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MAHDERE-SEBEHAT LEDETA LEMARIAM  
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX  
TEWAHEDO CHURCH



**Lessons are prepared by Ledeta LeMariam  
Sunday School  
Alexandria, Virginia**

In the name of the  
Father, and the Son, and  
the Holy Spirit, one God.  
Amen.



Begin with the Lord's prayer

Our Lord and Savior, our King and God, we thank you for gathering us here to stand before you to call on your Holy Name.

Heavenly Father, teach us to trust You in everything we do.

Our God open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds that we may hear Your Word and tell our friends about your glory and honor.

Bless all the children and keep them safe. Hear us when we humbly and thankfully pray to you.

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

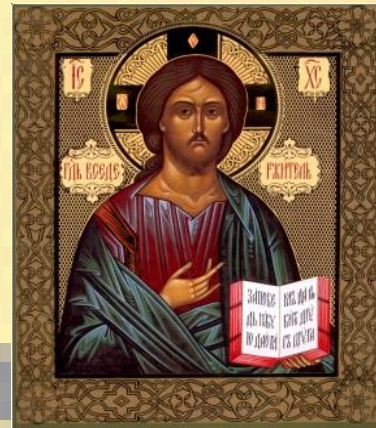
As we forgive those who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from the evil one

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the

Glory. Forever, Amen.



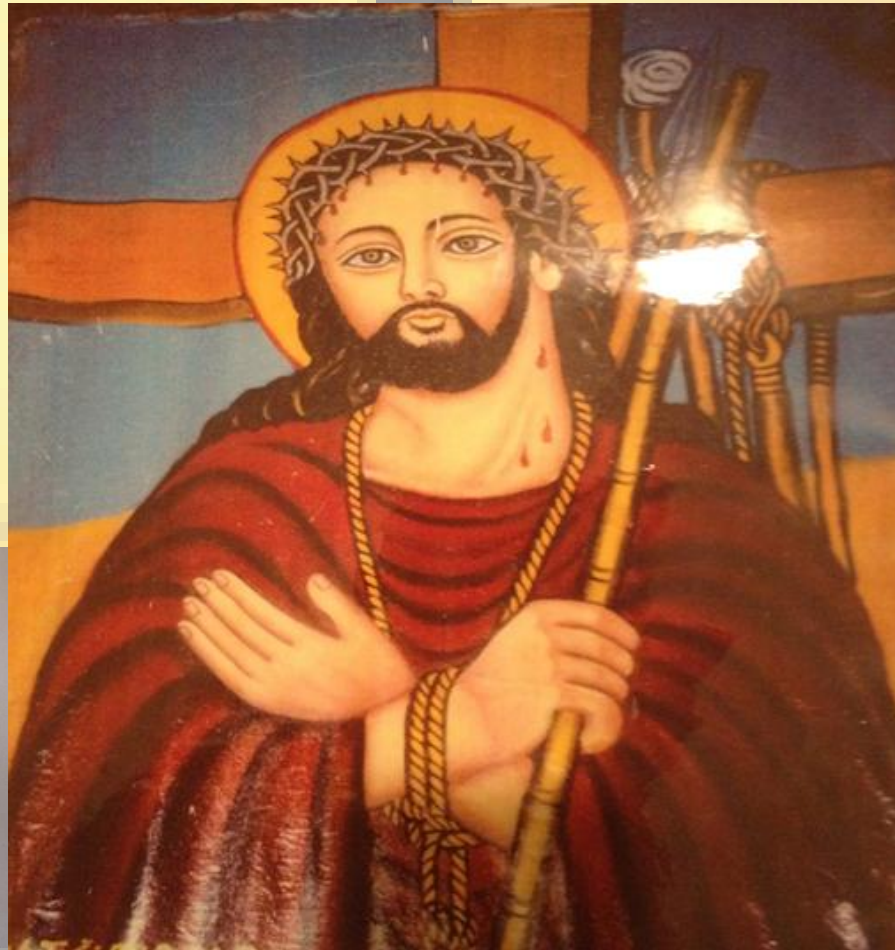
O our Lady, as St. Gabriel greeted you, “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.” True Virgin in conscience as well as body, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Holy Mary, the God-bearer, pray that your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, may forgive us our sins. Amen.



