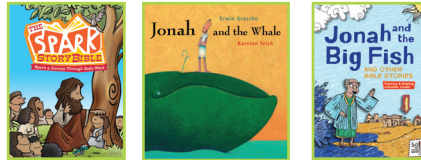


Summer Bible Story Activities

Jonah

Where to find the story of Jonah

- Jonah 1-4
- *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition* pages 180-183
- *Jonah and the Whale*
- *Jonah and the Big Fish and Other Bible Stories*



This week's activities

- Craft activities
 - Straw Paintings
 - Kids make straw paintings to remind them that we can't hide from God
 - Fish House Paintings
 - Kids make finger paintings to remind them that God always knows where we are
- Cooking activity
 - Fudge Fish
 - Kids learn that everyone can help God
- Activity pages
 - Good Luck Hiding!
 - God's Fishy Directions
 - Creature Code
- Coloring pages
 - Let kids color their way through the story of Jonah and the Big Fish

Making faith connections

Here are a few suggestions for ways you can enrich your child's engagement and learning with the story of Jonah.

- Family conversations
 - What do you think it would be like to travel inside a big fish?
 - What difficult things have you been asked to do?
 - How does God help us do difficult things?
- Cut out a big fish from construction paper along with a collection of white construction paper bubbles. Write this question on the fish: If you ended up in the belly of the Big Fish with time to think...what would you like to ask God? Family members can answer this question by writing their responses on a bubble. Tape the bubbles near the fish and add to the collection.
- Play a game of Go Fish together and remember Jonah.

A Prayer to Say Together

Dear God, thank you for sticking with us even though we misunderstand, mistrust, and resist your directions. Please help us to be more obedient and accepting of your generosity—even towards those we might not like. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Find more great stuff at sparkhouse.org



Jonah and the Big Fish Craft Activity

Straw Paintings

Kids make straw paintings to remind them: "We can't hide from God."

Supplies:

- Newspaper
- Shallow containers
- Water
- White paper
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Drinking straws, one per kid
- Scissors
- Colorful mounting paper
- White posterboard (optional)

Set-up:

Cover your table with newspaper. Pour water into shallow containers. At about 1" (3 cm) from the end of each straw, cut a small slit so that kids will be able to blow (and not suck up) paint with the straw.

Instructions:

In this week's story, Jonah didn't want to listen to God. To get out of listening, Jonah tried to hide from God on a boat. Even when the wind blew and the waves crashed, God knew where Jonah was hiding. God found Jonah, and Jonah learned an important lesson. Jonah learned that he couldn't hide from God. We can't hide from God, either!

1. Show kids the straws and explain the painting and blowing process to them.
2. **First, wet your brush and blob some paint onto the paper. Don't make it look like anything—just a blob.**
3. **Now get close to the paper and blow, blow, blow through the straw! Can you make the paint move around the paper by blowing on it?**
4. Encourage kids to blow designs on their paper as if they were the wind blowing the boat where Jonah tried to hide.
5. Set aside to dry (these paintings should dry quickly).
6. Frame or mount the paintings on colorful paper and display.

Your paintings are wonderful! I love the way you blew and blew and blew to make the designs. Just like Jonah, we can't hide from God.

If you have less time . . .

Let kids use paintbrushes to paint swirls with the paint on their paper, as if they are painting the wind. Encourage kids to use different colors to add detail to their paintings.

If you have more time . . .

Give each child a piece of white posterboard to create the story of Jonah and the Big Fish. Direct kids to draw the story with pencil, then use paints to complete it.

Jonah and the Big Fish Craft Activity

Fish House Paintings

Kids make finger paintings to remind them that God always knows where we are.

Supplies:

- Newspaper
- Finger paint paper
- Liquid dish soap
- Paint shirts or aprons
- Assorted colors of blue finger paint
- Small bowls or containers
- Marker
- Soapy water
- Towels
- Scissors (optional)
- Boat and fish shapes, cut from paper, one per kid (optional)
- Blue crayons (optional)
- Glue sticks (optional)
- Construction paper (optional)

Set-up:

Cover your table with newspaper. Set finger paint paper at sitting spots around the table. Mix finger paints with a squirt of liquid soap (for easier cleanup).

