

# The Story of Jonah

**SCRIPTURE:** Jonah 1-4

**MEMORY VERSE:** For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. Psalm 91:11

**CHARACTERS:** Jonah, shipmates, big fish, people & king of Nineveh

The Bible tells us that long ago there was a large city called Nineveh. The people who lived in Nineveh did not love God. They did not know about God's laws. They did not care about God's laws. The people did bad things. Nineveh was called a "wicked city".

God loved the people in Nineveh and wanted them to obey and love Him. God spoke to a man named Jonah. God said, "Jonah, I want you to go to Nineveh. Tell them that their city will be destroyed because of the wicked things they are doing."

Jonah knew about this city, and he did not want to go to the wicked city. He did not want to leave his own home which was many miles from the city of Nineveh.

Jonah thought, and then he said, "I will not go to Nineveh. I will go the other direction away from the city." Jonah went down to the sea and got on a ship to sail far away from Nineveh.

A great storm came upon the sea. The winds blew and the big waves covered the ship. All the men on the ship were afraid.

Jonah said to the men, "This is my fault! Throw me into the sea and the storm will stop." The men threw Jonah out in the waters and the sea became calm.

God sent a great fish to swallow Jonah. For three days, Jonah was in the belly of the fish. Then the fish threw Jonah out on dry land.

God spoke to Jonah again, "Jonah, go to Nineveh and preach." This time Jonah obeyed. He told the people of Nineveh, "In forty days this city will be destroyed if you do not stop your wicked ways!"

The king said to the people, "Let us turn from our wicked ways. Let us do what is right and be sorry for our sins." God loved these people even though they had been wicked. He forgave their sins.

**God will forgive our sins if we ask Him to!**