**Say The Jesus Prayer 3 times**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
have mercy on me, a sinner.**



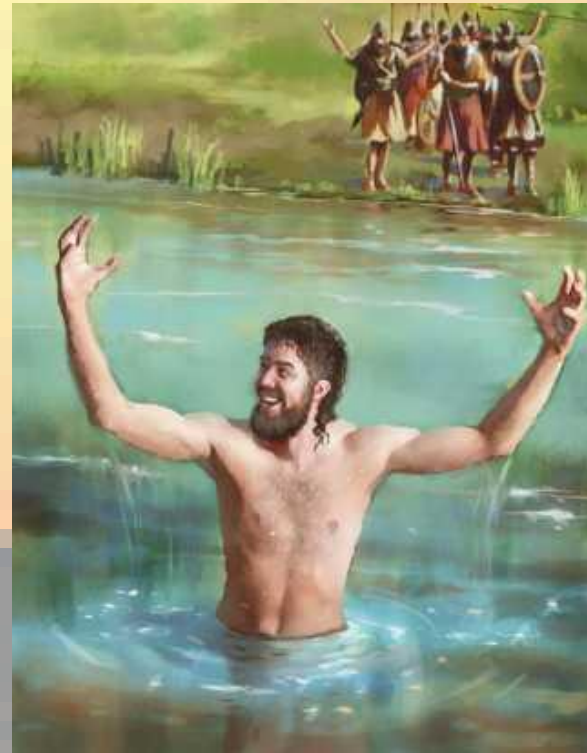
# MEMORY VERSE

**Can anyone tell me  
last week's  
memory verse???**

# **Recite Last week's memory verse**

**“Now I know that there is no God in all the  
earth, except in Israel.”**

**(2 Kings 5:15)**







# Review

1. Why was Naaman's home a place of sorrow?
  - a) He and his family were very poor.
  - b) Naaman was slowly dying of leprosy, a sickness for which there was no cure.
  
2. Who told Naaman's wife about the prophet who lived in Israel?
  - a) One of their servant girls.
  - b) The King of Syria.
  
3. Naaman traveled to Israel because he hoped that the God of Israel could cure him of leprosy.
  - a) True.
  - b) False.




# Review

4. Why was the ruler of Israel afraid when he read the letter Naaman brought from the King of Syria?
  - a) Someone was planning to kill the King of Israel.
  - b) The Syrian king was asking King Jehoram to cure Naaman of his leprosy.
  
5. Who asked the king to send Naaman to him so that the Syrians would know there was a true and living God?
  - a) Joseph.
  - b) Elisha.
  
6. The prophet's servant told Naaman that he would be cured of his leprosy if he washed seven times in the Jordan River.
  - a) True.
  - b) False.

# Review

7. Naaman knew in his heart that if he was going to be helped by God, he must be willing to believe and obey.
  - a) True.
  - b) False.
  
8. Naaman did not follow the instructions which Elisha had given him.
  - a) True.
  - b) False.
  
9. What happened when Naaman came up out of the water for the seventh time?
  - a) He still had his leprosy.
  - b) He was healed from his leprosy.
  
10. Naaman's faith and obedience is a guide to our own salvation.
  - a) True.
  - b) False.

# Class Covenant

I will keep my  on my teacher,  
my  in control,  
my s on God's Word;  
knowing God is my goal.