Instructions:

In the Bible story of Jonah and the Big Fish, there sure was a lot of water. And in that water was a great big fish. Jonah may have been scared when he was caught in that fish, but he learned an important lesson. Jonah learned that no matter where he went, God always knew where he was. God always knows where we are, too! What color is water? (*blue*) That's right! When we look at water, it looks blue! And blue is a very important color in our art project today. We're going to use blue paint to create artwork with our fingers!

1. Help kids put on paint shirts or aprons.
2. Pour a little blue paint into the center of a piece of paper for each kid. Show kids how to mix, swirl, and rub over the paint and paper to make waves.
3. When kids are satisfied with their designs, help them wash their hands in the soapy water.
4. Let the paintings dry, then write on the paper with a marker: "God always knows where we are."

Finger painting is kind of messy, but it sure is fun! I hope our fun, messy paintings will help you remember that God always knows where we are.

If you have less time . . .

Cut fish and a boat shapes from paper. Invite kids to use crayons to color blue waves on sheets of paper, then help them glue a paper boat and fish on their waves.

If you have more time . . .

Once kids are finished finger painting, invite them to cut or tear fish and boat shapes from sheets of construction paper. Encourage them to complete their artwork by gluing these shapes onto their painted waves.

Jonah and the Big Fish Cooking Activity

Scripture Reference: Jonah 1–4 or pages 180-183 in *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition*.

Activity Focus: Everyone can help God!

Read the story of Jonah together.

What did God want Jonah to do? (go to Nineveh) What did Jonah do instead? (get on a boat) What happened when Jonah was thrown off the boat? (a big fish swallowed him) Did Jonah finally help God? (yes) Do you think it was hot or cold inside the fish? Allow kids to respond.

God wanted Jonah's help. Jonah didn't think he could help God. God taught Jonah that everyone can help God! Can you help God? (Yes! Everyone can help God.) Let's make some fudge to help us remember this story.

Fudge Fish

Supplies

- Large bowl
- Spoon
- Measuring cups
- Wax paper
- Small paper plates
- Plastic wrap
- Wet wipes (optional)

Set Up: Bring water to a boil, melt margarine.

Ingredients (serves 16)

- Instant pudding mix (3.9 oz [110 g] box)
- Water (1/3 cup [79 ml])
- Margarine (1/3 cup [79 ml])
- Powdered sugar (3 cups [710 ml])
- Candy sprinkles (assorted)

Activity Instructions

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh but Jonah didn't listen. It took Jonah a long time and a big adventure to realize that everyone can help God! Let's make some fudge to help us tell Jonah's story. Remind kids to wash their

hands.

1. **God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Trudge, trudge, trudge. Which way did Jonah go?** (*away from Nineveh, toward the sea*) **Let's start with some pudding mix to represent the sand Jonah was walking through.** Have kids put the pudding mix in a bowl.
2. **Finally, Jonah got onto a boat and fell asleep. Where did the boat take him?** (*out to sea*) **Let's add some water for the sea.** Add the boiling water.
3. **What was happening when Jonah woke up?** (*There was a big storm.*) Add the melted butter to the bowl. **Mix the fudge around and around just like a swirling storm!** Help the kids mix the fudge thoroughly.
4. **What did Jonah tell the sailors to do?** (*throw him overboard*) **While he was in the sea, a big fish swallowed Jonah! How many days was Jonah inside of the fish?** (*three*) **Let's add the sugar, one part at a time, for each day Jonah spent inside the fish.** Add the sugar a third at a time, mixing thoroughly each time.
5. **After three days, what did the fish do with Jonah?** (*spit him on shore*) Drop the ball of fudge onto a sheet of wax paper. **Now what did Jonah do?** (*He went to Nineveh.*)
6. **Jonah finally realized, everyone can help God, even Jonah.** Give each kid a golf-ball sized piece of fudge on a small paper plate.
7. **You can help God, too. Pretend you are telling someone the Jonah story. Use your fudge to make something from the story. How about Jonah, or a boat, or a big fish! What is your favorite part of the story?** Encourage kids to be creative with their fudge.
8. **What are some other ways you can help God?** Allow kids to use the sprinkles to decorate a piece of fudge.

