

Jonah and the Big Fish  
(I wrote)

How many of you have ever said the words...I  
DON'T WANT TO?

How many of you have ever told your mother or  
your father... I DON'T WANT TO?

How many of you have every told God... I  
DON'T WANT TO?

Well, the man in our story; Jonah did just that....  
He told God.... I DON'T WANT TO!!

You see, God told Jonah to get up and go to a  
place far, far away called Nineveh and Jonah  
said, "I DON'T WANT TO!"

Well, he didn't exactly SAY "I DON'T WANT  
TO"—but that's what he was thinking.

You see, back in Jonah's day, Nineveh was  
filled with wicked people who did all kinds of  
evil things.

The people of Nineveh had never heard about God. They didn't know that the things they were doing were wrong and that God did not like it.

So.... God wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh to teach them about God, and to tell them to stop doing all the wicked things that they were doing.

Now this may seem like a place that you should NOT go to; and it was for sure, BUT God told Jonah to go there anyway. And when God tells you to go somewhere then you should ALWAYS obey.

IF God sends you somewhere and you are obeying his call then He will help you to avoid all the evil things that are around you.

Listen closely now to my story about Jonah.

In the Bible, God tells us about a man named Jonah. Jonah was a prophet, a man of God.

One day while Jonah was preaching about God to the Israelites people, God spoke to him.

“Jonah” God said “I want you to go to Nineveh”

Now this was a great surprise to Jonah;  
“Nineveh” he thought, “I don’t want to go to  
Nineveh”

You see, back in Jonah’s day...about 800 years  
before Jesus was born - the greatest city in the  
world was Nineveh.

Everyone had heard of Nineveh. And everyone  
knew it was an evil place.

“Jonah,” God said once again.; “Get up! Go to  
Nineveh!” “Tell the people there that I know all  
about the terrible things they are doing. They  
think no one can see the evil things they do. But  
I see!”

At first Jonah complained and argued with God.  
He tried and tried to get out of going but God  
had chosen Jonah... and Jonah it must be.

Jonah didn’t want to go. He knew that the  
people were evil and he thought that they  
deserved whatever punishment God wanted to  
give them.

“God should just go ahead and punish them right now;” he thought.

Besides, some of the people in Nineveh were big bullies. They were always beating up on everybody, especially Jonah's people. They deserved to get into trouble with God.

Jonah thought for a moment “If I warn the people of Nineveh, they might change their evil ways - and then God might forgive them - and then they might get away with all the terrible things they have done.

That wouldn't be fair!

So, do you know what Jonah did?

He ran away.

Jonah went down to the city of Joppa and jumped on a ship that was sailing to Tar shish.

This ship was sailing AWAY from Nineveh....  
Not to Nineveh but away from it.

He wanted to get as far away from Nineveh as  
he could.

Once on the ship, Jonah thought, “God will  
never find me here.”

But remember, we learned that God is  
everywhere... we cannot see Him, but He is  
EVERYWHERE.

AND God knows ....EVERYTHING. God knew  
where Jonah was every single second, didn't  
He? He couldn't hide from God.

Of course God would know where Jonah was!

When the ship set out to sea, Jonah was below  
deck hiding from God. He thought he had gotten  
away with disobeying God... but God wasn't  
going to let Jonah get off that easy.

Just as the last bit of land disappeared from  
view, God sent a great wind on the sea, which  
made the sea so stormy that the ship was in

danger of breaking apart. It was a terrible storm.

The sailors were afraid, and each man cried to his own god.

They began to throwing the cargo from the ship into the sea to make the ship lighter.

While all of this was going on, Jonah was sleeping like a baby below deck. He had no idea that up above, a storm was raging.

The captain of the ship came below deck and shook Jonah “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray to your god! Maybe your god will pay attention to us, and we won’t die!” he said.

“Let’s draw straws,” one of them shouted through the storm, “Maybe this god - whoever he is - will show us who is causing all our trouble.” And so they all scrambled below the deck and got some straws ready.

Jonah drew the shortest straw.

Then Jonah said “I am a Hebrew, I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and

the land.” This is all my fault!” Jonah said.

“What have you done to make your God so angry?” the sailors asked.

“Well”.... said Jonah “I am running away from God.”

The sailors were very frightened by this time. They asked Jonah “What can we do to save ourselves?”

“Pick me up, and throw me into the sea, and then the sea will calm down. I know it is my fault that this great storm has come on you.”

Jonah cried out above the loud waves and crashing thunder, “Just throw me overboard.”

Jonah knew it was the only thing they could do.

He would have to take his punishment. One person would have to die so that the others could live.

But the sailors weren't willing to throw Jonah into the churning sea. They thought if they tried

real hard, they could save themselves without God's help. And so they rowed with all their might to try to get the ship back to dry land.

But it was no good. The winds just blew all the harder, the rain stung their faces all the more.

Finally, they cried out, “Please, O God of this man Jonah, forgive us for what we are about to do!”

The sailors had no other options, they had to throw Jonah into the sea or else the ship was going to sink and all the men onboard would die.