# **Jonah and the big fish**



**November 17, 2013**



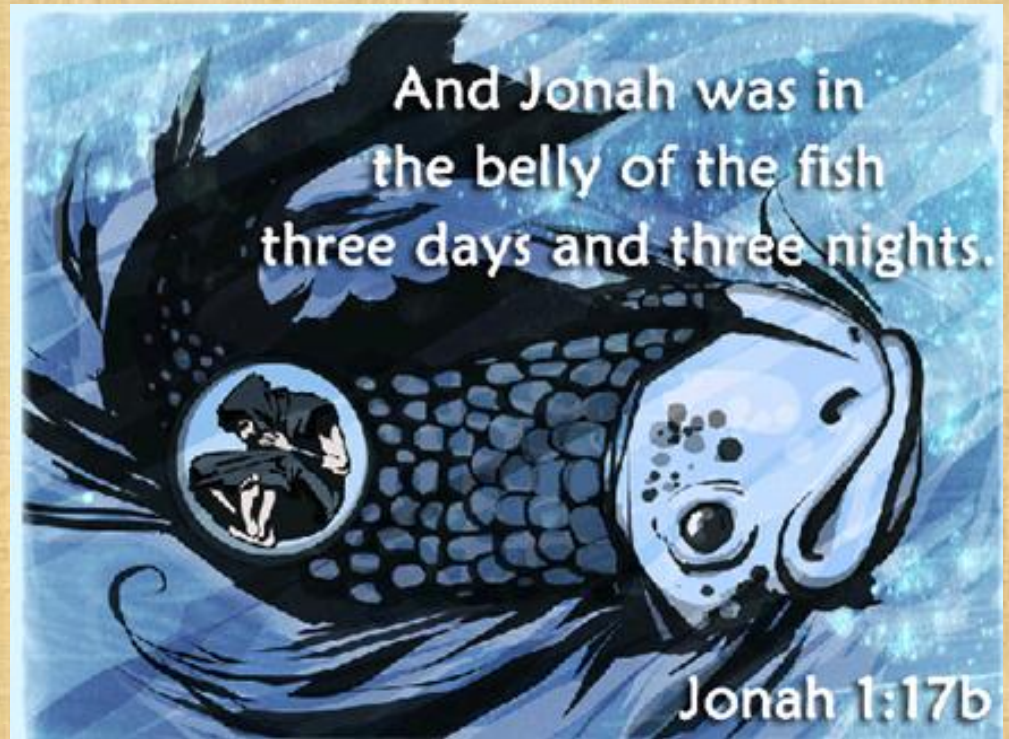
## Memorize today's Verse

**“Jonah was in the belly of the fish  
three days and three nights.”**

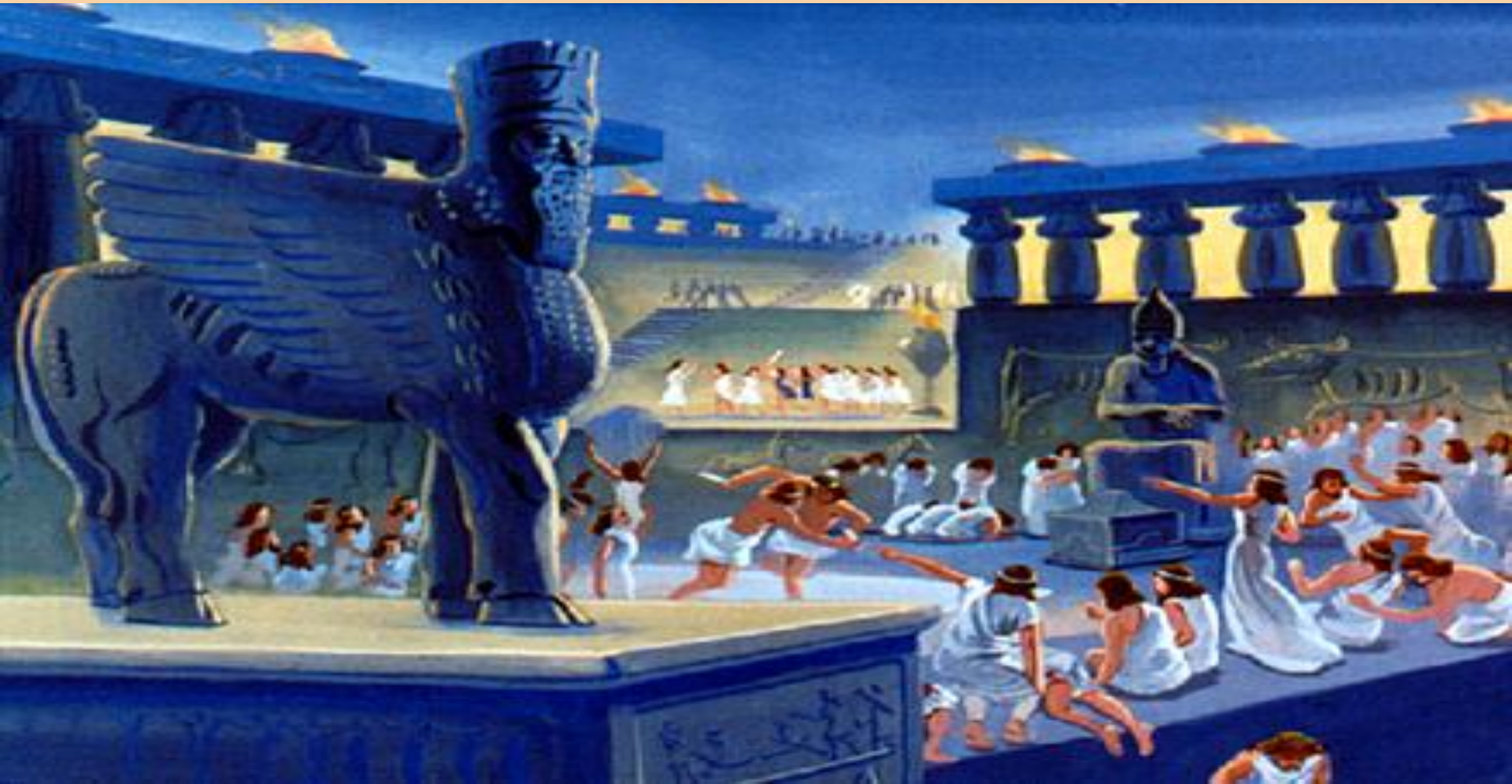
**(Jonah 1:17)**



**Practice this verse  
again during the  
week.**



**One day God told Jonah: “Go to the people of Nineveh and tell them to stop being bad or otherwise I will punish them for I have seen how evil they are.**



**But Jonah did not want to do what God told him so he tried to run away from God. He was running as fast as he can to flee from the Lord.**





**He found a ship that was going far away in the opposite direction to Nineveh. He went on the ship with others sailors in the middle of the sea.**



**But God sent a strong wind over the sea and the wind was blowing hard. The ship started to swing hard in the middle of the sea.**



**The sailor and the Captain were scared and afraid they will drown. They started to pray to their gods but the wind continued.**



**Christ and His disciples** had a very similar experience on a boat in a storm.  
(see the Gospel of Matthew 8: 24-26)



**Then, they started wondering why the sea is upset and why the winds are blowing strong. It must be that someone on the ship had done something wrong and God is upset with him.**



**Whom do you think did something wrong on this ship?**

**Yes it is Jonah; he did not obey what God told him to do and he was running away from God.**

**But Jonah was sleeping deep in the ship and did not care.**



**The captain of the ship woke Jonah up and asked him: Why don't you wake up and pray to your God?**





**Then Jonah said, “God will not listen to me. It is all my fault. I did not obey His orders, and I tried to get away from Him. That is why He sent this storm.**



