

A Lesson We Learn from Jonah and the Big Fish

(God's Word Translation)

Jonah 1:1-4

"**The LORD** spoke his word to **Jonah**, son of Amittai. He said, {2} "Leave at once for the important city, **Nineveh**. Announce to the people that I can no longer overlook the wicked things they have done."

{3} **Jonah** immediately tried to run away from **the LORD** by going to Tarshish...

He went to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid for the trip and went on board. He wanted to go to Tarshish to get away from **the LORD**." {4} "**The LORD** sent a violent wind over the sea.

The storm was so powerful that the ship was in danger of breaking up."

UH-OH! →



Violent Wind

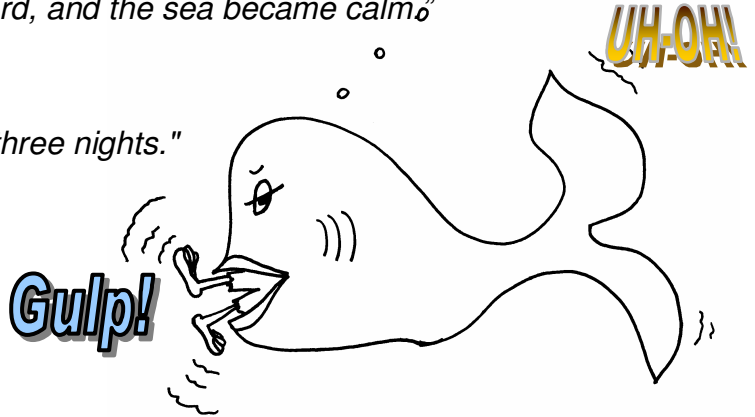
Jonah 1:10-12, 15

"Then the men were terrified. They knew that he was running away from **the LORD**, because he had told them. They asked **Jonah**, "Why have you done this?" {11} The storm was getting worse. So they asked **Jonah**, "What should we do with you to calm the sea?" {12} He told them, "Throw me overboard. Then the sea will become calm. I know that I'm responsible for this violent storm... "Then they took **Jonah** and threw him overboard, and the sea became calm."

Jonah 1:17

"**The LORD** sent a big fish to swallow **Jonah**. **Jonah** was inside **the fish** for three days and three nights."

UH-OH!



Jonah 2:1

"From inside **the fish** **Jonah** prayed to **the LORD** his God." Yeah!

Connection

Jonah 2:10

"Then **the LORD** spoke to the fish, and it spit **Jonah** out onto the shore." Yeah!



Jonah 3:3-5

“**Jonah** immediately went to **Nineveh** as **the LORD** told him. **Nineveh** was a very large city. It took three days to walk through it. {4} **Jonah** entered the city and walked for about a day. Then he said, “In forty days **Nineveh** will be destroyed.” {5} The people of **Nineveh** believed **God**. They decided to fast, and everyone, from the most important to the least important, dressed in sackcloth.”



Yeah!

The King of Ninevah said:



“Every person and animal must put on sackcloth. Cry loudly to **God** for help. Turn from your wicked ways and your acts of violence. {9} ” “Who knows? **God** may reconsider his plans and turn from his burning anger so that we won't die.”

(Jonah 3:8, 9)

Jonah 3:10

“**God** saw what they did. He saw that they turned from their wicked ways. So **God** reconsidered his threat to destroy them, and he didn't do it.”

Yeah!

What did we learn?

God taught **Jonah** a valuable lesson about obedience. **Jonah** learned that as he obeyed **God's** command for him to share **God's Word** with the people of **Ninevah** (even though they were very different than him) **God** would use **Jonah** to change their hearts. When you obey **God's command** to go and share **His Word** with others (even if they are different than you are), you will have the joy of seeing them change their hearts and follow **Jesus**. **Your obedience will please God.**