So taking their only option available, they took Jonah by the hands and by the feet and they threw him into the sea.

At once the winds stopped, the waves rolled away, and the sea became as smooth as glass. Now those sailors knew who the real God was, the God who can calm the seas.

Jonah sank down, down, down into the deep dark sea. It was cold, it was black and it was

scary.

But Jonah couldn't get away from God THAT easy! Even down in the deep, dark sea, God was with him.

And so God sent Jonah a fish that swallowed Jonah with one big gulp.

Now Jonah was not dead inside the fish, he was very much alive but... he was all alone.

And he remained in that fishes belly for three long days. It was dark, it was wet, and it was VERY smelly inside the belly of that fish.

But he was alive!

Having three long days to sit and think about all the bad things you have done is a long time and that is exactly what Jonah did. He sat inside that stinky, smelly old fish and began to feel sorry for all the wrong things he had done.

He knew he needed to apologize to God because he had disobeyed Him.

And so Jonah prayed, perhaps harder than he had ever prayed before.

And as soon as Jonah had finished his prayer....  
God whispered to the fish, and the fish spit  
Jonah out onto dry land.

Jonah spent three days in the belly of a fish, and stepped out alive again. How great and powerful  
God is!

Then God said to Jonah, “Okay, Jonah, get thee  
up! Now go to Nineveh!”

And this time.... Jonah got up and went to  
Nineveh.

Next week, we are going to hear more about  
Jonah. We will find out if he made it to Nineveh  
as God had instructed.

## **Jonah and the Big Fish**

**How many of you have ever said the words...I DON'T WANT TO?**

**How many of you have ever told your mother or your father... I DON'T WANT TO?**

**How many of you have every told God... I DON'T WANT TO?**

**Well, the man in our story; Jonah did just that.... He told God.... I DON'T WANT TO!!  
You see, God told Jonah to get up and go to a place far, far away called Nineveh and Jonah said, "I DON'T WANT TO!"**

**Well, he didn't exactly SAY "I DON'T WANT TO"—but that's what he was thinking.**

**You see, back in Jonah's day, Nineveh was filled with wicked people who did all kinds of evil things. The people of Nineveh had never heard about God. They didn't know that the things they were doing were wrong and that God did not like it.**

**So.... God wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh to teach them about God, and to tell them to stop doing all the wicked things that they were doing.**

**Now this may seem like a place that you should NOT go to; and it was for sure, BUT God told Jonah to go there anyway. And when God tells you to go somewhere then you should ALWAYS obey. IF God sends you somewhere and you are obeying his call then He will help you to avoid all the evil things that are around you.**

**Listen closely now to my story about Jonah.**

**In the Bible, God tells us about a man named Jonah. Jonah was a prophet, a man of God. One day while Jonah was preaching about God to the Israelites people, God spoke to him. "Jonah" God said "I want you to go to Nineveh" Now this was a great surprise to Jonah; "Nineveh" he thought, "I don't want to go to Nineveh"**

**You see, back in Jonah's day...about 800 years before Jesus was born - the greatest city in the world was Nineveh. Everyone had heard of Nineveh. And everyone knew it was an evil place.**

**"Jonah," God said once again.; "Get up! Go to Nineveh!" "Tell the people there that I know all about the terrible things they are doing. They think no one can see the evil things they do. But I see!"**

**At first Jonah complained and argued with God. He tried and tried to get out of going but God had chosen Jonah... and Jonah it must be. Jonah didn't want to go. He knew that the people were evil and he thought that they deserved whatever punishment God wanted to give them. "God should just go ahead and punish them right now;" he thought. Besides, some of the people in Nineveh were big bullies. They were always beating up on everybody, especially Jonah's people. They deserved to get into trouble with God.**

**Jonah though for a moment "If I warn the people of Nineveh, they might change their evil ways - and then God might forgive them - and then they might get away with all the terrible things they have done. That wouldn't be fair! So, do you know what Jonah did? He ran away. Jonah went down to the city of Joppa and jumped on a ship that was sailing to Tar shish. This ship was sailing AWAY from Nineveh.... Not to Nineveh but away from it. He wanted to get as far away from Nineveh as he could. Once on the ship, Jonah thought, "God will never find me here."**

**But remember, we learned that God is everywhere... we cannot see Him, but He is EVERYWHERE.**

**AND God knows ....EVERYTHING. God knew where Jonah was every single second, didn't He? He couldn't hide from God. Of course God would know where Jonah was! When the ship set out to sea, Jonah was below deck hiding from God. He thought he had gotten away with disobeying God... but God wasn't going to let Jonah get off that easy. Just as the last bit of land disappeared from view, God sent a great wind on the sea, which made the sea so stormy that the ship was in danger of breaking apart. It was a terrible storm. The sailors were afraid, and each man cried to his own god. They began to throwing**

the cargo from the ship into the sea to make the ship lighter. While all of this was going on, Jonah was sleeping like a baby below deck. He had no idea that up above, a storm was raging. The captain of the ship came below deck and shook Jonah "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray to your god! Maybe your god will pay attention to us, and we won't die!" he said. "Let's draw straws," one of them shouted through the storm, "Maybe this god - whoever he is - will show us who is causing all our trouble." And so they all scrambled below the deck and got some straws ready.

