

# WEEK 1

## GOD IS SAVIOR GOD SEEKS THE LOST

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE



### THE FOUR KEYS

#### KEY VERSE

For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out.  
Ezekiel 34:11

#### KEY IDEAS

1. God loves us even though we sin.
2. God seeks us out to save us from sin.
3. God sent His Son Jesus to rescue us from sin.

#### KEY PASSAGE

Jonah 1-4

#### KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God seeks after us not because we are lost to Him but because we have lost ourselves in sin.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

in awe that God would seek to save us from our sin.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

trust that God is able to save us through His Son Jesus.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to place their faith in the One who loves them and can save them from sin.

# INTRODUCTION

Our sin and rebellion against God has separated us from Him for eternity. In our sin we have no hope, but God declared His love for us in the form of Jesus, His Son. Jesus, fully God and fully man, came to earth willingly to take our place in death, defeating both sin and death forever through His sacrifice on the cross. By standing in for us as our substitute, Jesus satisfied God's judgement for sin and offered a way for salvation and eternal life to all who confess their sins and believe in Him. God is our Savior who rescues us from judgement by granting forgiveness through Jesus, His Son, and welcoming us into His family. All who trust in Him are children of God!

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by telling the kids that today's story is about a man named Jonah who was instructed by God to tell the people of Ninevah about Him so that they could be saved from their sin. Give instructions on how to play hide-n-seek, telling the children they are going to pretend to be the people of Ninevah and they must wait until "Jonah" finds them and tells them about God. Once "Jonah" finds each child, they must go back to the classroom and find their seat. Explain that just like the people of Ninevah were lost in their sin, God used Jonah to seek after them and tell them about God.

## STORY

Read and summarize Jonah 1-4 or use the Jesus Storybook Bible.

Jonah was a well-known prophet in Israel, and God had given him a very special task to go to the city of Ninevah and tell the people about Him. Jonah knew that the city of Ninevah was very evil and full of all kinds of wickedness. He did not want to go and even ran away from God! But God's plan would not be stopped, and He sent a big fish to swallow Jonah. God protected Jonah inside the fish and had a plan for Him, but first Jonah needed to learn that God was in control. Jonah knew the fish was no accident and repented for his disobedience. God graciously rescued Jonah from the fish and gave him a second chance to be obedient. Jonah obeyed this time and went to Ninevah to preach. After this, all of Ninevah was saved!

This story shows us that nothing stops God's plans, that He desires for us to obey Him and tell others about Him, and that He is our great Savior! God saved Jonah from the belly of the fish despite his disobedience, and He saved the wicked people of Ninevah, too! God is so compassionate that He loves and wants to save us in our wickedness.

## ACTIVITY

Using the instructions provided and supplies from the teacher's closet, help kids create the big fish paper plate craft.

## PRAYER

Thank God that He is our great Savior and that He saves us from our sin. Ask God to help you trust Him as your Savior, too!

## SONG

Jesus, Savior of the World by KidSpring Children's Ministry

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Luke 19:10, Psalm 119:176, Exodus 19:5

## ACTIVITY

Using the color by numbers sheet in your take home packet, help your child color the picture of Jonah and the big fish. Use the discussion questions below as you color to talk about the story.

## DISCUSSION

- Why did God send Jonah to Ninevah?  
God knew that the people of Ninevah were lost in their sin and needed a savior. He sent Jonah to tell them about Him so they could be saved.
- Why did Jonah disobey?  
We don't know exactly why Jonah disobeyed, but Scripture gives us some clues. Jonah knew the people of Ninevah were wicked. Ninevah was the capital of Assyria, the cruelest nation on earth, and Israel's fiercest enemy. It's possible Jonah was afraid to go. When we act in fear, we often do the opposite of what God wants us to do. Jonah may have also believed the people of Ninevah deserved to be punished for their evil deeds. When we compare ourselves to others, we can sometimes think that we are better, but the Bible tells us all of us have fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). No one deserves God's grace, but His love is freely given to anyone who believes! Whatever Jonah's reason, God used him to change the lives of the people of Ninevah forever.
- What can we learn from the story of Jonah?  
God cares about all people no matter how wicked. God uses believers to tell others about Him. There are consequences when we disobey God.

## PRAYER

Thank God for loving us when we are sinful and for sending Jesus to rescue us all from sin. Ask God to help you obey His commands.

## Jonah and the Fish Bible Craft



**Bible Story:** Jonah and the Fish

**Bible Text:** Jonah

**Suggested Learning Outcome:** This paper plate craft will help children remember the miraculous story of Jonah and the fish.