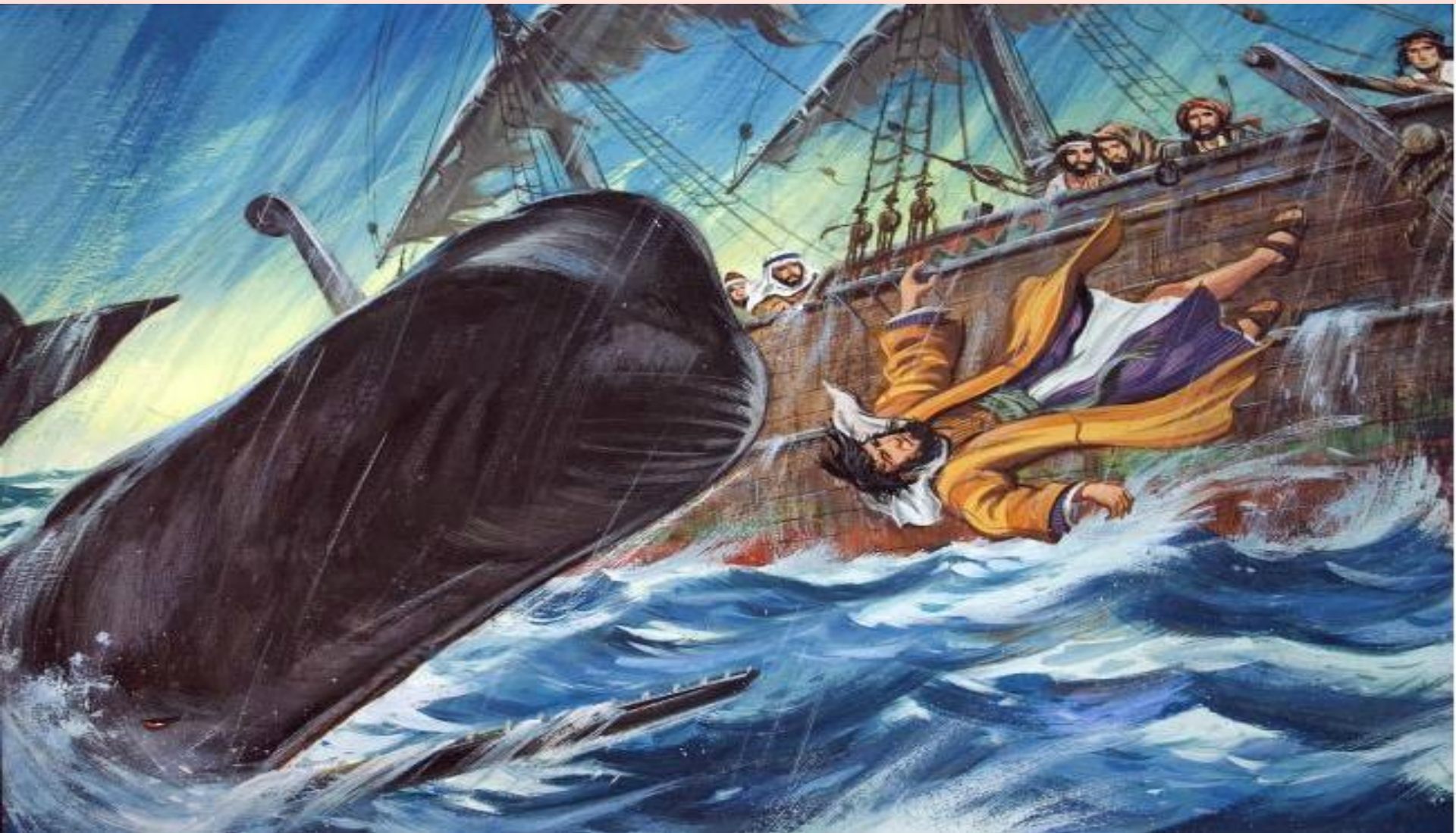
**He also told them that if they threw him in the sea from the ship, the wind will stop and they will be saved. The sailors did not want to do that. The storm became even worse, and they prayed, “Lord, do not punish us with death! We will throw this man into the sea.”**




**So they picked Jonah up and ...HOOP they threw him in the sea. Immediately the wind stopped and the sea became calm.**



**After the sailors threw Jonah in the sea, God sent a great big fish to swallow Jonah. The fish swallowed Jonah alive inside its big belly.**



**Jonah stayed inside the big fish for three days and three nights. Jonah was being turned around and surrounded with all the food in the fish belly.**

A stylized illustration of a large, dark blue fish swimming in a blue, shimmering sea. The fish's mouth is open, and inside, a small circular inset shows a man in a dark robe, representing Jonah, curled up. The fish's scales are detailed with a grid pattern. The background is a deep blue with light blue sparkles.