Prayer Time

Dear God,
Thank you for letting everyone help.
Jonah can help, my friend can help, and I can help.
Everyone can help God!
Amen.

Jonah and the Big Fish



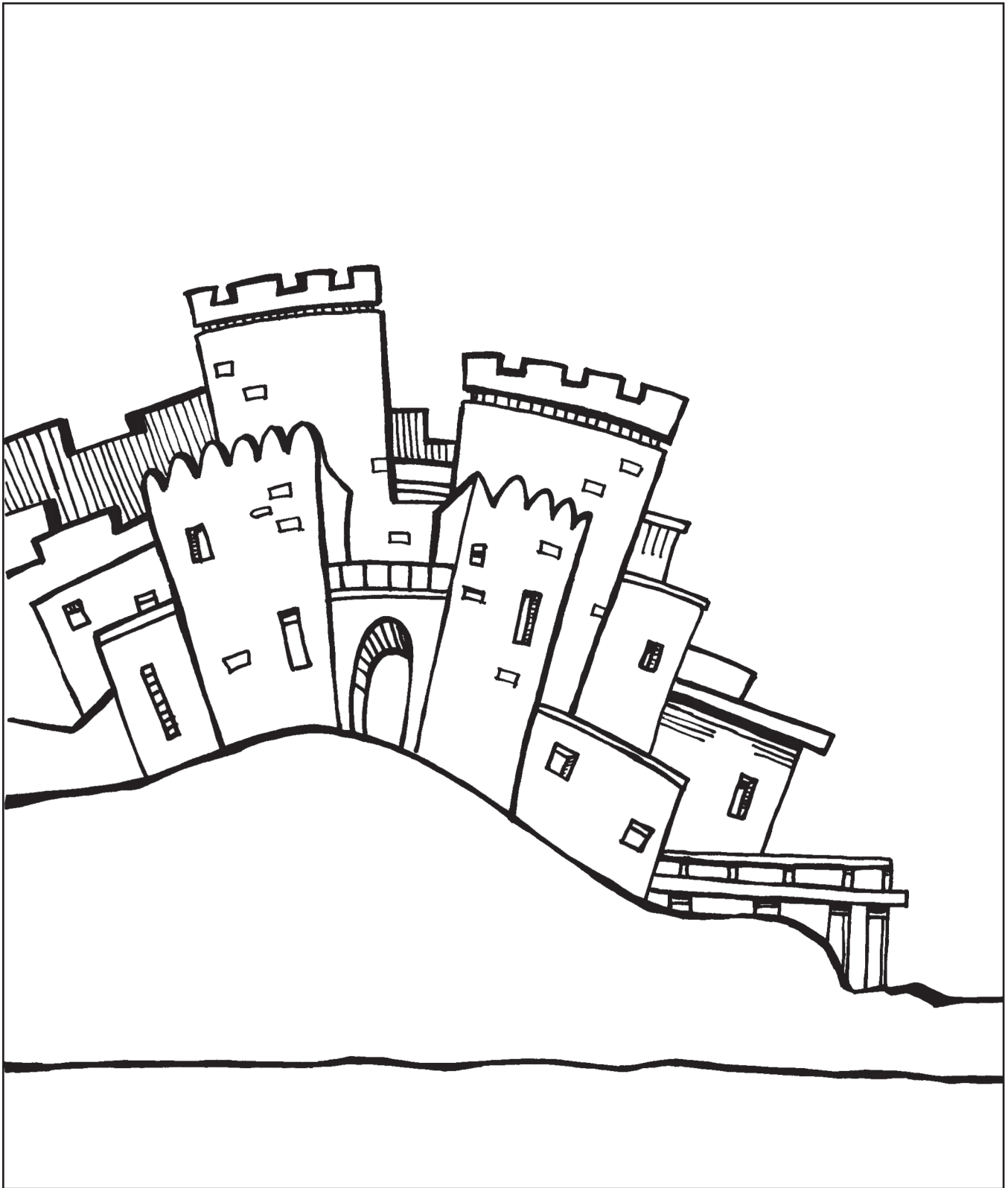
Look out, Jonah! Here comes a BIG fish! Gulp, gulp, gulp.

