

Extension Activity 13

Jonah and the whale

FOCUS

1. God is forgiving and merciful.
2. We turn to God for help in difficulties.

During lesson time your child:

- *listened to and reflected upon the story of Jonah and the whale;*
- *learned that if we turn to God in our difficulties, he will help us.*

A long time ago, in a place far away, lived a man named Jonah. One day, God asked Jonah to go and do a special job for him. Although Jonah believed in God and loved him he didn't want to do what God asked. Jonah decided to run away and hide from God. He jumped on a ship that was going in a different direction to the city that God wanted him to go to.

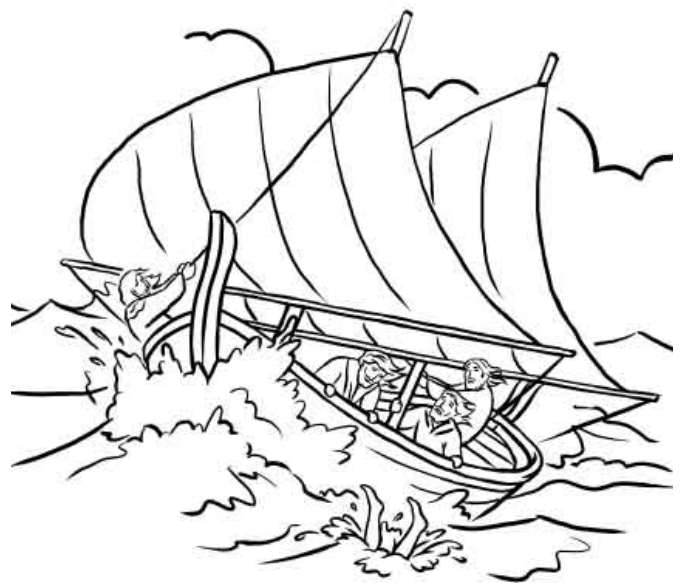
To get Jonah's attention, God sent a very wild storm to throw the ship around in the water. The wind was strong and the waves were big. Jonah thought that God made the storm because he was angry with him and so he said to the people on the ship "If you pick me up and throw me into the sea the storm might stop because I am the reason why God has done this." So they picked him up and threw him into the sea and God stopped the storm.

Jonah couldn't really swim so God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah so that he would not drown. Jonah stayed in the belly of the big fish for three days and three nights. While he was in the belly of the big fish Jonah prayed to God for help and then the big fish spat Jonah out onto a beach. Jonah was very grateful to God for saving his life and said "I am so sorry for running away from you. I know you love me very much and you saved me from drowning. I will do what you asked of me." God was happy with Jonah.

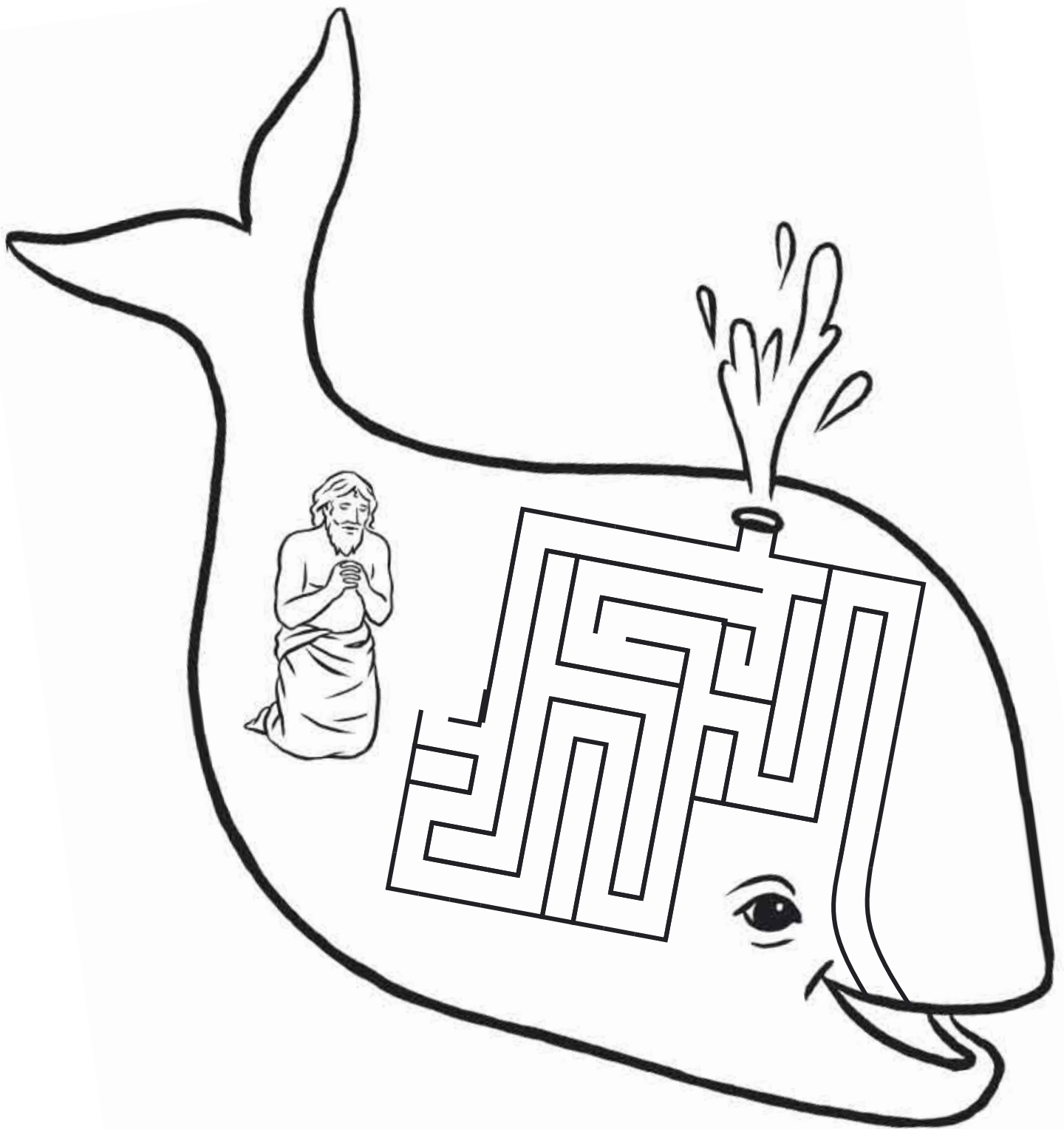
SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

These are some suggested activities to do at home with your child.

1. Read and discuss the Bible story about Jonah and the whale with your child.
2. Talk to your child about why we should always try to do what God wants from us.
3. Help your child with the puzzle on the next page.



Help Jonah find his way out of the whale



To Remember:

God helped Jonah to do the right thing.