**And Jonah was in  
the belly of the fish  
three days and three nights.**

**Jonah 1:17b**

Three days and three night is a prophetic type of Christ's three-day sojourn (rest) in the "heart of the earth [Sheol]. Matthew 12:40 see also Matthew 16:4



**In the middle of all of that,  
what do you think Jonah was  
doing?**

**He actually was praying.**

**He was praying to God and he  
felt that God wanted to save him  
and keep him safe even inside the  
belly of the fish. Jonah trusted  
that God will get him out of the  
fish.**

**So, after Jonah prayed, God heard his prayer and ordered the fish to throw him out.**

**And the Lord spake unto  
the fish, and it vomited out  
Jonah upon the  
dry land.**



**Jonah 2:10**



**The fish of course obeyed God and threw  
Jonah on a dry land alive.**



**Then Jonah knew that he cannot run away from God and that God kept him safe because He wants him to go to Nineveh.**

And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

Jonah 3:1,2



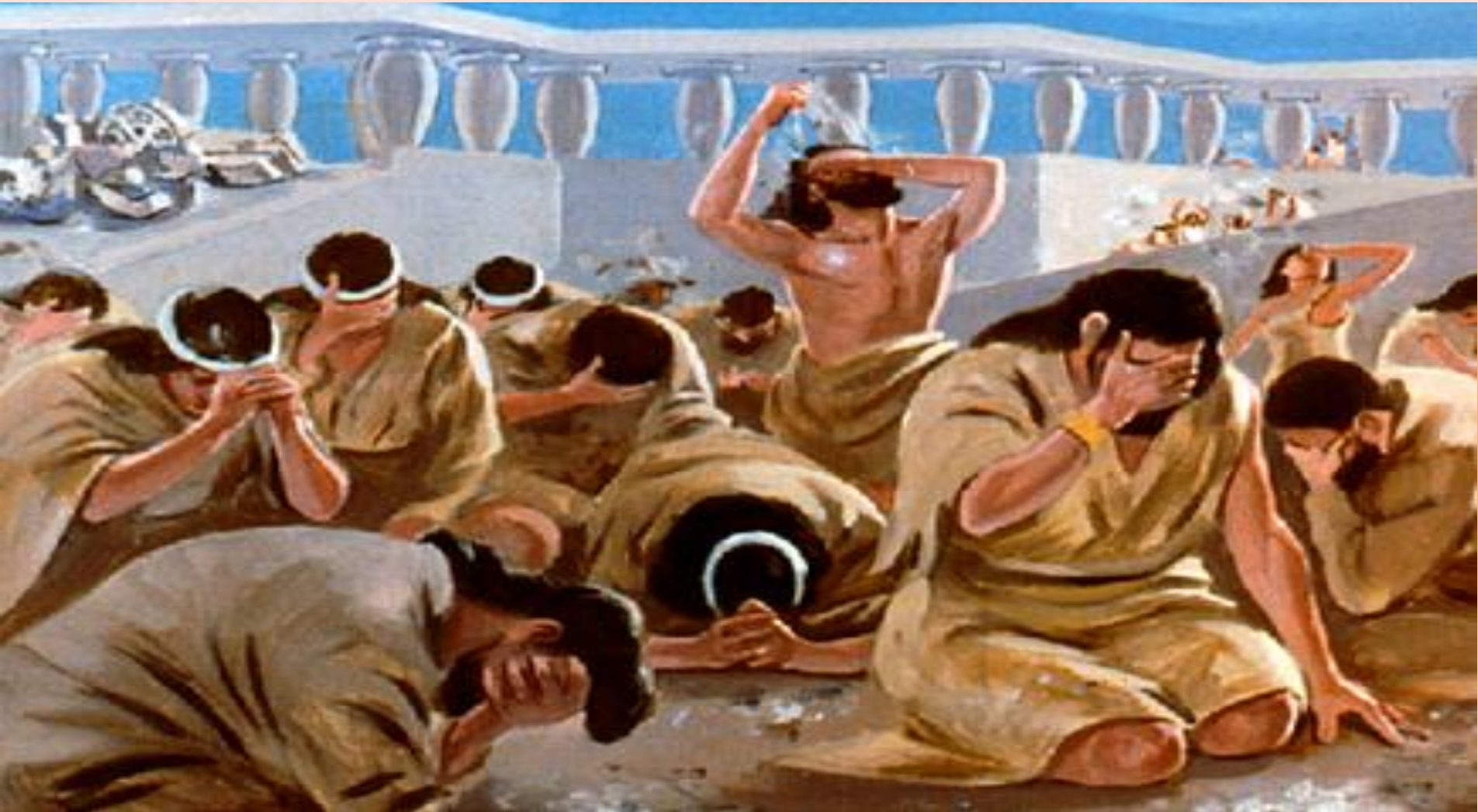
**Jonah immediately went to Nineveh and told them what God told him.**



