

Jonah Learns to Obey

Jonah 1:17-2:10

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people there about God's love. But Jonah disobeyed God. Instead of going to Nineveh, he got on a ship going the opposite way. God sent a terrible storm. Does anyone remember how the storm stopped?

After the sailors awoke Jonah from his sleep, he told them to throw him into the water. Jonah knew God had sent the terrible storm because he had disobeyed.

Splash! Jonah landed in the cold, stormy water. The wind stopped blowing, and the water was calm.

God had plans for Jonah. He was not going to let Jonah drown in the sea. God sent a special fish to SWALLOW Jonah. Gulp! Jonah was down inside the dark stomach of the fish.

Jonah was tossed around inside the fish as the fish swam up and down in the water. When the big fish ate seaweed and swallowed it, the seaweed wrapped around Jonah's head. What an awful place to be! Jonah was very uncomfortable inside that big fish.

"Oh, God," prayed Jonah, "only You can save me. I will do what You want me to do."

Even though Jonah was in that dark place, God could see him. God knew that Jonah was ready to listen and obey.

After three days, God caused the big fish to swim near the land. And then God caused the fish to spit Jonah right out on dry ground. Jonah had learned to obey. He would do whatever God wanted him to do.

Could Jonah hide from God? He tried to hide in the ship, but God knew where Jonah was. The Bible says, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place." Could God see Jonah in the dark stomach of the big fish? He certainly could! "The eyes of the LORD are in every place."

Bible Verse to Learn

"The eyes of the LORD are in everyplace, beholding the evil and the good." (Proverbs 15:3).