

In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help and you listened to my cry.

- Jonah 2:2

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that your children enjoyed learning the story of Daniel in the lion's den last week. This week as we continue our series on Old Testament Characters we will be learning about how God cared for Jonah. We will also be, thanking God that he cares for us.

Next week (21st June) is Oaktree's first Generation service. This provides an opportunity for our pre-schoolers to be involved in the service. We are asking if you could record a video approximately 10 – 30 seconds long of your children answering the question, 'why do you love God?' All the children's answers will then be combined into a video to be shown on zoom during the service. If you would like your child to be involved please send the video of them answering the questions by Monday 15th to jess@oaktreeanglican.org.au. Their answers can be as short as they like, or drawings would be lovely.

Blessings,

Jess

Supplies

- Children's Bible
- Pillows to build a pretend boat
- Sleeping bag or comfy blanket (large enough to cover children)

Worship

Please spend some time enjoying your children's favourite worship songs. It would be lovely for them to use instruments and dance in their worship. Below are two suggestions which we have been singing this term:

- Love the Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdMlxCdIY-c>
- King of the Jungle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCirKZr8QY>

Prayer

Over the last few weeks we have been learning how God cares for His people, and as His children He also cares for us. This week we are going to spend some time thanking God for the ways that he cares for us. If your child is three they can think of three ways that God cares for them or if they are five, five ways. God cares for us by giving us mums and dads, by teaching us about Him, and always being with us

as a few examples. Your children will have their own ideas of how God shows that He cares for them.

Story Time

Settle into a comfy spot in your home with your children for story time. Read the story of Jonah and the big fish in your children's Bible. You can also watch the following link which is an animated version of the story.

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

Before you start it would be useful to have a 'boat' made out of pillows constructed. This could be a ring of pillows on the floor large enough for your children to sit in.

Jonah was a man who lived a long time ago. He was given a very special job by God. Jonah needed to go to a town called Nineveh and tell the people there that they must stop doing bad things and listen to God.

Jonah didn't listen to God and he didn't go to Nineveh; do you know what he did? He ran away in the opposite direction. He got on a boat and sailed away from Nineveh.

Your children can run to the boat made out of pillows.

While he was on the boat running away there was a really big storm. There was lots of rain, and big waves and strong wind.

Children can move their fingers up and down to represent heavy rain, as well as making the sound effects of a storm (wind, rain, crashing waves)

Everyone on the boat was really scared. They asked Jonah "What have you done?"

Children can pretend to be the others on the boat being scared asking Jonah – what have you done?

Jonah told them that he was running away from God. He said "if you throw me into the water the storm will stop!" And that's what they did ... and the storm stopped.

Have your children jump out of the boat as if they were Jonah being thrown into the ocean.

God didn't leave Jonah alone in the water he sent a BIG fish to swallow Jonah up.

Children can climb inside the sleeping bag or under the large blanket to represent being swallowed by the large fish.

Jonah knew that it was God keeping him safe. When he was inside the belly of the Big fish he prayed to God and said he was sorry for running away.

While in the sleeping bag or under blanket children can sit in a prayer position and say sorry to God.

After three days of being in the big fish's belly the big fish spat up Jonah onto the beach.

Children can climb out from sleeping bag/ blanket and celebrate being back on land.

Jonah was so happy to be on dry land again. Jonah said, 'God saved me, I will do what he asked me to.' And he went to Nineveh.

Children repeat the words that Jonah said and march off to Nineveh.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for taking care of Jonah in the big fish's belly. Thank you for taking care of us. Amen.