**He told them that if they do not change from being bad to good, God will destroy their big and great city in 40 days.**



**The people of Nineveh were terrified. They put on sackcloth and prayed to God to have mercy on them and promised to change their ways.**



**When God saw that the people of Nineveh had changed, He decided not to destroy the city.**

**...The Lord is good;  
His mercy is  
Everlasting.**

**Psalm 100:5a**

**But Jonah did not know this, so he sat in front of the city and waited for God to destroy the city.**



**When Jonah saw that nothing happened, he became angry and said to God, “I was right to say that you change Your mind easily. You have great patience and are always willing to postpone Your punishment. This is why I did not want to come to Nineveh in the first place.” And God replied, “Is it right to be angry, Jonah?”**

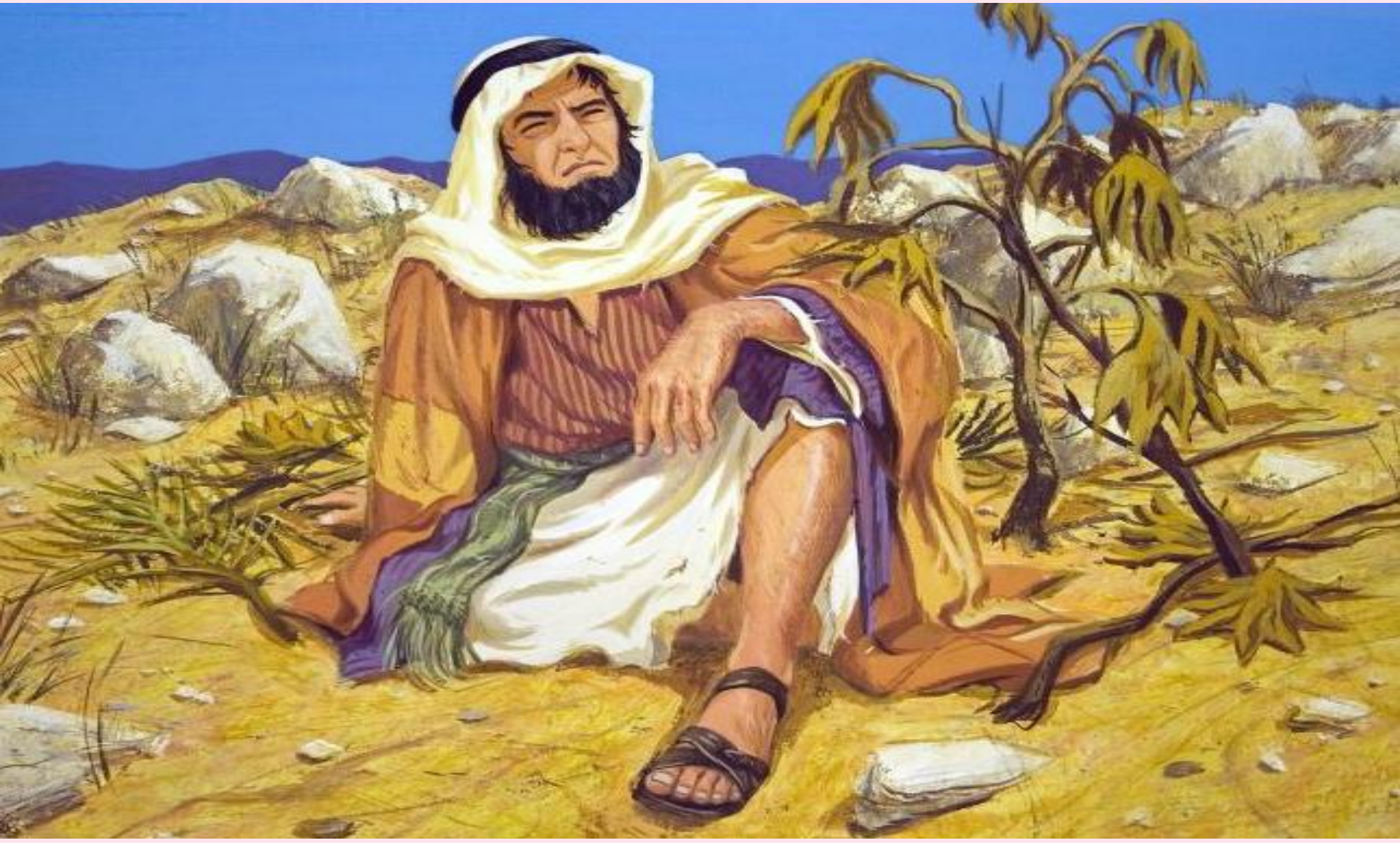
**Do you think Jonah should have been angry???**



