

## Share Jesus Go Where Jesus Sends You!

### OPENING:

There are two types of kids in this world.  
There are indoor kids, and there are outdoor kids.

There are kids who live to be outside, play in the dirt and get all sweaty, and there are kids who want nothing to do with the sun, nature, or anything!

It's really easy to tell them apart in the summer time.

Here's what I mean:

- Outdoor kids sleep under the stars. Indoor kids sleep with a night light.
- Outdoor kids cook over a fire. Indoor kids cook with a microwave.
- Outdoor kids play football. Indoor kids play sports on their video games.
- Indoor kids sleep in a bed. Outdoor kids sleep outside under the stars.

Whether you're an indoor kid or an outdoor kid, there's no one here who's going to pass judgment on you.

There's good and bad to playing inside or outside all the time, and just like anything else in life, playing out in the sun and playing video games inside should be done with moderation.

The same is true for being a Christian.

God wants us to spend some time inside and outside the church. He wants us inside, where we can learn about God and fellowship with other believers, but he also wants us to go outside. He wants us to get out, to share God's love with others, and tell the world that Jesus loves them.

Unfortunately, too many Christians today never go "outside".

They want to stay inside.

They like the comfort of being in church and in the company of their fellow believers.

They watch Christian movies, read Christian books, listen to Christian music, and never, ever, EVER even bother to look outside their little Christian bubble.

There's a story in the Bible about a guy who didn't want to go "outside." More specifically he did not want to go to the wicked city of Ninevah, a place God asked him to go and preach the gospel.

His name was Jonah.

Have you heard Jonah's story before? The story of him and the whale?

**Read:** Jonah 1 & 2

### **God Calls and Jonah Runs**

*1 The Lord spoke his word to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 "Get up, go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it. I see the evil things they do."*

*3 But Jonah got up to run away from the Lord. He went to the city of Joppa. There he found a ship that was going to the city of Tarshish. Jonah paid for the trip and went aboard. He wanted to go to Tarshish to run away from the Lord.*

*4 But the Lord sent a great wind on the sea. This wind made the sea very rough. So the ship was in danger of breaking apart. 5 The sailors were afraid. Each man cried to his own god. The men began throwing the cargo into the sea. This would make the ship lighter so it would not sink.*

*But Jonah had gone down into the ship to lie down. He fell fast asleep. 6 The captain of the ship came and said, "Why are you sleeping? Get up! Pray to your god! Maybe your god will pay attention to us. Maybe he will save us!"*

*7 Then the men said to each other, "Let's throw lots to see who caused these troubles to happen to us."*

*So the men threw lots. The lot showed that the trouble had happened because of Jonah. 8 Then the men said to Jonah, "Tell us what you have done. Why has this terrible thing happened to us? What is your job? Where do you come from? What is your country? Who are your people?"*

*9 Then Jonah said to them, "I am a Hebrew. I fear the Lord, the God of heaven. He is the God who made the sea and the land."*

*10 Then the men were very afraid. They asked Jonah, "What terrible thing did you do?" They knew Jonah was running away from the Lord because Jonah had told them.*

*<sup>11</sup> The wind and the waves of the sea were becoming much stronger. So, the men said to Jonah, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down?"*

*<sup>12</sup> Jonah said to them, "Pick me up, and throw me into the sea. Then it will calm down. I know it is my fault that this great storm has come on you."*

*<sup>13</sup> Instead, the men tried to row the ship back to the land. But they could not. The wind and the waves of the sea were becoming much stronger.*

### **Jonah's Punishment**

*<sup>14</sup> So the men cried to the Lord, "Lord, please don't let us die because of taking this man's life. Please don't think we are guilty of killing an innocent man. Lord, you have caused all this to happen. You wanted it this way." <sup>15</sup> Then the men picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea. So, the sea became calm. <sup>16</sup> Then they began to fear the Lord very much. They offered a sacrifice to the Lord. They also made promises to him.*

*<sup>17</sup> And the Lord caused a very big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.*

