

Bible Verse: Jonah 1:17b (NIV) “And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

There are many books in the Old Testament.

Some are long and some are short.

One of the shorter books is the Book of Daniel.

Last week we learned about how God saved Daniel in the den of lions.

Another of the short books is the book of Jonah.

The Book of Jonah is about choices and consequences and about God’s forgiveness.

The story of Jonah starts with a bad choice.

God tells a man named Jonah to go to Nineveh and to warn the people there that God is angry with their behavior. Jonah chooses to get on a ship and go in the other direction instead. (Bad choice) So God makes a storm and the ship is in trouble. Jonah knows that the storm is because of him, so he tells the sailors to throw him into the sea.

God calms the storm and sends a big fish (some versions say it’s a whale) to save Jonah.

The whale swallows Jonah.

Jonah spends three days and three nights in the belly of the whale.

Now he has time to think about his choices.

Jonah spends the time praying.

Finally, the whale spits Jonah safely onto the land. This time, when God tells Jonah to warn Nineveh, Jonah chooses to listen.

Jonah does such a good job warning Nineveh that all the people there make a good choice. They repent, even the king. God forgives the people of Nineveh and saves them.

But Jonah is still angry at Nineveh, even though God has forgiven the people.

God reminds Jonah that it is important to care and to forgive.

And the Book of Jonah reminds us to make good choices, to listen to God and to care and to forgive.

Wonder Question: Why do you think Jonah wasn’t more scared? He ran away from God and he told the sailors to throw him over the side of the boat.

