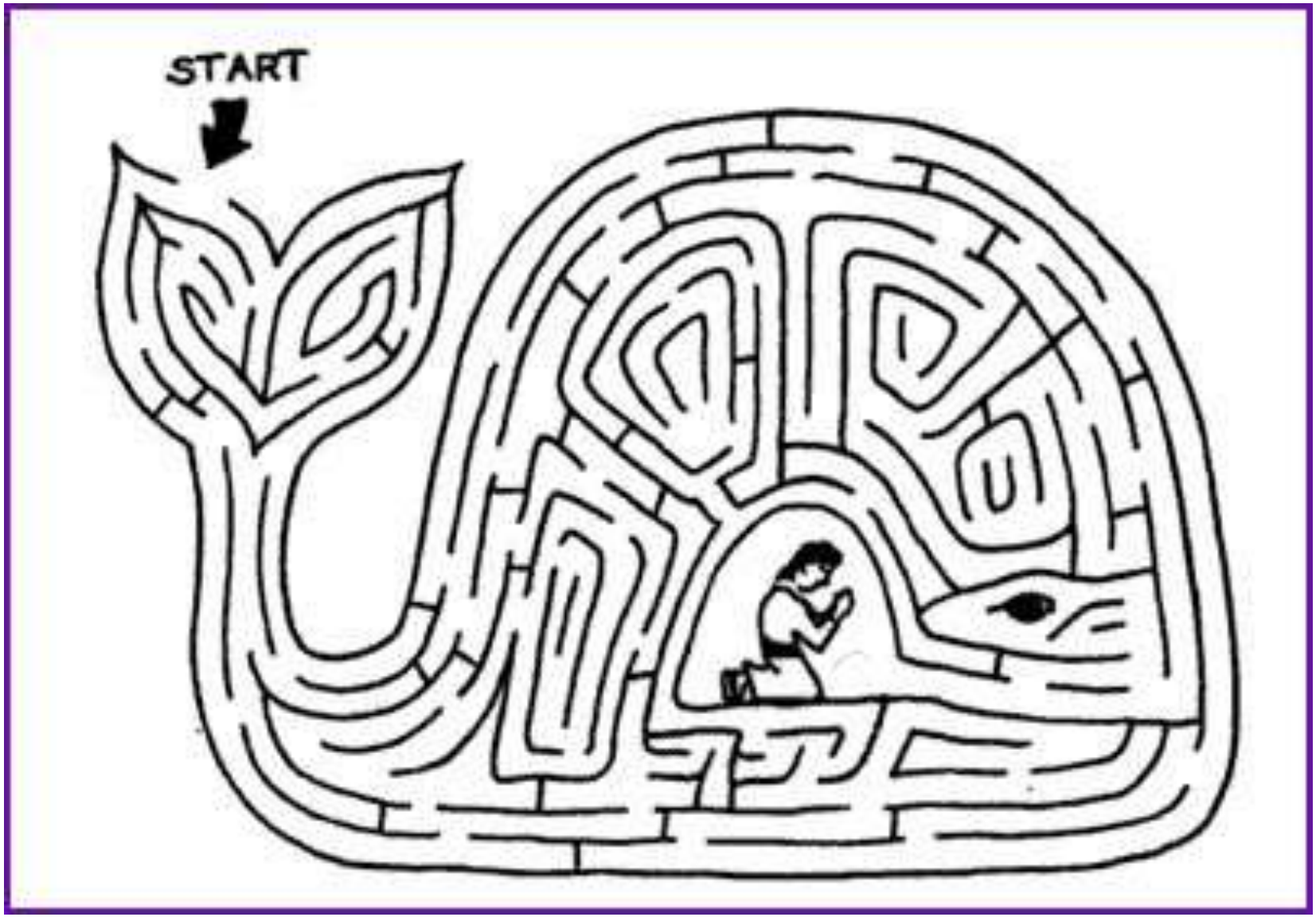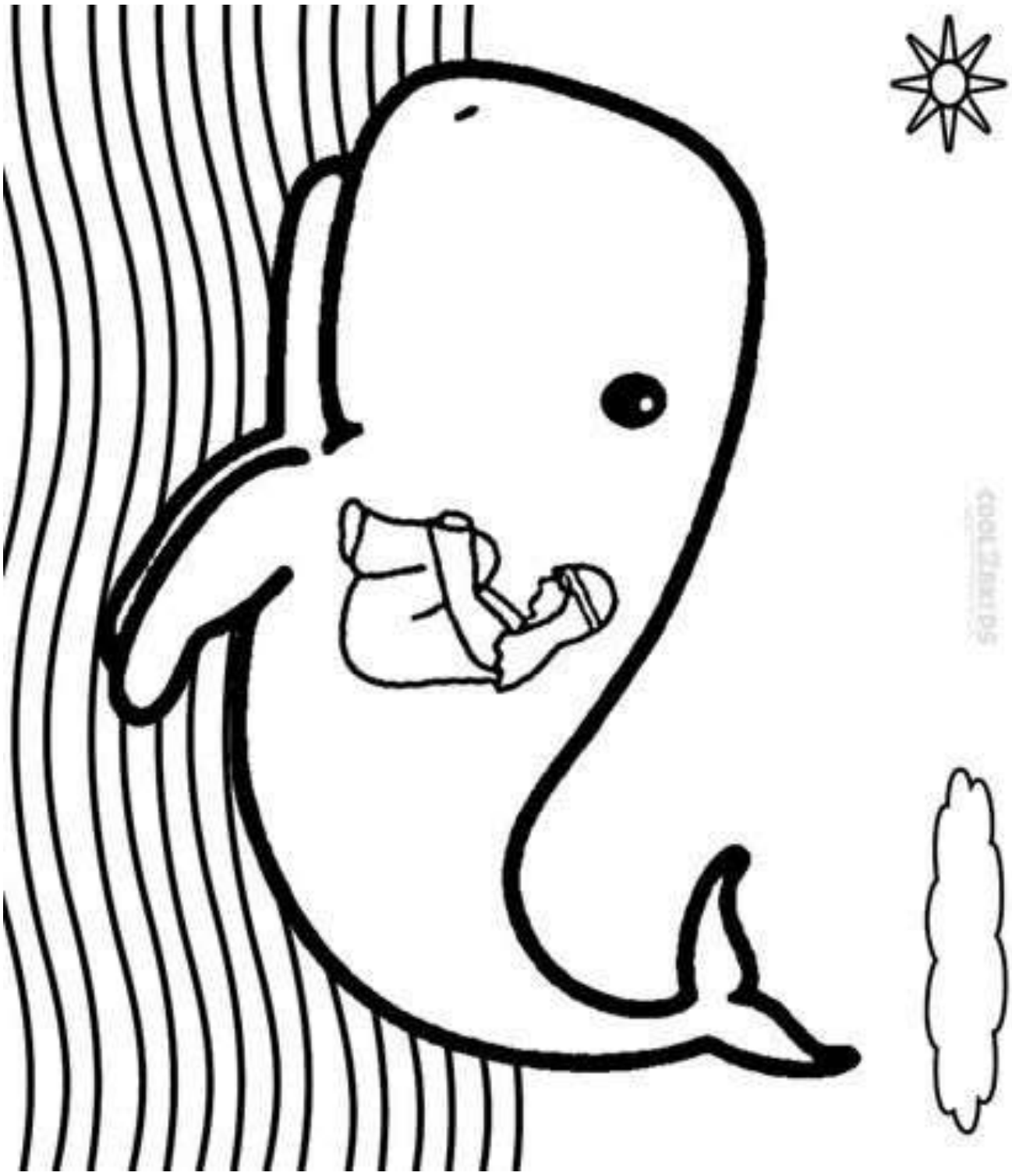
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