**2** *While Jonah was in the stomach of the fish, he prayed to the Lord his God. Jonah said,*

*<sup>2</sup> "I was in danger.*

*So I called to the Lord,  
and he answered me.*

*I was about to die.*

*So I cried to you,  
and you heard my voice.*

*<sup>3</sup> You threw me into the sea.*

*I went down, down into the deep sea.*

*The water was all around me.*

*Your powerful waves flowed over me.*

*<sup>4</sup> I said, 'I was driven out of your presence.*

*But I hope to see your Holy Temple again.'*

*<sup>5</sup> The waters of the sea closed over me.*

*I was about to die.*

*The deep sea was all around me.*

*Seaweed wrapped around my head.*

*<sup>6</sup> I went down to where the mountains of the sea start to rise.*

*I thought I was locked in this prison forever.*

*But you saved me from death,  
Lord my God.*

*<sup>7</sup> "When my life had almost gone,  
I remembered the Lord.*

*Lord, I prayed to you.*

*And you heard my prayers in your Holy Temple.*

*<sup>8</sup> "People who worship useless idols  
give up their loyalty to you.*

*<sup>9</sup> Lord, I will praise and thank you  
while I give sacrifices to you.*

*I will make promises to you.*

*And I will do what I promise.*

*Salvation comes from the Lord!"*

*<sup>10</sup> Then the Lord spoke to the fish. And the fish spit Jonah out of its stomach onto the dry land.*

## Discuss:

God gave Jonah a message:

- "Go to Ninevah and preach!"
- Jonah responded like an indoor kid being told to go outside and play: "No!" He ran in the opposite direction and hopped on a boat out to sea.
- But Jonah did not get very far. God sent a storm to stop the boat.
- When the sailors on the boat learned Jonah was the reason for the storm, they tossed him overboard, and Jonah was swallowed by a big fish.

Most indoor kids aren't fans of nature, and I imagine Jonah did not enjoy his three days inside the belly of a fish. That's too much nature for anyone. But Jonah learned a very important lesson through this.

He God says GO, it's not a suggestion, He wants us to GO!

When you obey God's command to go, you soon learn that you will not go alone.

God will guide us when we go.

Going with God may mean going to some people or places we'd rather not go, but the good news of Jesus is for everyone.

God made every man, woman, and child, and he desperately wants all of them to know his love!

What's more, when we obey God's call to go, people will respond.

No one would have given the people of Ninevah a chance to be saved. Jonah himself thought they were so wicked, he ran.

But God loved the people of Ninevah, and he knew they would listen if only someone would tell them.

God used Jonah to save the hard hearts of the Ninevites, and God can use us to save the hard hearts of our world.

It takes a lot of courage to go.

We live in a world where many have rejected God and rejected His Son. But God made the people who rejected him, and he's still holding out hope they can be saved.

That's why he commands us to go.

Don't be an indoor Christian. Don't hide inside the church.

Get out and serve.

Go, and let God lead you.

You'll be amazed at the things that happen when you obey God's command to GO!

### Discussion Questions:

What did God ask Jonah to do?

Why did Jonah run?

Why does God need us to go "outside" and serve others?

If we don't go outside, who else will go out and serve God?

What are some things we can do to serve God?

### Prayer:

*Dear God,*

*Forgive us for the times we fail to listen to you. Help us to hear your call. Give us the courage to go. Speak through us so others can know you.*

*In Jesus' name*

*Amen*

### Memory Verse:

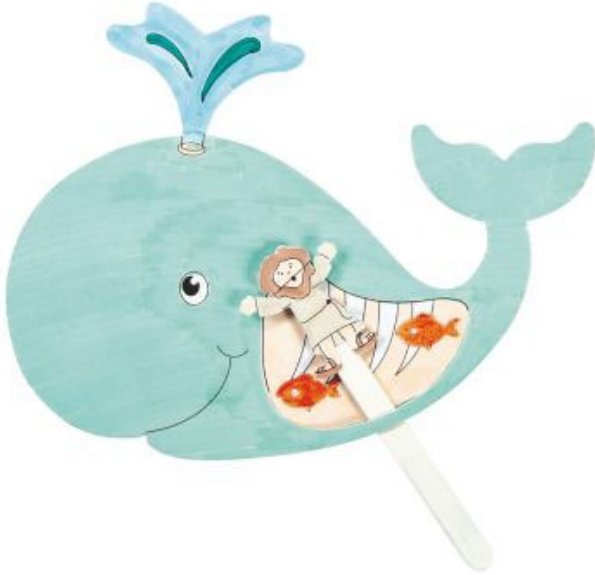
*In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23*

## Crafts: Jonah & the Whale

Craft kit includes whale, Jonah figure, fish and craft stick.

Let kids color and glue together.