Jonah and the Big Fish



“Hmmm,” Jonah thought, “I don’t really want to go to Nineveh.”

Jonah and the Big Fish



God said, “Jonah, I want you to go to Nineveh.”

Jonah and the Big Fish



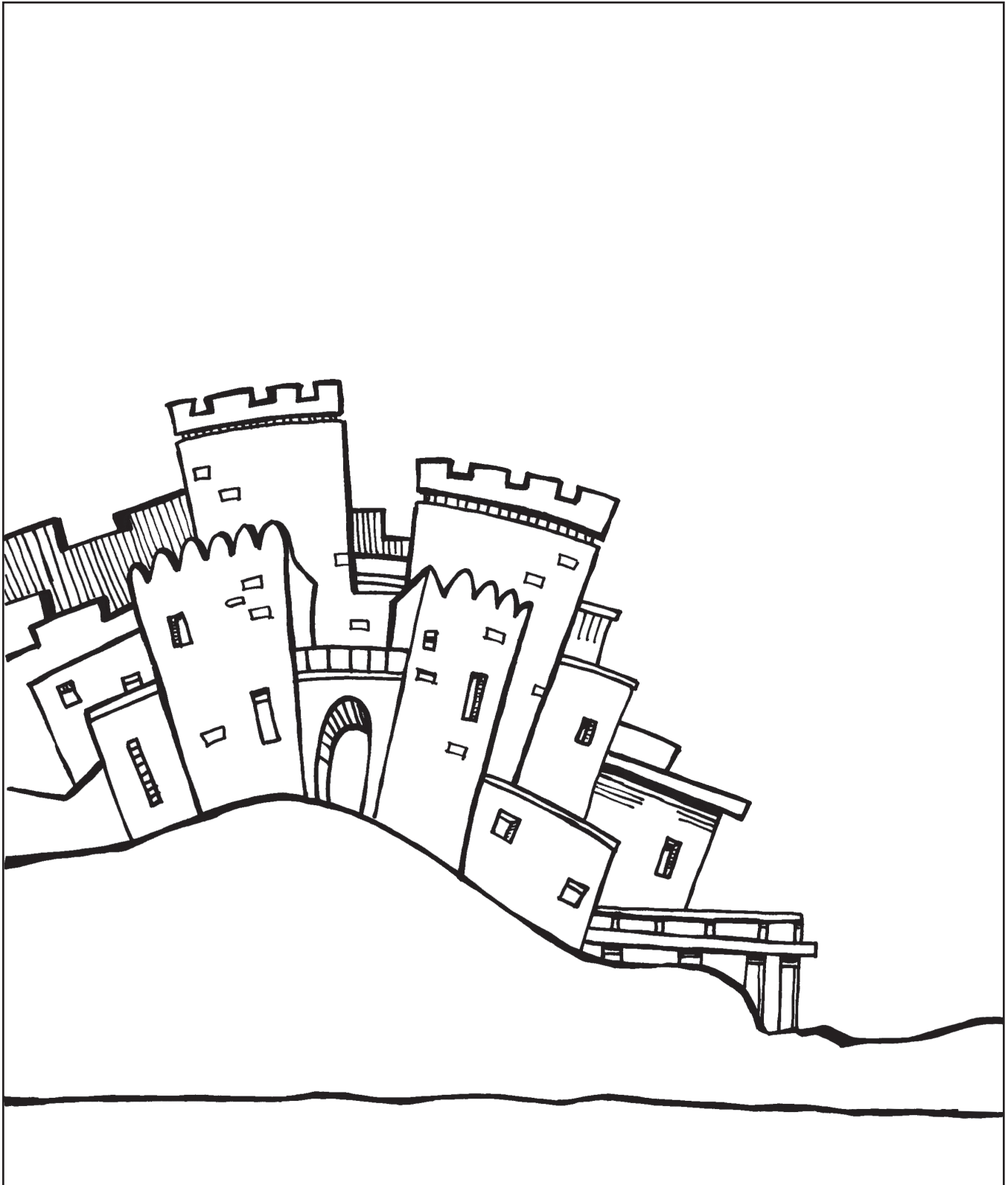
The fish swallowed Jonah.

