

Jonah Hears God

Jonah 1:1-16

Jonah,” said God, go to the city of Nineveh. Tell the people how much I love them.

Jonah believed in the true God in Heaven, but Jonah did not go to Nineveh. Nineveh was far away from Jonah’s home, and the people were very bad.

“I will go to the harbor and find a ship going the other direction,” thought Jonah. So he hurried in the opposite way from where God had told him to go. Jonah chose to disobey God.

Jonah paid for a ticket on a ship going to Tarshish. This city was the opposite way from Nineveh. Jonah got on the ship, went down the stairs and curled up to sleep. Jonah was going far from where God had told him to go.

Once the ship was away from the harbor, the wind began to blow. The waves splashed high against the boat. Soon the wind was so strong that the water began to come onto the ship. All this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the ship.

“We will have to throw some of the cargo overboard,” called the sailors, “or the ship will sink.”

The sailors threw the boxes overboard. The ship was still in danger of sinking.

“Wake up! Wake up! The captain shouted to Jonah. “Help us save the ship and keep from drowning!”

Jonah knew that God had caused this storm because of his disobedience.

“This storm is my fault,” Jonah told the sailors. “I am running away from what God wants me to do. Throw me into the sea, and the storm will stop.”

The sailors did not want to throw Jonah into the stormy water. They rowed even harder to bring the ship to land. It was no use; the storm was too strong.

Finally, the sailors took Jonah and threw him over the side of the ship. Splash! Jonah went into the water. Immediately the wind stopped blowing, and the water was calm. The storm was over.

The sailors knew that the God of Heaven was controlling the storm. Jonah knew that the God of Heaven wanted him to obey. Next week we will find out what happened to Jonah. I wonder if he will learn to obey God!

Bible Verse to Learn

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22).

A little about our verse we would like you to know. Jonah heard God tell him to go to Nineveh. Jonah chose to disobey God and went the opposite direction. The Bible says, “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.” When we do what we hear God’s Word say, we are obeying. God wants us to obey His Word.