Orientaltrading.com



VIDEO -Saddleback Kids – Jonah & the Fish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOSadLyqshg>

Veggie Tales: <https://app.pureflix.com/videos/506039334895/veggietales-the-grumble-cure?recommended=g%3Ajonah>

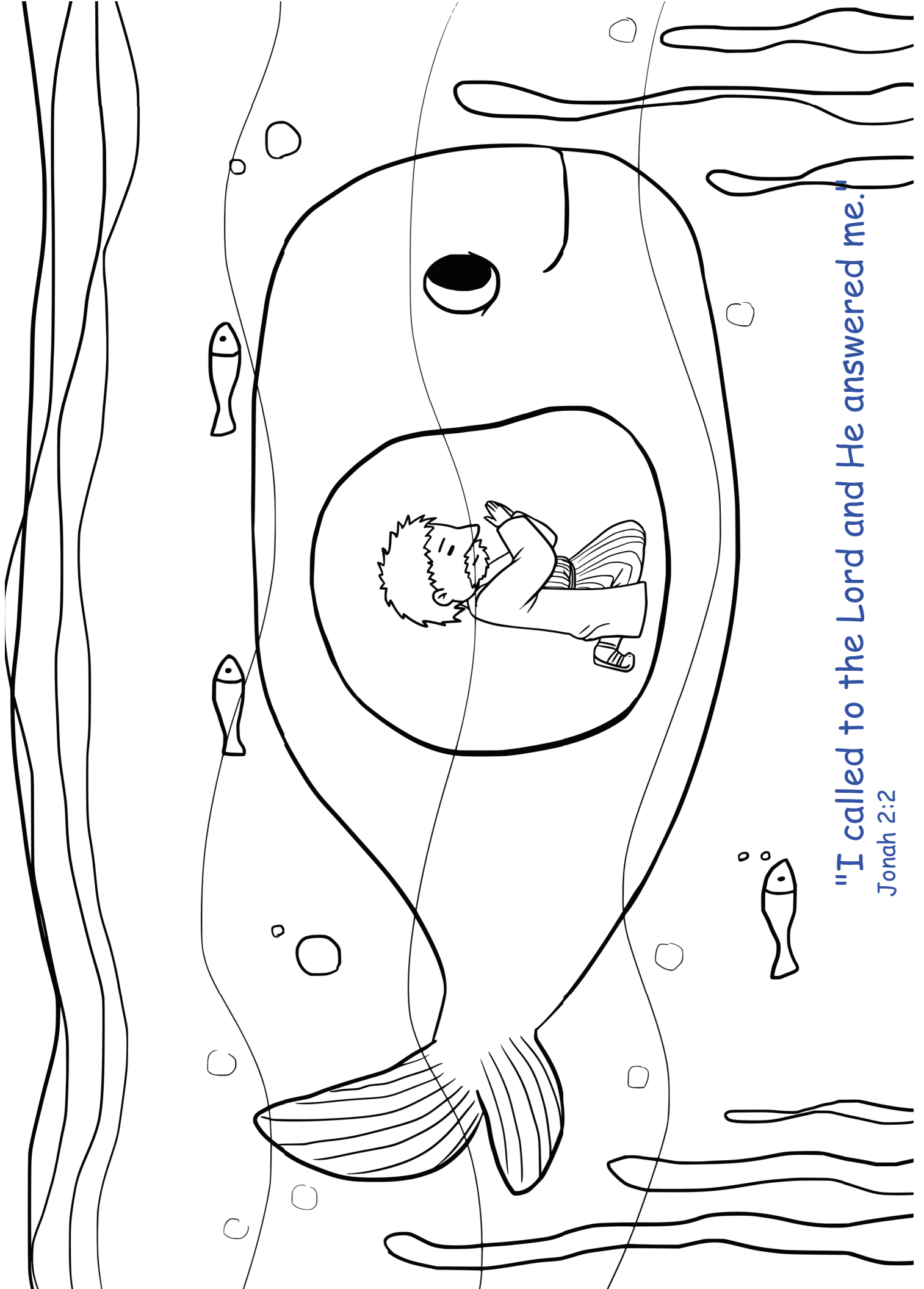
Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/> for their summer vacation curriculum  
Thank you to [www.orientaltrading](http://www.orientaltrading.com/) for great craft ideas and Saddleback Kids for their videos.







"I called to the Lord and He answered me."

Jonah 2:2