Jonah and the Big Fish



When Jonah got to the sea, he paid to get onto a boat to take him even farther away.

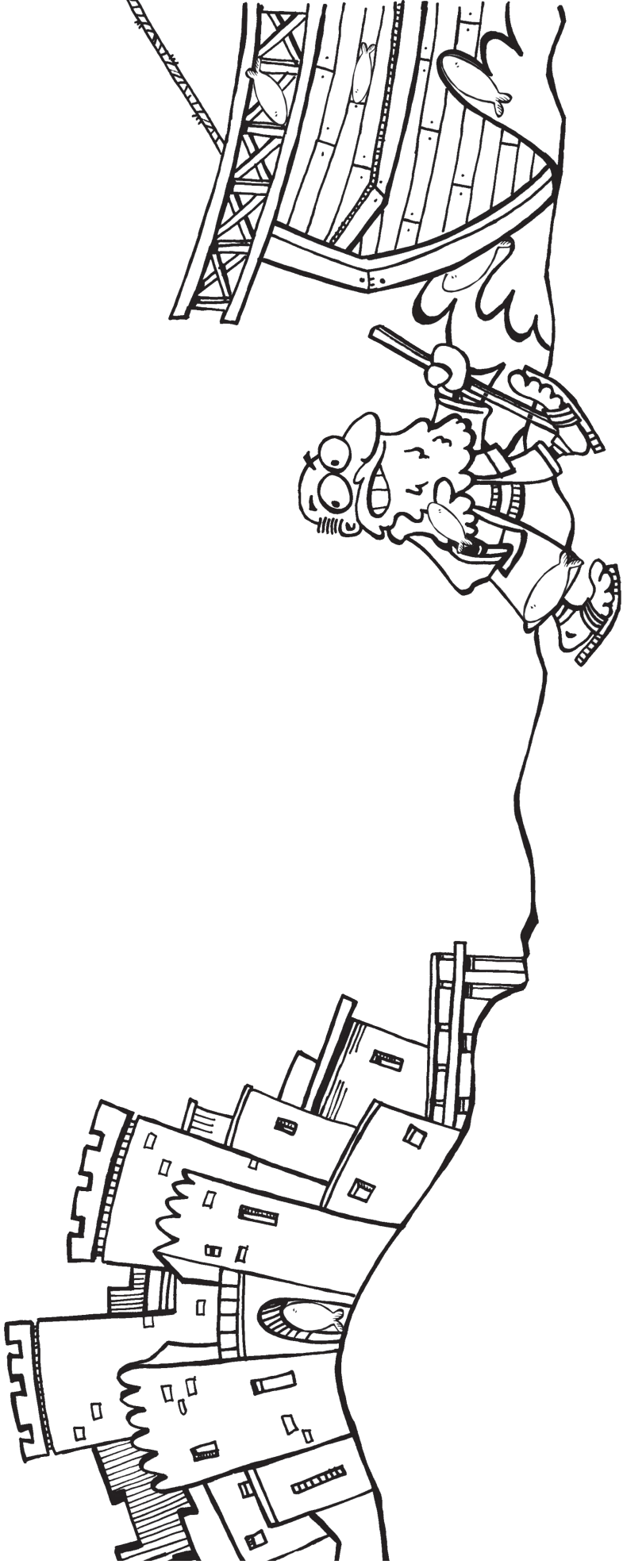
Jonah and the Big Fish



Jonah told the people of Nineveh what God had said,
and they believed him.

