

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is

Jonah and the Big Fish

from Jonah 1-4.

Jonah runs away from God, and a fish swallows him.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jonah
- Nineveh
- Tarshish
- Prophet
- Prophecy

Today, Nineveh is the site of Mosul, Iraq.

**Read the whole story together
in the Bible!**

Spark Story Bible pages 190-193

Spark Bible pages 1008-1010

Family Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sticking with us even though we misunderstand, mistrust and resist your directions. Please help us to be more obedient and accepting of your generosity—even towards those we don't like. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What do you think it would be like to travel inside a big fish?
- 2 What difficult things have you been asked to do?
- 3 How does God help us do difficult things?
- 4 Jonah gets really angry with God towards the end of this story. God can handle our anger. Take turns practicing "angry prayers" as well as prayers of thanksgiving and prayers asking for help. Go ahead and stomp your feet and wave your arms and throw a magnificent tantrum, then pick yourself up and say "Thank you, Lord, for sticking with me!"



Eye Spark

What fish can you see this week? When you spot them, think of Jonah and his ride.



Ear Spark

What sounds can you hear that make you think of the sea? Boats? Fish?

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Play a game of Go Fish as a family and remember Jonah.

For younger kids

Have some goldfish crackers as a snack. Share them with someone who is often left out.

For older kids

Jonah was in the Mediterranean Sea. Research what large fish might have lived during Jonah's time.

TRY IT

Art

Cut out a big fish from construction paper along with a collection of white construction paper bubbles. Write this question on the fish: If you ended up in the belly of the Big Fish with time to think...what would you like to ask God? Family members can answer this question by writing their responses on a bubble. Tape the bubbles near the fish and add to the collection.

Computer Lab

Take some time this week to do research online about stories of people who have done good things, like Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King, Jr. We know about these people because others have told their stories. Practice telling a story about something good you've done. It's not to brag, but to thank God for helping you make good things happen. When you need the story later, it will be there in your memory.

Creative Drama

Build Nineveh with blocks next to some water. Use a bowl for a boat and a cup for a fish and a small figure for Jonah. Have Jonah sleep in the boat, fall in the water, be swallowed by the fish, and spit out on shore. Then have Jonah go to Nineveh. Where is God when all of this is happening?

Video

Go online to learn more about an aquarium or other "fishy" facility in your community. Organize a family trip to the aquarium or other site and try to imagine what kind of fish might've been hungry enough to swallow Jonah. Record a video of your adventure, or take plenty of pictures. How does looking at all that water help you and your family members appreciate the Jonah story more?

Bible Skills and Games

Try playing a game of Go Fish together, but make the game cards yourself. Color pairs of cards with different types of fish. You can make the fish pairs as realistic or imaginative as you want. Then go fish!

Cooking

Go on a family fishing trip, or visit a fish market or the area of your grocery store that sells fresh fish. A big fish swallowed Jonah. Tell your family the story of Jonah. How big do you think the fish get in this body of water? Would a big fish ever swallow you? It's a good thing God is in control. Cook and eat the fish. Thank God for letting you help do God's work.

Music

Everybody has a favorite song about the sea, water, and marine adventures! What are your favorite water or water creature songs? Have everyone in the family share one by picking and playing it and singing along. Use the time to talk about what you love most about the Jonah story, and why.

Science

Go on a fishing expedition. Look for fish in newspapers, magazines, movies, TV shows, in ponds, lakes, pet stores and aquariums. Compare and contrast the size, color, shape and other features of the fish you find.