Craft

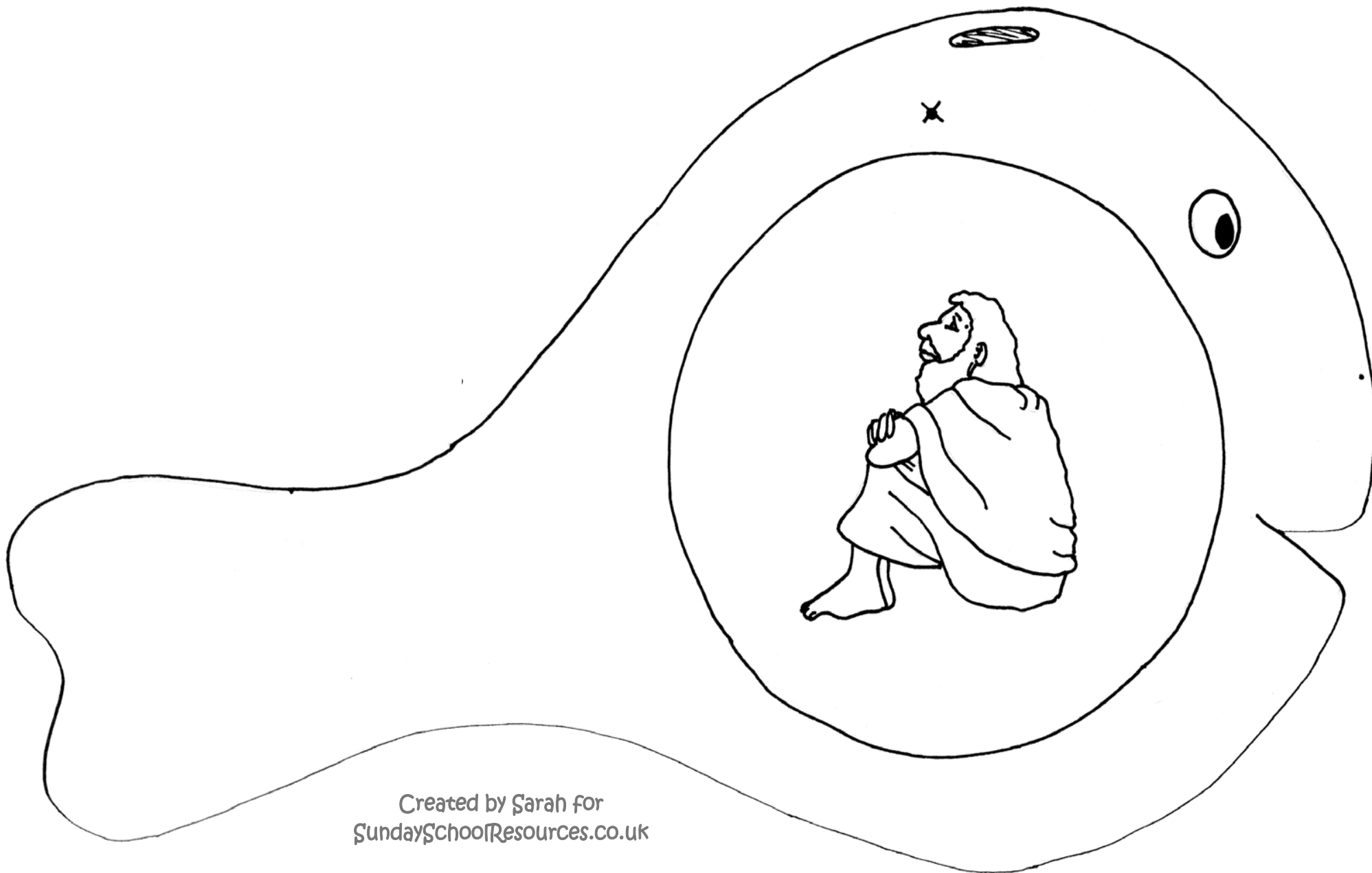
1: Playdoh Whale.

With playdoh or modelling clay, help your children to create a big fish. Try making different size fish and talk with your children about how big the fish would have needed to be for Jonah to fit in its belly, reminding them that God was caring for Jonah in the story.

2: Jonah hangs out in a big fish's belly craft.

Either print off the template below or draw the template freehand on blank paper. Cut out the circle in the big fish and then cut out the little Jonah. Colour in both.

Tape a bit of string behind the Jonah cut out and attach to the top of the whale where the x is. It will now appear that Jonah is hanging out in the big fish's belly.



Created by Sarah for
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