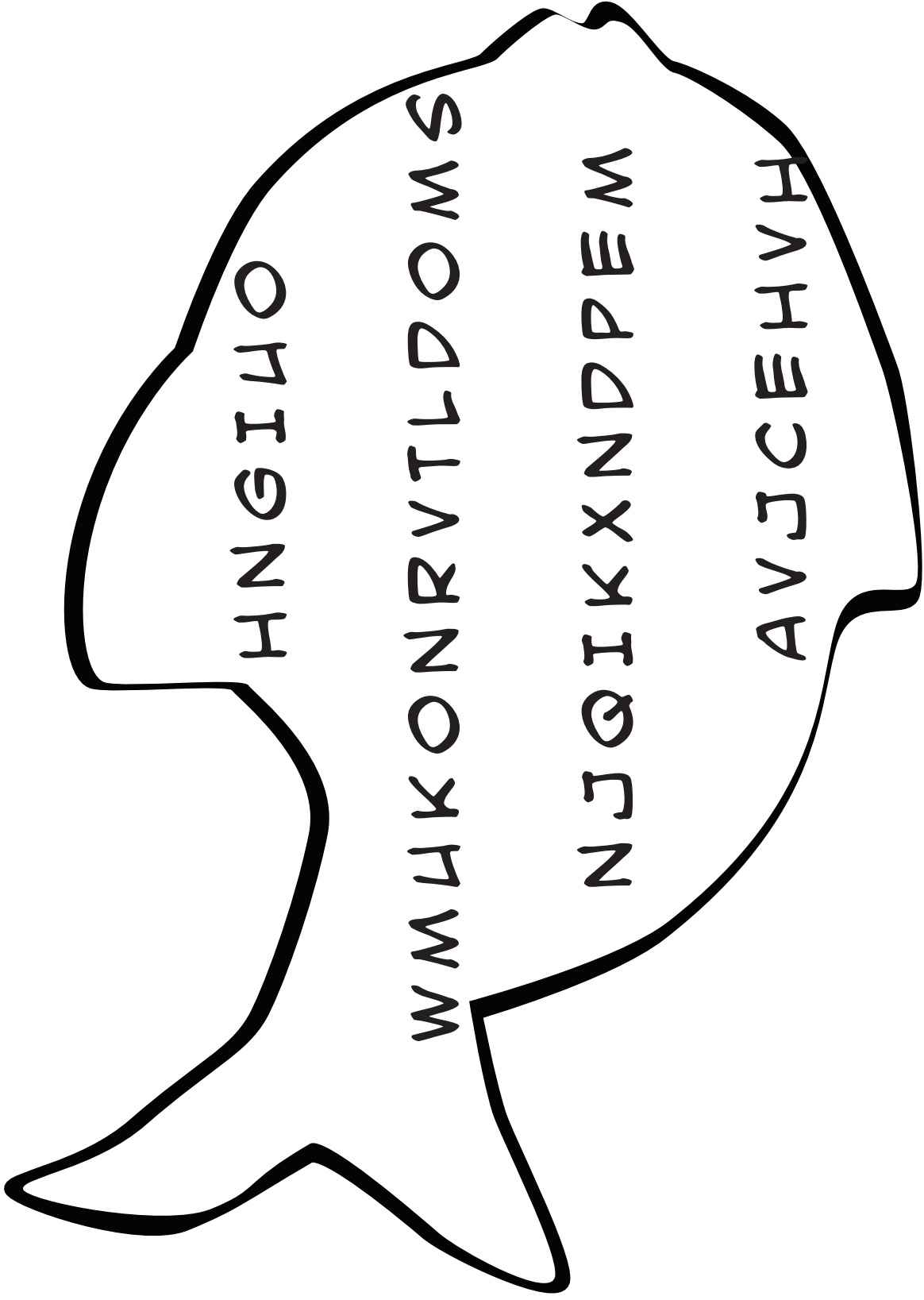
Good Luck Hiding!

Jonah couldn't hide from God. Can you find the seven fish that are trying to hide in this picture?
Circle each fish when you find it.