Jonah drew the shortest straw. Then Jonah said "I am a Hebrew, I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." This is all my fault!" Jonah said.

"What have you done to make your God so angry?" the sailors asked.

"Well".... said Jonah "I am running away from God." The sailors were very frightened by this time. They asked Jonah "What can we do to save ourselves?"

"Pick me up, and throw me into the sea, and then the sea will calm down. I know it is my fault that this great storm has come on you." Jonah cried out above the loud waves and crashing thunder, "Just throw me overboard." Jonah knew it was the only thing they could do. He would have to take his punishment. One person would have to die so that the others could live. But the sailors weren't willing to throw Jonah into the churning sea. They thought if they tried real hard, they could save themselves without God's help. And so they rowed with all their might to try to get the ship back to dry land.

But it was no good. The winds just blew all the harder, the rain stung their faces all the more.

Finally, they cried out, "Please, O God of this man Jonah, forgive us for what we are about to do!"

The sailors had no other options, they had to throw Jonah into the sea or else the ship was going to sink and all the men onboard would die. So taking their only option available, they took Jonah by the hands and by the feet and they threw him into the sea.

At once the winds stopped, the waves rolled away, and the sea became as smooth as glass.

Now those sailors knew who the real God was, the God who can calm the seas.

Jonah sank down, down, down into the deep dark sea. It was cold, it was black and it was scary. But Jonah couldn't get away from God THAT easy! Even down in the deep, dark sea, God was with him. And so God sent Jonah a fish that swallowed Jonah with one big gulp. Now Jonah was not dead inside the fish, he was very much alive but... he was all alone. And he remained in that fishes belly for three long days. It was dark, it was wet, and it was VERY smelly inside the belly of that fish. But he was alive! Having three long days to sit and think about all the bad things you have done is a long time and that is exactly what Jonah did. He sat inside that stinky, smelly old fish and began to feel sorry for all the wrong things he had done.

He knew he needed to apologize to God because he had disobeyed Him. And so Jonah prayed, perhaps harder than he had ever prayed before. And as soon as Jonah had finished his prayer.... God whispered to the fish, and the fish spit Jonah out onto dry land. Jonah spent three days in the belly of a fish, and stepped out alive again. How great and powerful God is!

Then God said to Jonah, "Okay, Jonah, get thee up! Now go to Nineveh!"

And this time.... Jonah got up ...and went to Nineveh.

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

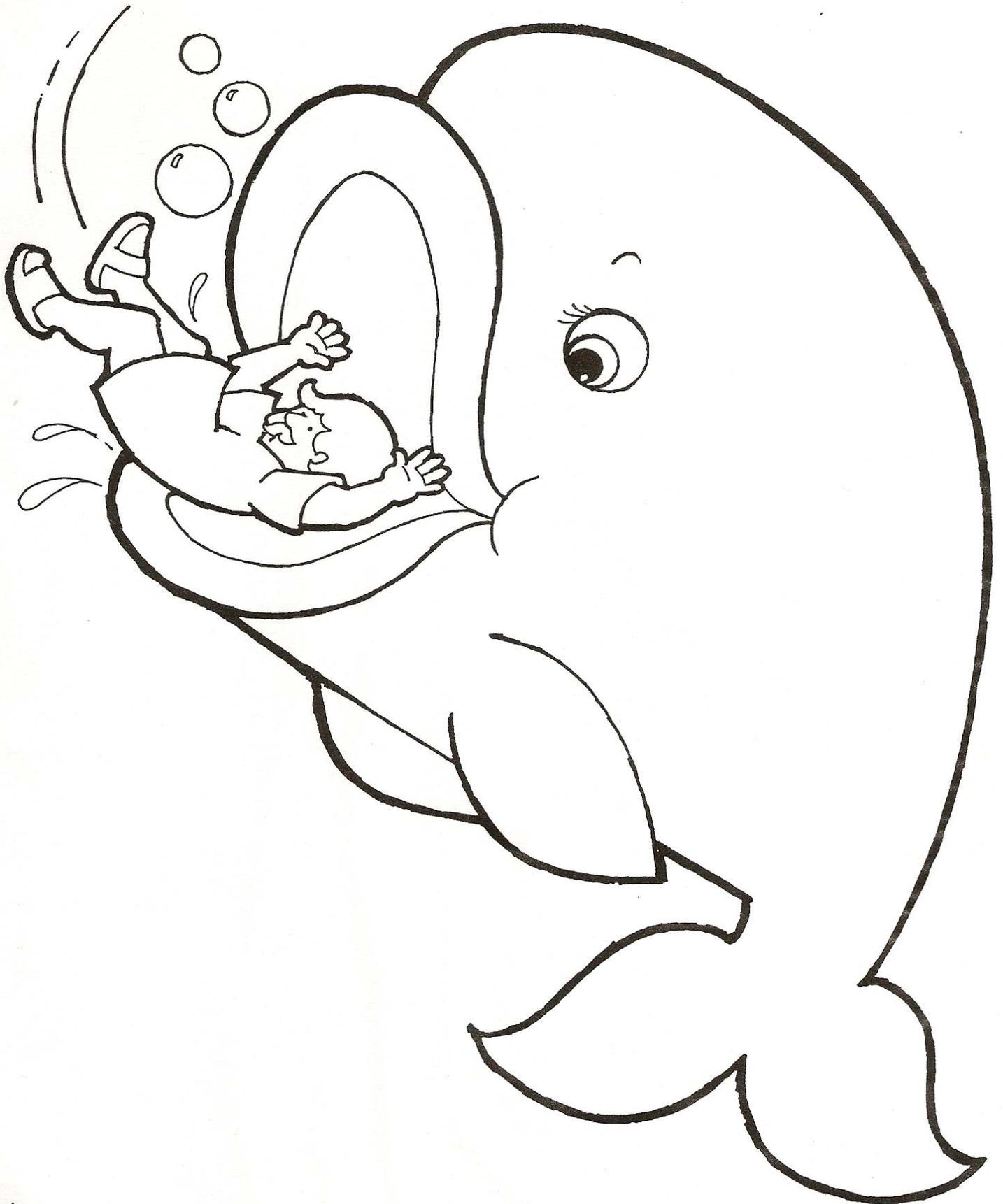
“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a

