



Jonah Chapter One: Resources for Families

Background

Before reading Jonah 1 with your children, take a minute to look at a map of the Middle East. Find the city of Jerusalem in Israel. Then find the city of Mosul, in northern Iraq. This is the modern-day city where Ancient Nineveh used to stand.

Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire, the empire which conquered the northern ten tribes of Israel. The Assyrian Empire was feared throughout the ancient Middle East for its violence and cruelty. This is the place where God called Jonah to go and preach. If you were Jonah, how would you feel about being asked to go to Nineveh?

Discussion Questions

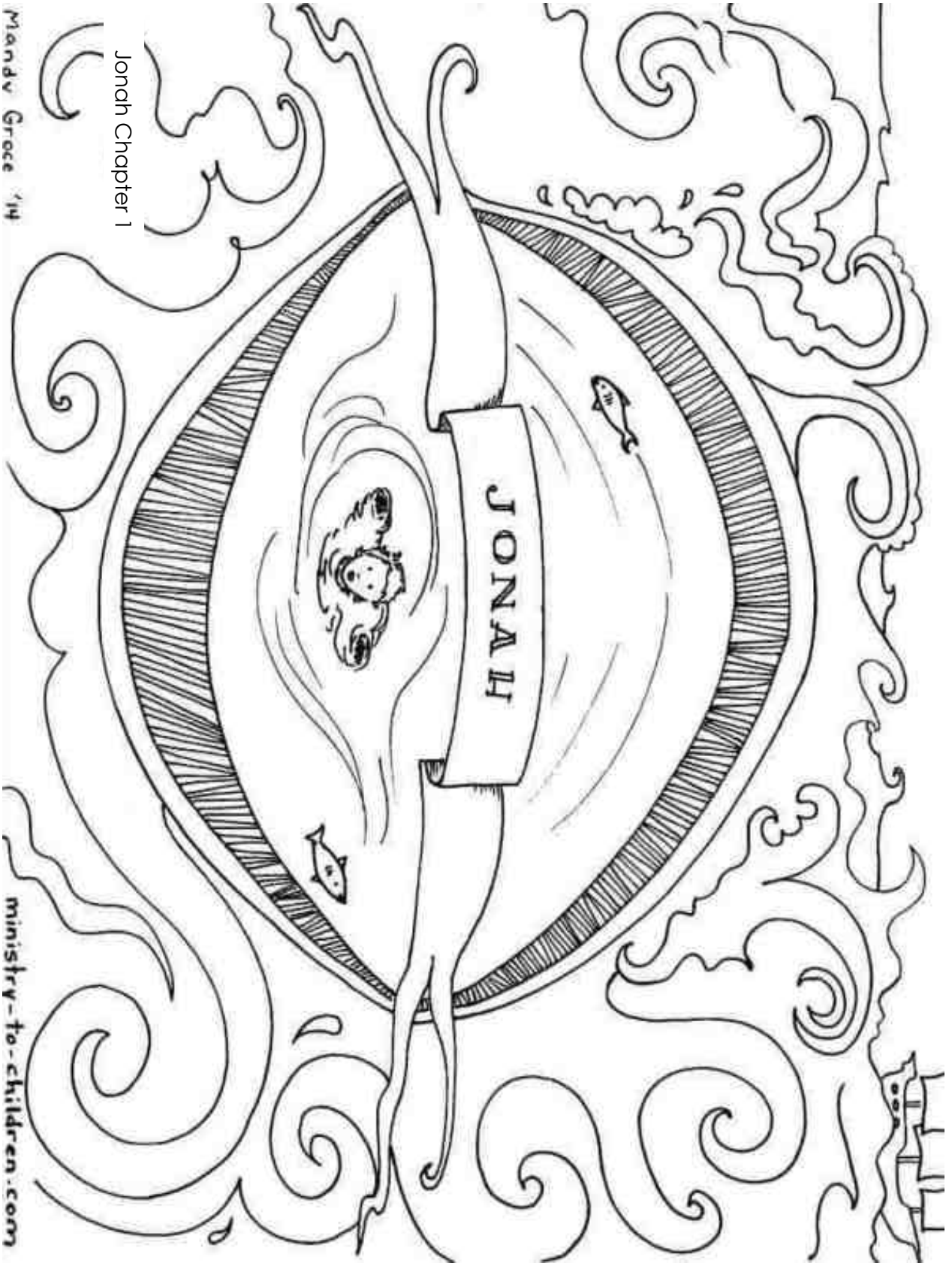
1. God asks Jonah to do something he doesn't want to do—to bring God's message to Jonah's enemies. Has God ever asked you to do something you didn't want to do (like forgive someone who made you mad)?
2. Jonah tries to run away from God, but it doesn't work. Have you ever tried to run or hide from God? Is it really possible to hide from God?
3. God sent a big, frightening storm to help bring Jonah back to him. Ask your mom, dad, or another grown-up to tell you a story about a time in their lives when God used something hard, scary, or sad to help them remember that they need him.

Further Reading

This week, learn about the story of St. Patrick. Patrick was a Roman Britain who lived around 400 AD. When Patrick was sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland, which at the time, was a pagan country. Patrick escaped slavery six years later and returned to Britain. He became a priest and felt God calling him to return to Ireland to share the Gospel with the people who had enslaved him.

You can learn more about St. Patrick from these sources:

- [St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland](#), by Tomie De Paola
- [The Story of Saint Patrick](#), by James Janda



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