### Supplies List:

- Paper plates (1 per student)
- Blue paint or blue markers
- Craft eyes
- Blue construction paper
- Glue

### Teacher Preparation:

Pre-cut a blue triangle, and a water spout from the blue construction paper.

### Instructions:

**Step 1.** Give students the paper plate and instruct them to carefully cut off the bottom portion. Note: the plate should not be cut in half .

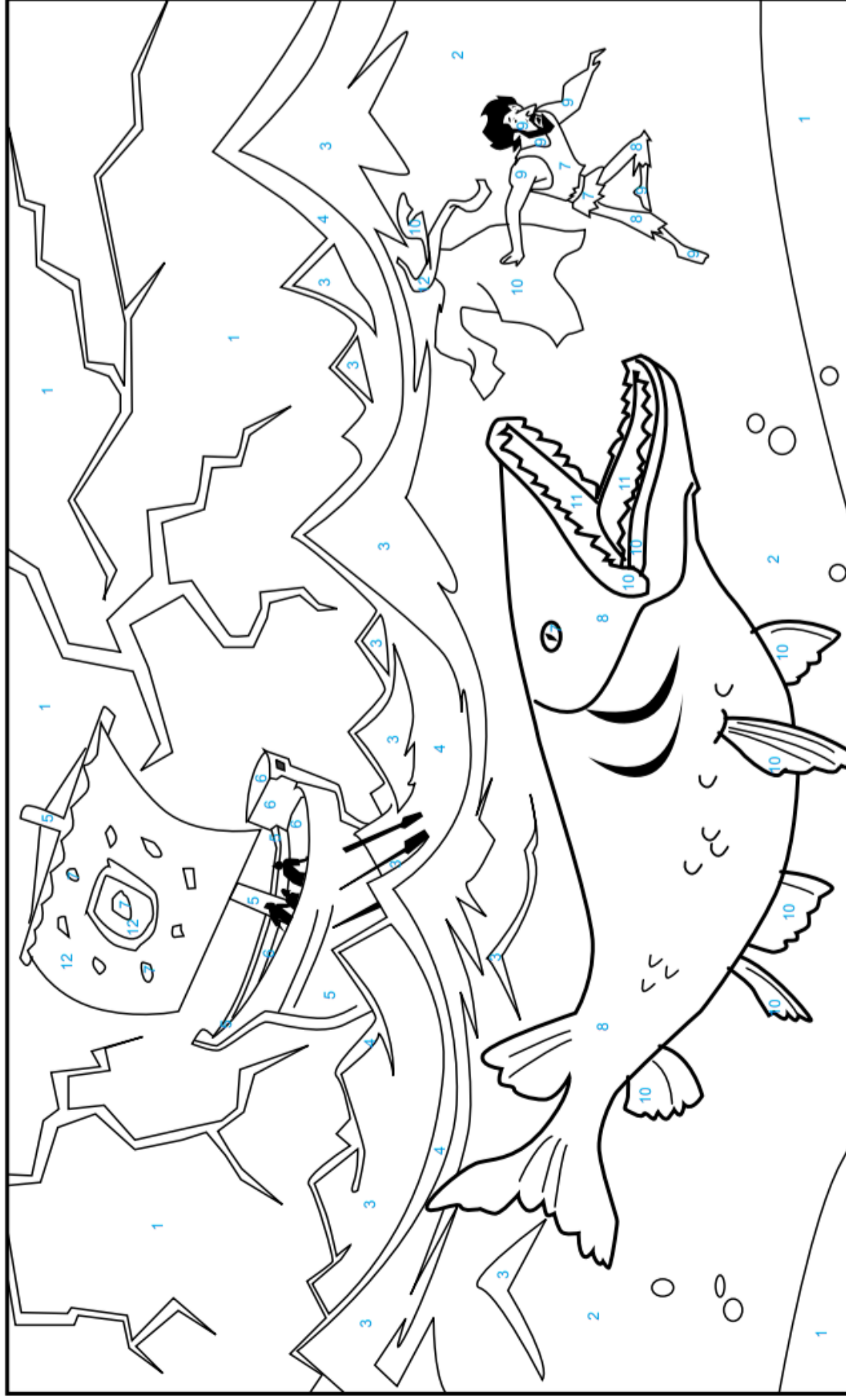
**Step 2.** Allow the children to color the two pieces of their plate with blue paint or with blue markers. When the pieces are dry, assist the children with connecting the two plate pieces with the construction paper triangle. This will create the fish's body and tale.

