

## The Man Who Was Swallowed by a Fish

Jonah 1-4

God told a man named Jonah to go to the wicked city of Ninevah to preach to the people there. Jonah didn't want to go to Ninevah. He got on a ship and headed in another direction.

On the ship, Jonah went to sleep. Suddenly there was a storm. The men on the ship woke Jonah up and told him to pray. Everyone on the ship was afraid they would die from the storm. They were sure that the storm was caused by some bad thing that someone on the ship had done. They cast lots to see who caused the storm. The lot fell on Jonah.

Jonah explained that God told him to go to Ninevah, but he was running in another direction. He told them the only way to save the ship from the storm was to throw him overboard. They tried to keep the boat upright, but they couldn't. Finally, they threw Jonah into the sea. Immediately the storm stopped.

God prepared a whale to swallow Jonah. Jonah sat inside the big whale for three days. Then Jonah prayed. When he prayed, God caused the whale to spit Jonah out on dry ground.

Again, God told Jonah to go to Ninevah. This time Jonah went where God told him to go. Jonah walked across Ninevah saying, "Forty days and Ninevah will be destroyed."

When the people of Ninevah heard Jonah say their city would be destroyed, they repented. The king made a decree that no one should eat or drink anything. He said they should not even give their animals food or water. He commanded they should wear sackcloth and spend all their time praying for God to have mercy on them. Even the king dressed in sackcloth and sat in ashes.

God heard their prayers. Because the people of Ninevah stopped sinning and asked God for mercy, He spared the city.

Just as God forgave the people of Ninevah, God will forgive us. If we ask God for mercy and forgiveness, and turn away from our sins, God will forgive us too. The

people of Ninevah got a second chance, and Jonah got a second chance because of God's mercy. God is also merciful to us.

Search: When the people of Ninevah heard Jonah's message, they began to pray. They didn't even take time to eat or drink, or feed their animals. In the picture find Jonah, a crown, a pitcher, glass, bowl, cow, horse, boat, and two hands.



