

## 3.3 God Saves, Part 1



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God asked one of His prophets, Jonah, to take a message to a city called Nineveh. But Jonah didn't want to obey God because the people in Nineveh were behaving very badly. He didn't want God to forgive them. So he got on a boat and tried to sail far away. But is there anywhere we can go where God isn't with us? No. God sent a big storm to stop Jonah. The sailors on the boat were very afraid, so Jonah told them to throw him overboard. It was his fault the storm had come! The sailors did what Jonah said and immediately the storm became quiet. God saved the sailors. What happened to Jonah? God saved his life too by sending a big fish to swallow him up—gulp! Jonah was in the fish's belly for three whole days and nights. On the last day, God commanded the fish to spit Jonah out onto dry land. This time, Jonah obeyed God and took God's message to the city of Nineveh. The people there listened, and they turned away from the wrong things they were doing. God saved them too!

*The following passages have been provided for you to model to the children in your small group how to look for truth in Scripture. Some verses may be engaging for your children while others may simply aid in your preparation to lead this time of discussion.*

### Questions:

1. Read Jonah 1:1–3. **What did Jonah do when God told him to take a message to the people of Nineveh?** (He ran away from God by taking a ship to Tarshish.)
2. Read verse 4. **How did God stop Jonah?** (He sent a wild storm.)
3. Read verse 17. **What happened to Jonah after the men on the boat threw him overboard?** (God sent a big fish to swallow him up.)
4. Read Jonah 3:1–3. **What did Jonah do after the fish spit him back up?** (He obeyed God and went to Nineveh.)
5. Read verses 6, 10. **When the people of Nineveh stopped doing wrong after they heard God's message, what did God do?** (He had compassion on them and decided not to punish them.)
6. **What part do you think you can play in The Big God Story?**