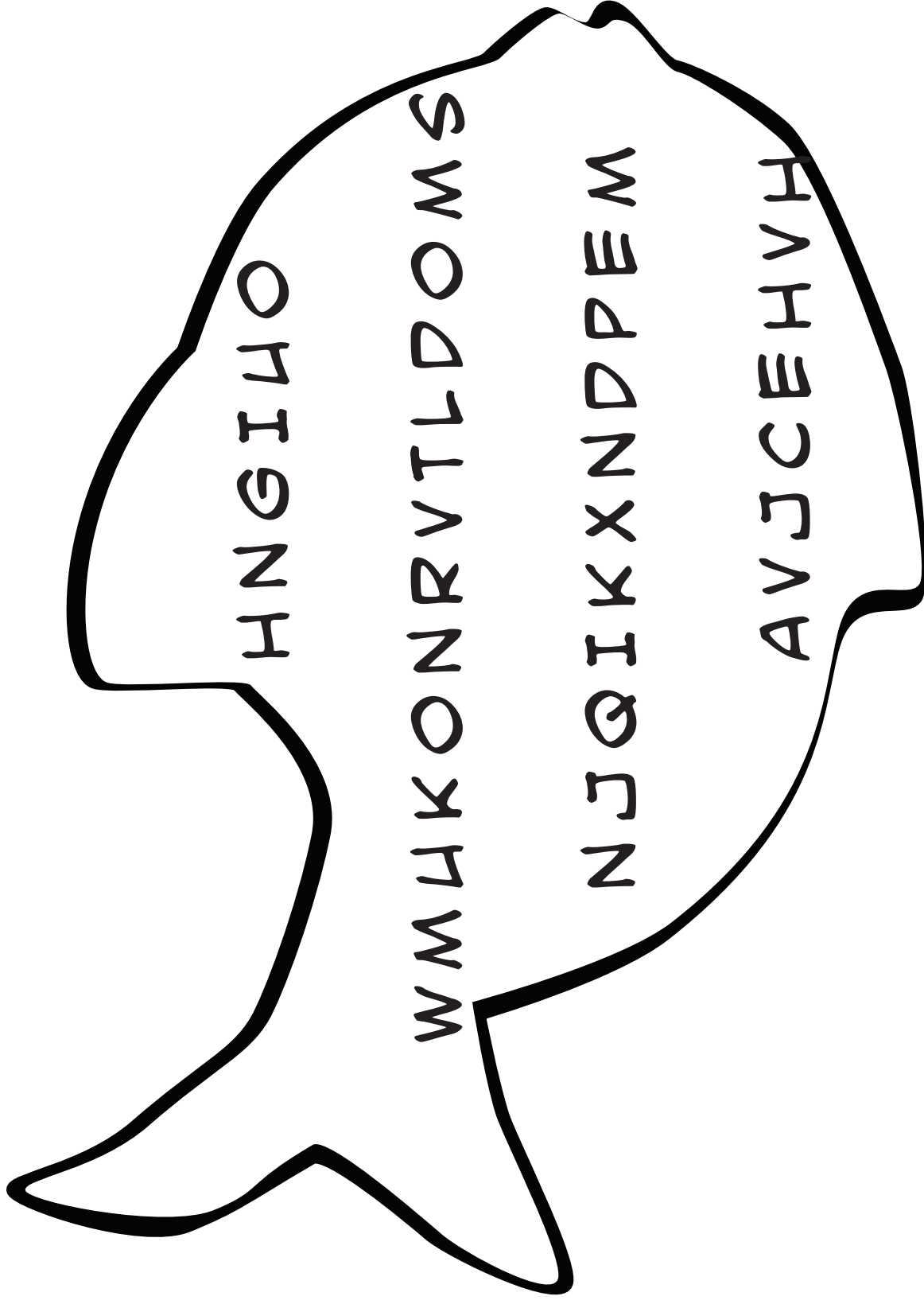
God's Fishy Directions

Starting with the first letter, count every three letters to reveal a key phrase from today's story!