**Jonah then wanted to make a shelter and sit under it. God then ordered a plant to grow and it grew tall very quickly over Jonah's head so that he could sit in its shadow. Jonah was very happy because of this plant. God wished to show Jonah how unfair he was in being angry.**



**For this reason, the next day he ordered a worm to start eating the roots of the plant and so the plant withered up. When the sun came out, Jonah's head started to burn.**



**He felt exhausted and for this he complained to God. God asked him then, “Is it right to be angry, Jonah, because of this plant? You neither put any effort into this plant nor helped it grow. But you are sorry for it. Shouldn’t I be sorry for Nineveh, a city so big, and pity its people and not let them die?”**



## **Conclusion**

**God was angry with Jonah and sent the wind and the high waves on the ship because he did not listen and do what God told him to do.**

**God keeps us safe all the time, just as He kept Jonah safe in the belly of the fish as He did with the people of Nineveh when they became good people and were sorry for their sins.**

# Conclusion

If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins,  
and to cleanse us from  
all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

# Movie Clip

Show a short movie clip about the story, if available.

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Videos Page 1 VeggieTales-Jonah (Full Movie)

**Jonah**  
a VeggieTales Movie





## Questions



- 1. To which city did God ask Jonah to go?**
- 2. When God told the prophet Jonah to take a message to the people of Nineveh, Jonah obeyed.**
  - a) True**
  - b) False**
- 3. Jonah traveled safely to where he is going in a ship.**
  - a) True**
  - b) False**
- 4. During the terrible storm, the ship's captain woke Jonah up and...**
  - a) told him to get ready to swim to safety.**
  - b) told him to call on his God to save him.**



## Questions



- 5. The storm had come because Jonah was trying to run away from God.**

  - a) True**
  - b) False**
  
- 6. What happened when the sailors threw Jonah overboard?**

  - a) The storm was suddenly over.**
  - b) The storm became much worse**
  
- 7. What happened to Jonah when he was thrown overboard?**

  - a) He drowned.**
  - b) A great fish swallowed him alive**
  
- 8. How many days did Jonah spend in the belly of the fish?**





**9. When Jonah finally got to Nineveh and preached God's message to them, they believed Jonah and were sorry for their sins.**

**a) True   b) False**

**10. If we confess our sins to God,**

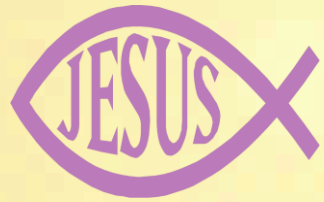
**a) He will punish us.**

**b) He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.**

The End

# Next Week

We will learn about Daniel and fasting.



## 3 things we all can do to strengthen our relationship with God

1. Read the Holy Bible daily preferably when we get up in the morning. 5 minutes to start.
2. Partake Holy Communion regularly.
3. Remember God throughout the day. We can repeat short prayer such as “Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me.”

# JESUS CHRIST

- “For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)





*“And you shall know  
the truth, and the  
truth shall make you  
free.” John 8:32*

Any question?

Close with prayer.

