



JONAH


(Jonah 1, 2)

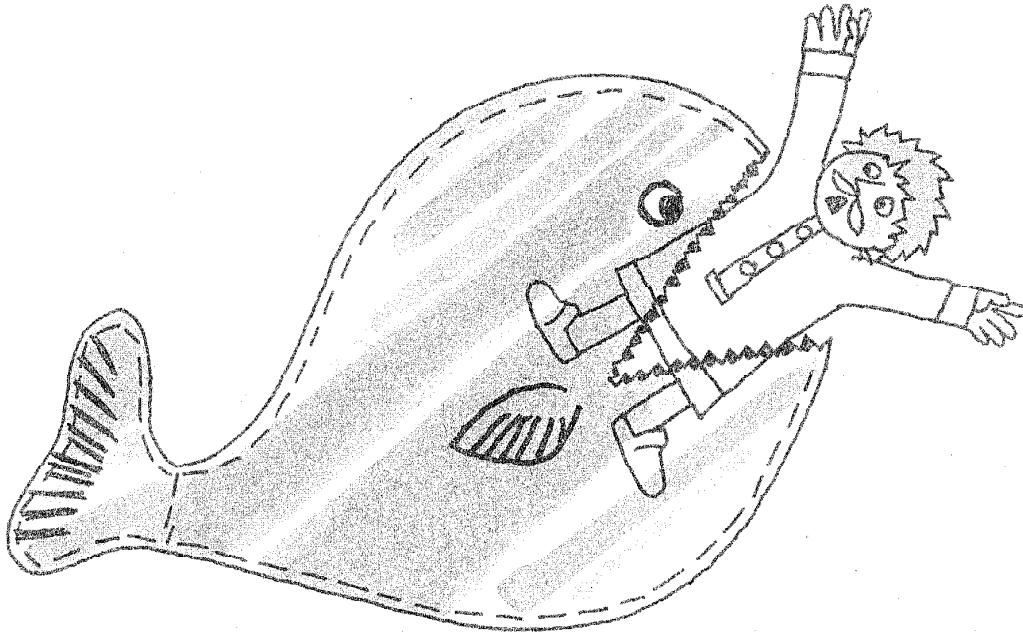
God tells Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh. He is supposed to warn the people to live a God-pleasing life. However, Jonah does not want to do what God tells him. He is afraid. He wants to run away, far away from God. He boards a ship. In the middle of the sea, the ship is suddenly hit by a storm which God has brought into being. Everyone becomes very afraid. They think that they will sink with the ship. Only Jonah is asleep. The owner of the ship wakes him up. He asks: "How can you sleep? Pray to your God. He has to help us." Then Jonah explains: "I ran away from the Lord, my God. If you throw me into the sea, the storm will stop." They throw him into the water, and the storm stops. God sends a large fish, which swallows Jonah. In the belly of the fish, Jonah prays to God. According to God's will, the fish spews Jonah on land after three days and three nights. Now Jonah is ready to do what God says he should do. He goes into the city of Nineveh and tells the people what God wants. The people listen to Jonah. They change their lives. (The further continuation of this story is hard to understand for children of this age group).

The children learn that Jonah could not hide himself from God. They also experience how Jonah was saved by God.

V. 8  This story may be told with the help of pictures.

IX. 1  This story can be acted out with a before-and-after theme (selection of props).

 We sing well known children's hymns which talk about rain, storms and sunshine. With instruments or voices, we portray wind, rain, lightning and thunder.



The children make, draw, paint, glue or fold a fish.

Example: From a transparent, colored, plastic bag, we cut out two large fish. The edges will be closed up by clothes pins. Only the mouth of the fish remains open. We will then be able to hide a figure in the belly of the fish and we nevertheless can still see the figure through the transparent bag. (Our Heavenly Father was also able to see Jonah).

III. 9



Role play suggestion: Jonah wants to hide from God.