**Step 3.** Now the children can glue the water spout to the top of the fish body, add craft eyes and a big smile.



# Color by Number for Jonah and the Big Fish

Color each section by the colors shown in the list at the bottom of the page. There might be small pieces of an item such as hands and feet or small areas which do not have a number. Choose a good color for those. If you don't have all of the colors listed, make your best color choice.

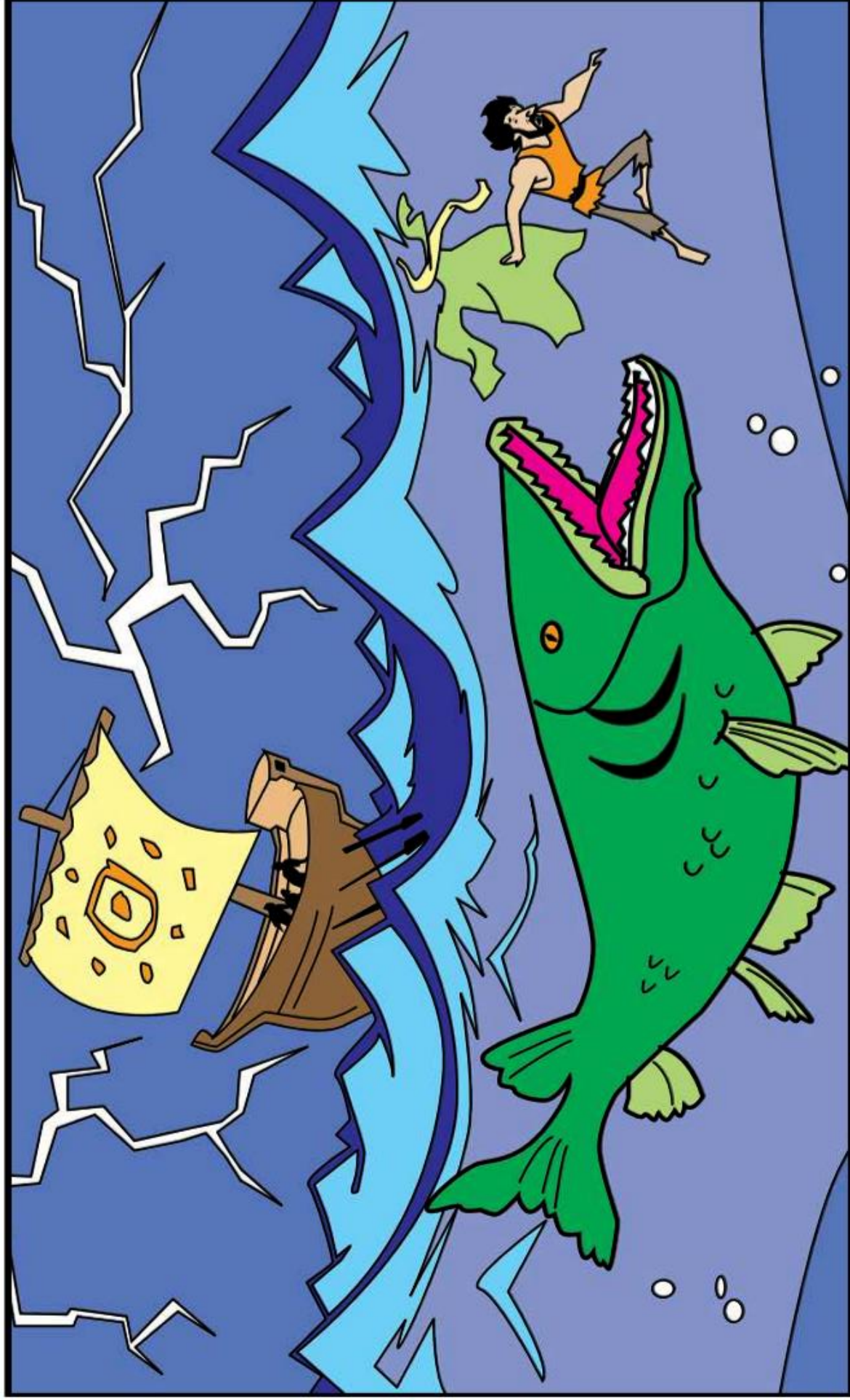


1. Blue 2. Blue Violet 3. Light Blue 4. Dark Blue 5. Brown 6. Tan 7. Orange 8. Dark Green 9. Skin
10. Light Green 11. Pink 12. Light Yellow



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