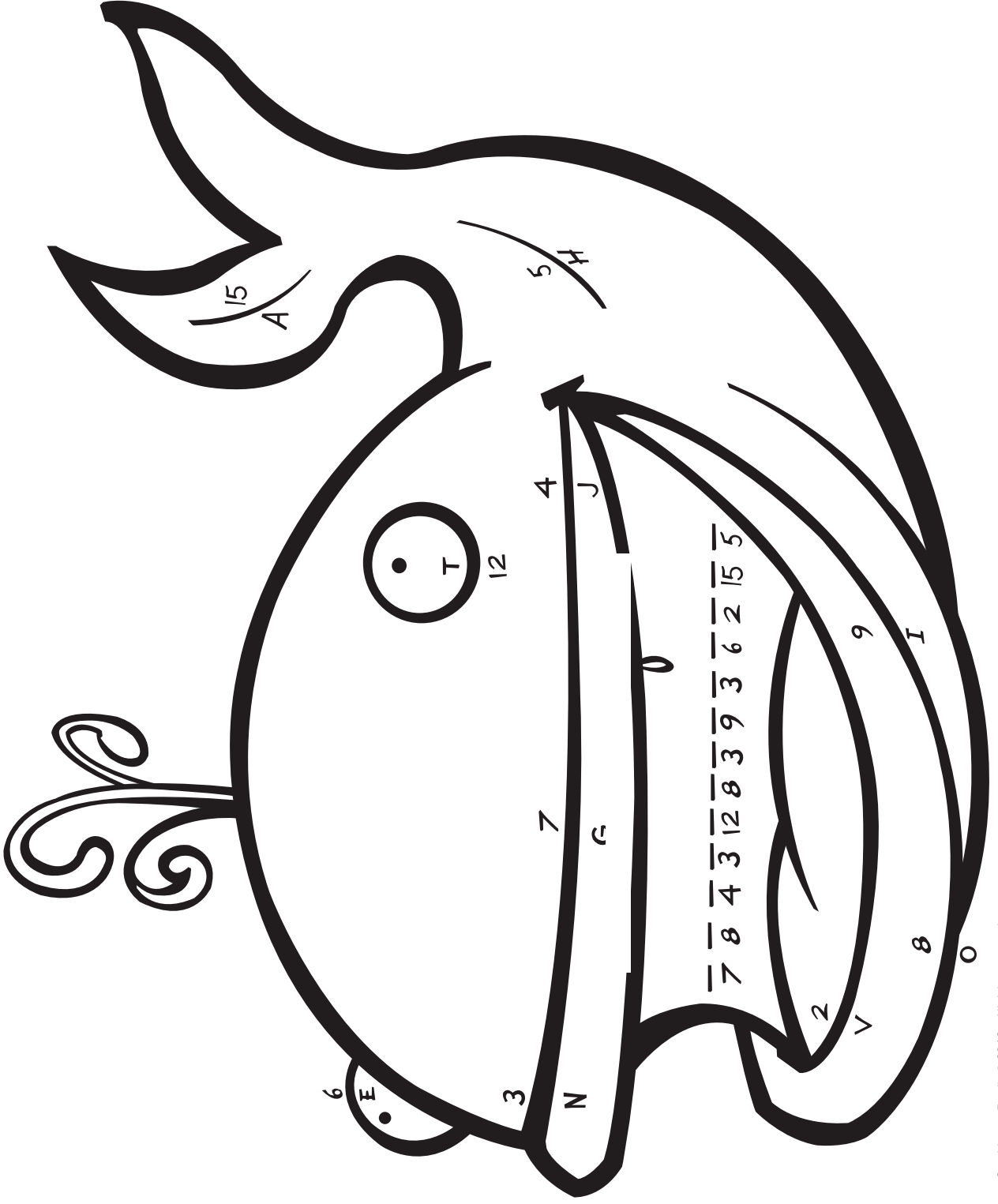
God's Fishy Directions Solution

Starting with the first letter, count every three letters to reveal a key phrase from today's story!



Creature Code

God has a message for Jonah, but it got scrambled in the fish! The Key to this code is scattered throughout the body of the big fish. Collect the letters first. Then fill in God's message!



Creature Code Solution

God has a message for Jonah, but it got scrambled in the fish! The Key to this code is scattered throughout the body of the big fish. Collect the letters first. Then fill in God's message!

