

## **The Prophet Who Ran**

Jonah 1-4

"Why would God forgive bad people?" wondered the prophet Jonah.

One day, God told Jonah, "Go to the city of Nineveh and preach my message." God was clear. Jonah knew what to do, but he didn't want to. He found a ship going far away from Nineveh. He got on board and sailed away.

Then, a big storm started. The sailors tried to get to a safe place, but the storm was too strong. Finally, they told everybody to pray. Jonah told them he was running from God. That's why there was a big storm.

"Throw me overboard," said Jonah. "That'll stop the storm."

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They didn't want to, but the storm was too strong. So they threw Jonah into the water. When they did, the storm stopped and the seawas calm again.

God knew all about this and sent a big fish to swallow Jonah!

For three days and three nights, Jonah was inside the fish. He prayed and God heard him. God had the fish spit Jonah out on the land; then Jonah went to Nineveh right away. He preached God's message and the people of Nineveh repented from their evil living and God let them live instead of destroying them.

Jonah learned that God forgives people because He loves and is ready to forgive those who repent, even a disobedient prophet deep down inside a big fish!

What did we discover?