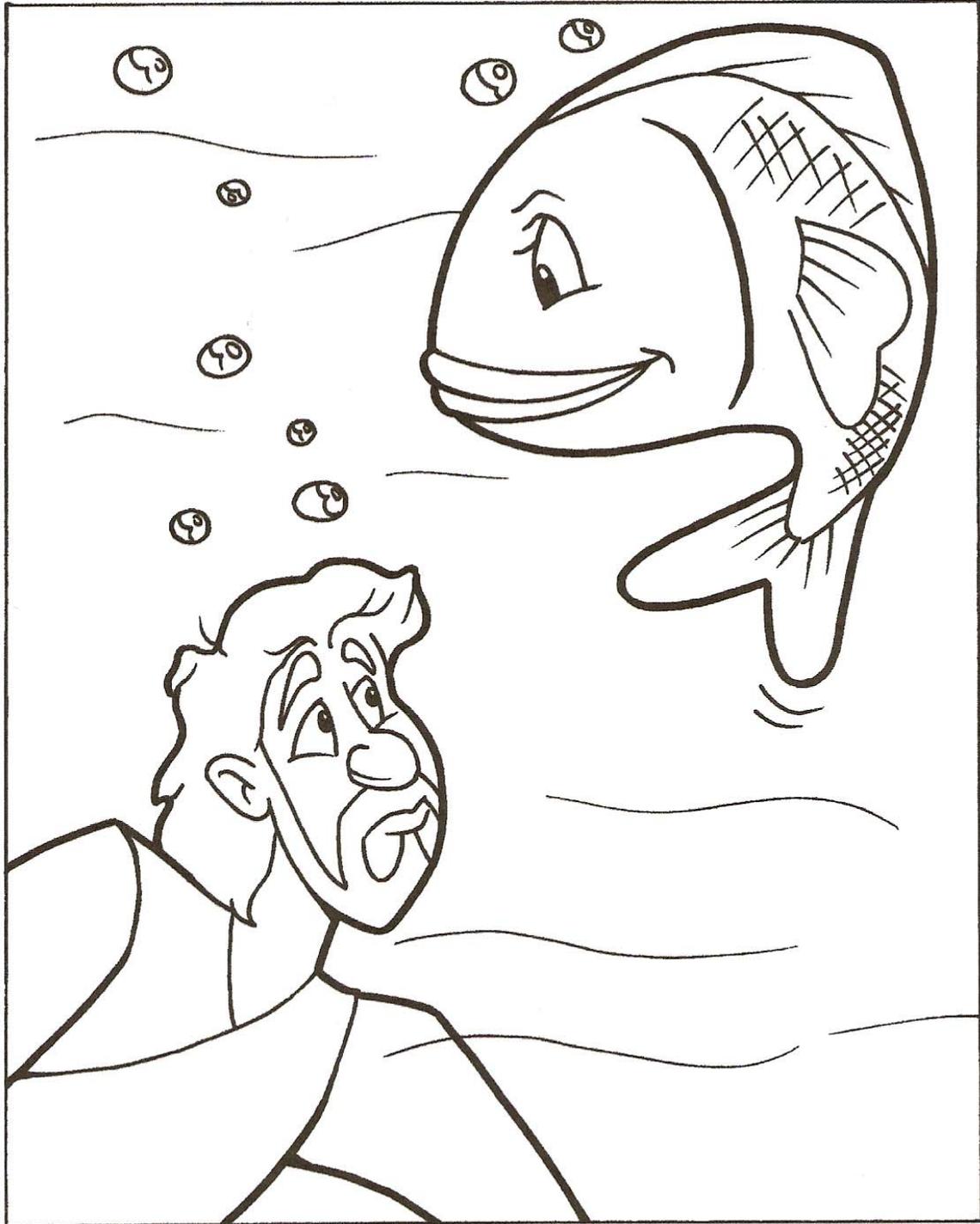
“But Jonah ran away  
from the Lord and headed  
for Tar-shish”  
Jonah 1:3a



