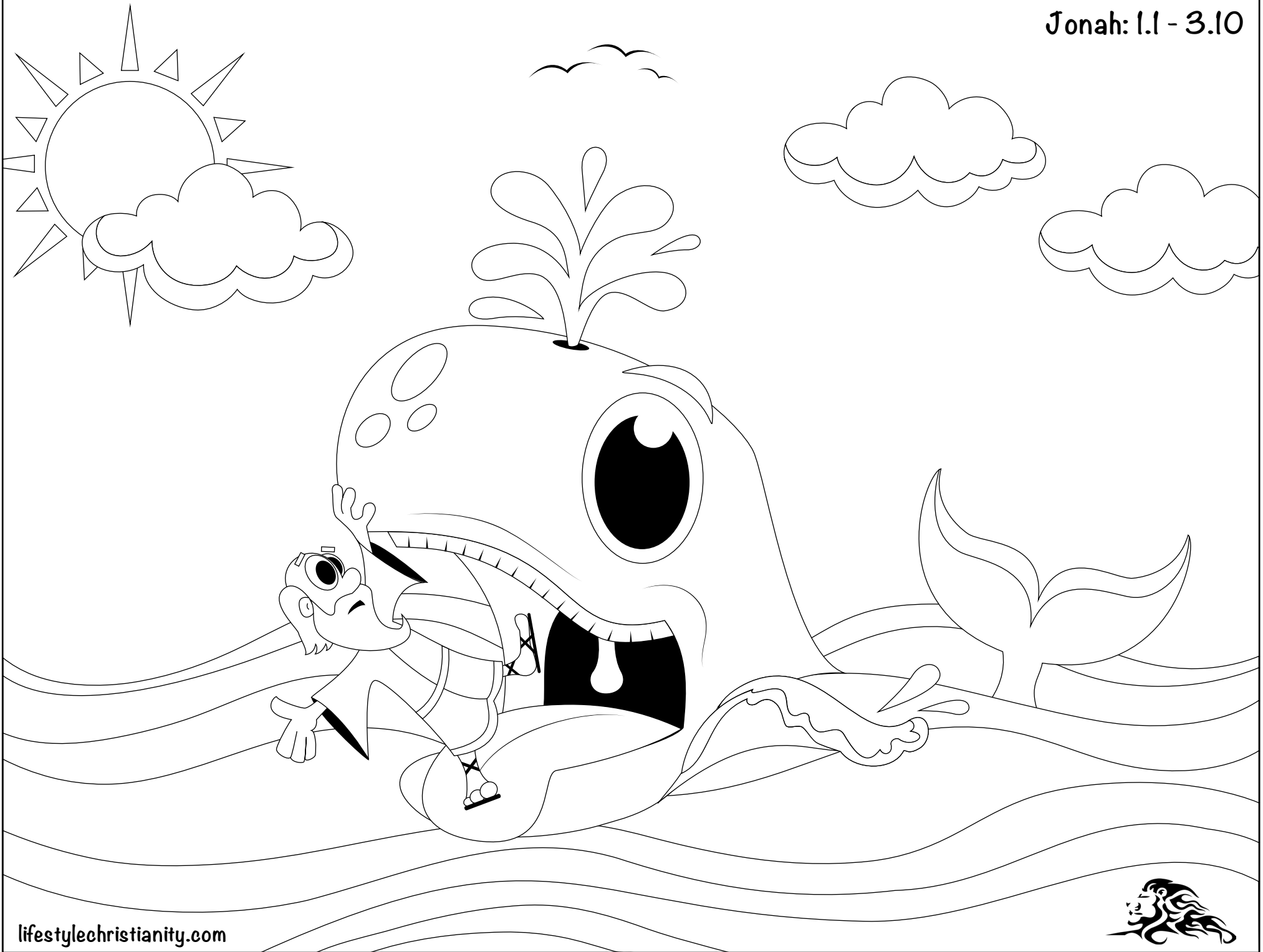


Jonah: 1.1 - 3.10



Jonah was a man who loved God, and God loved him. One day, God asked Jonah to travel to a city called Nineveh and bring a message to the people who lived there. There were many bad people in that city.

Jonah was told to tell them that God loved them, but would have to punish them because of their great sin. God didn't want to have to do that, so he asked Jonah to explain that if they would turn to God, and follow His ways, He would forgive their sins and they would be blessed.

Jonah did not like this idea. He did not like the people of Nineveh, and actually wanted God to punish them.

Instead of traveling to Nineveh with God's message, Jonah disobeyed. He climbed aboard a big boat and went the other direction - far away from Nineveh and those people.

God saw Jonah's disobedience and caused a big storm to come across the sea. The boat got tossed so hard that the people on board were afraid for their lives.

The sailors of the boat soon realized that the storm was caused by God because of Jonah's disobedience. They didn't want to throw Jonah overboard, but that was the only way to make the storm stop.

Overboard he went! Jonah was tossed into the sea!

A very large, very hungry whale saw Jonah, and before he could swim away, that whale swallowed him up!

It was awfully dark and lonely in the belly of that whale, but Jonah knew that God would hear his prayers even down there.

Jonah prayed to God and apologized for being disobedient. He promised to go to Nineveh and deliver the message that God had given him.

That whale swam right to the shores of Nineveh and spit Jonah right out on the shore!

Soon all the people of the city heard about God and His great love for them. The ruler of that city told everyone that it was time to put their faith and trust in God, and all of the people were saved from punishment. All of their lives were saved because Jonah finally decided to obey.