**God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah.**

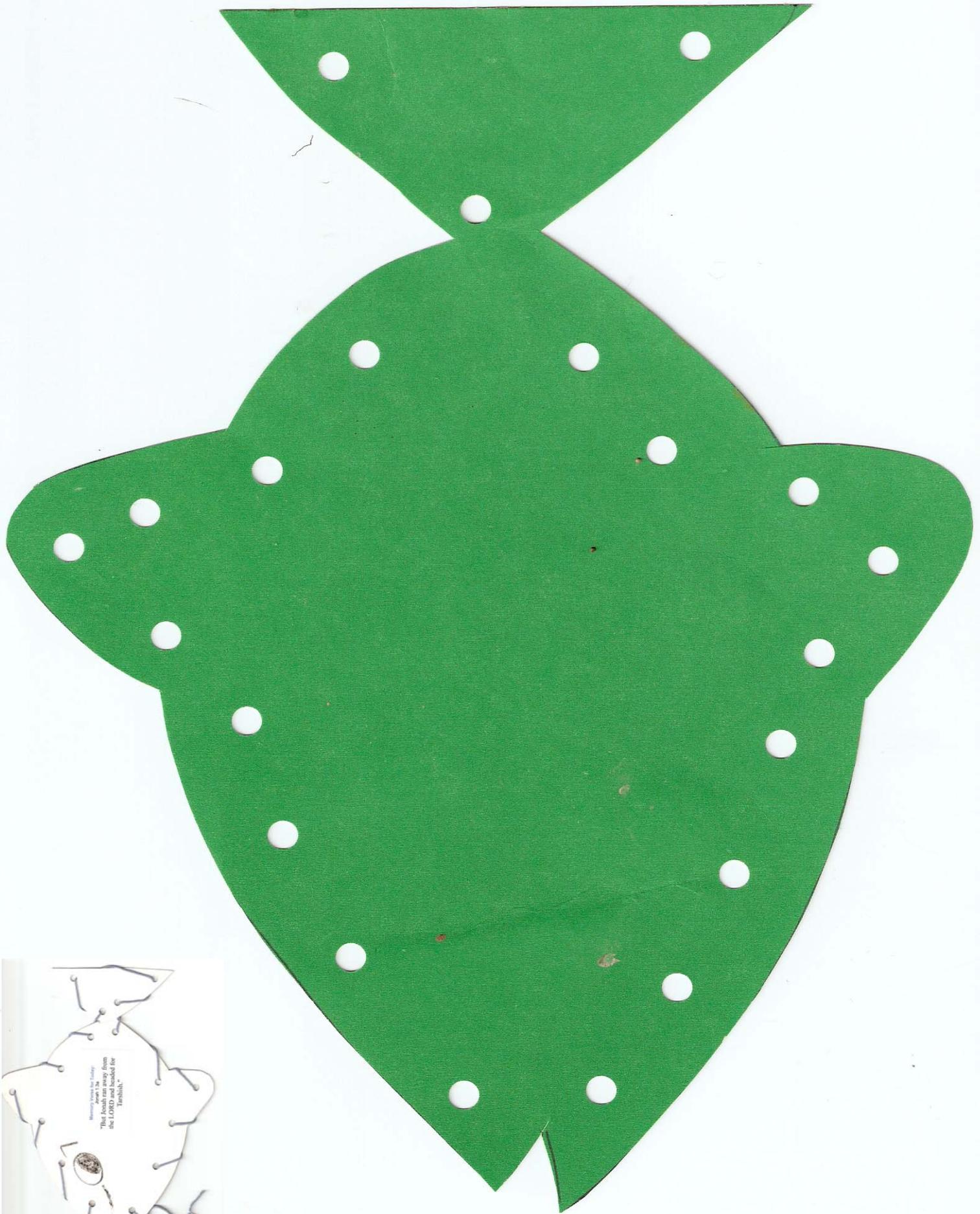
# JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH

(JONAH 1:1-2:10)



“So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.”  
**JONAH 1 : 15**

“Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”  
**JONAH 1 : 17**



## Whale Lacing Card

Trace out the whale template onto a piece of card stock.

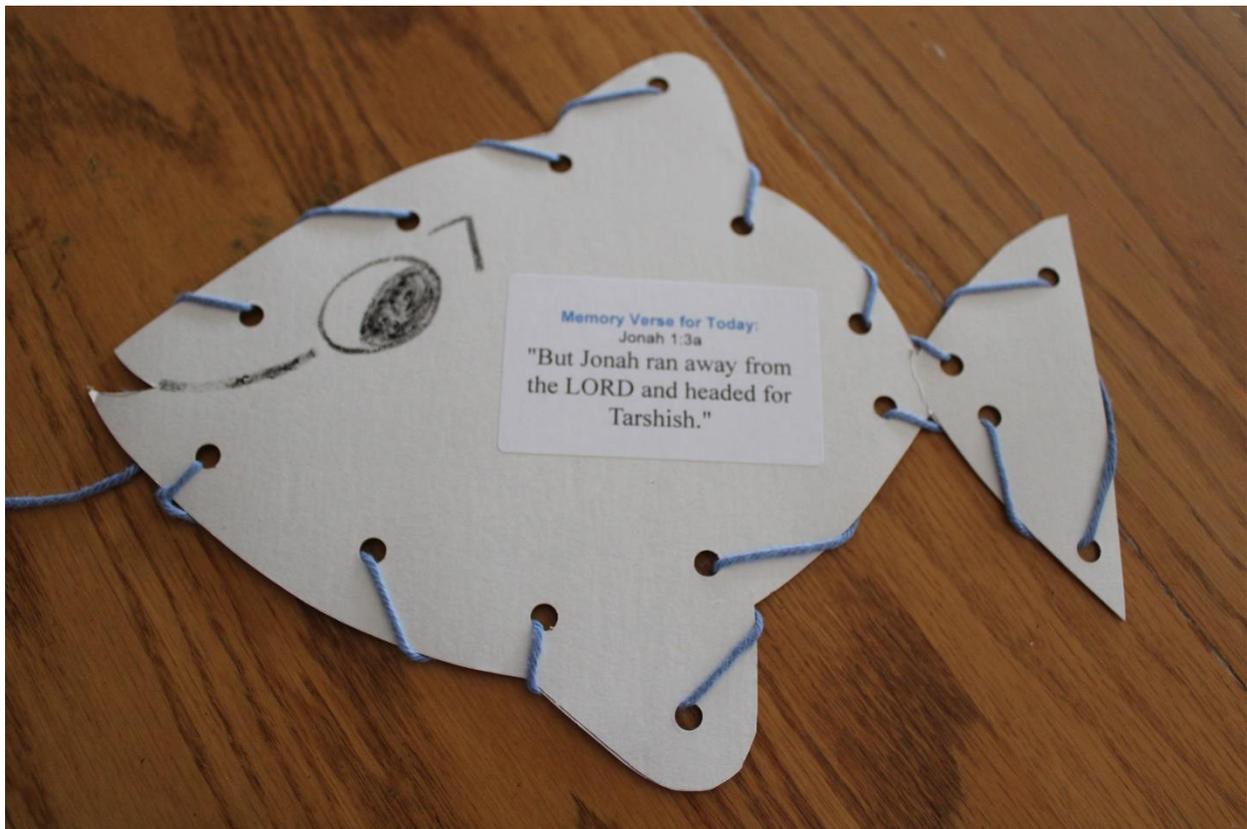
Using a hole punch, punch holes around the edges of the whale.

Tie a long piece of yarn through one of the holes and tie it.

On the opposite end of the yarn, take a twist tie, fold in half, run the yarn over the center point of the twist tie and tie tightly.

Then start twisting the twist tie tightly to form a needle.

Children will run the needle through the holes to make a sewing card.



## Whale Lacing Card

Trace out the whale template onto a piece of card stock.

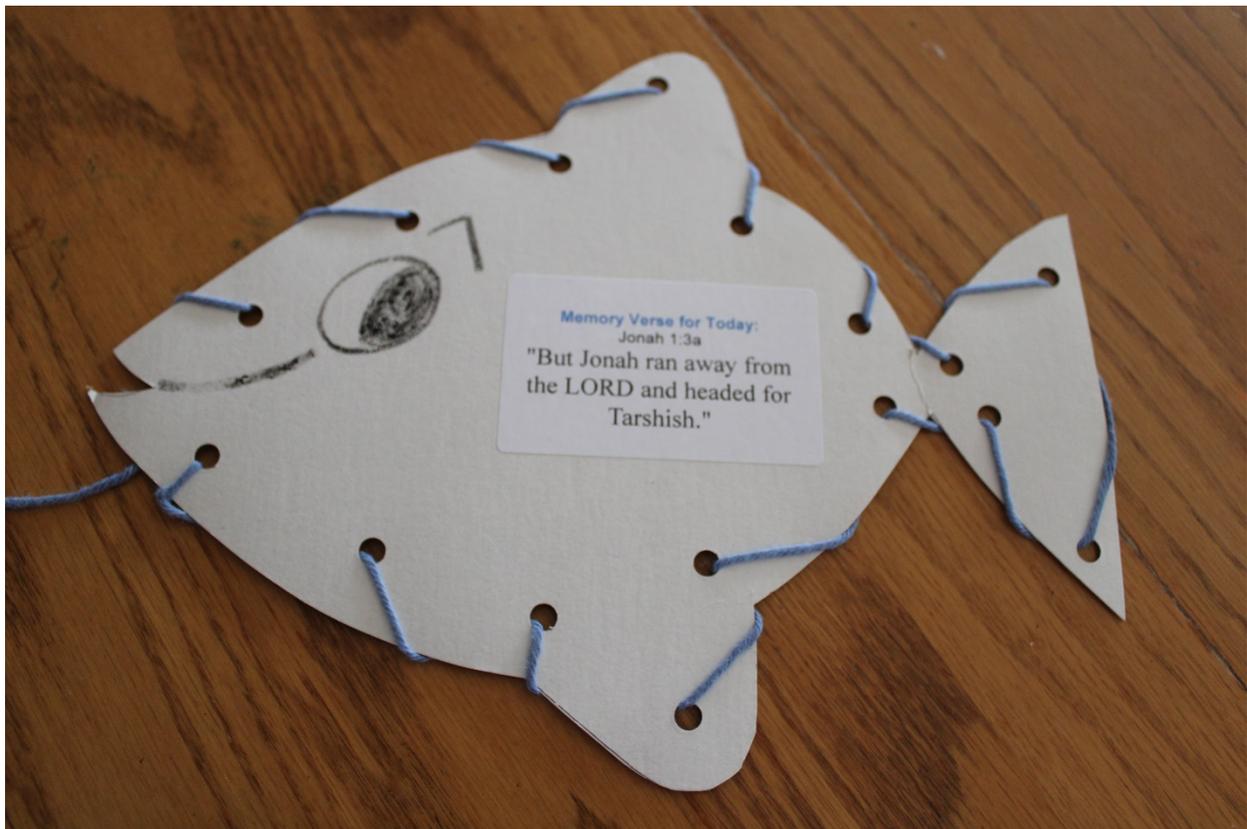
Using a hole punch, punch holes around the edges of the whale.

Tie a long piece of yarn through one of the holes and tie it.

On the opposite end of the yarn, take a twist tie, fold in half, run the yarn over the center point of the twist tie and tie tightly.

Then start twisting the twist tie tightly to form a needle.

Children will run the needle through the holes to make a sewing card.

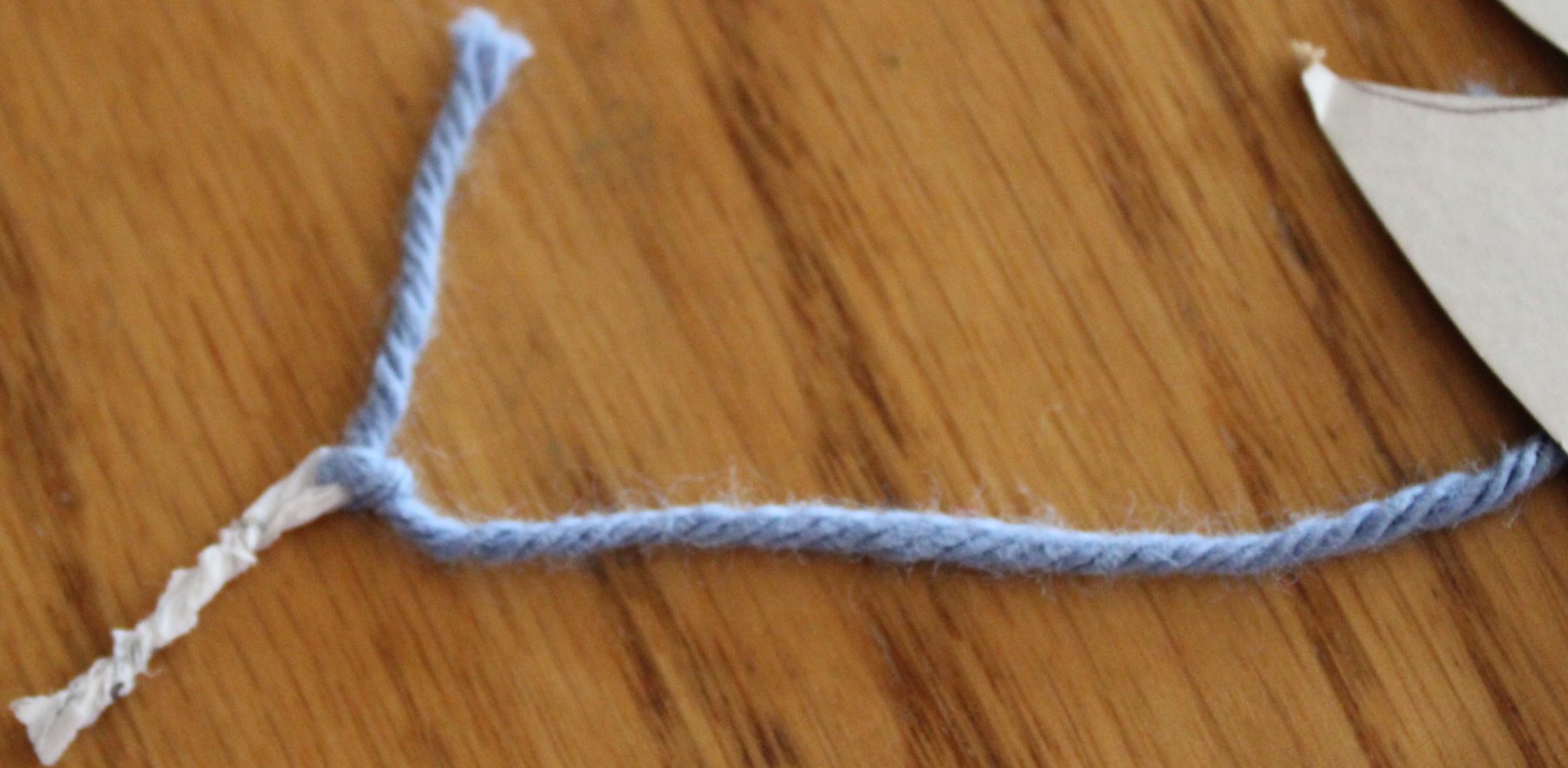


Memory Verse for Today:

Jonah 1:3a

"But Jonah ran away from  
the LORD and headed for  
Tarshish."

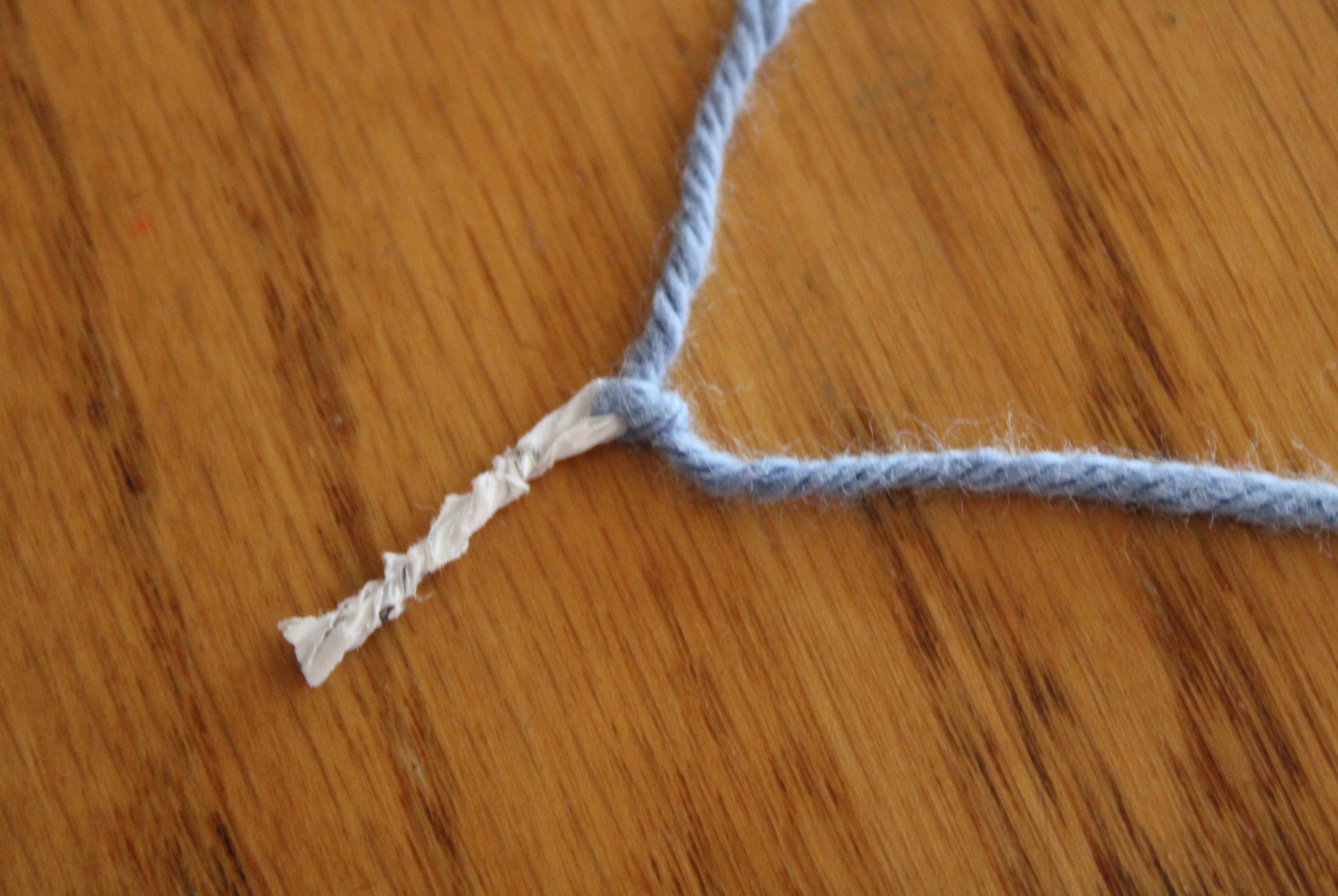






Memory Verse for Today:  
Jonah 1:3a

"But Jonah ran away from  
the LORD and headed for  
Tarshish."



### Bag Template

Using white construction paper, copy one whale pattern per child.

Cut out the whale.

Using various colors of construction paper, cut out small pieces in various shapes.  
Allow the children to glue the various shapes/colors onto their whale. (montage style)

Glue onto their bag.

