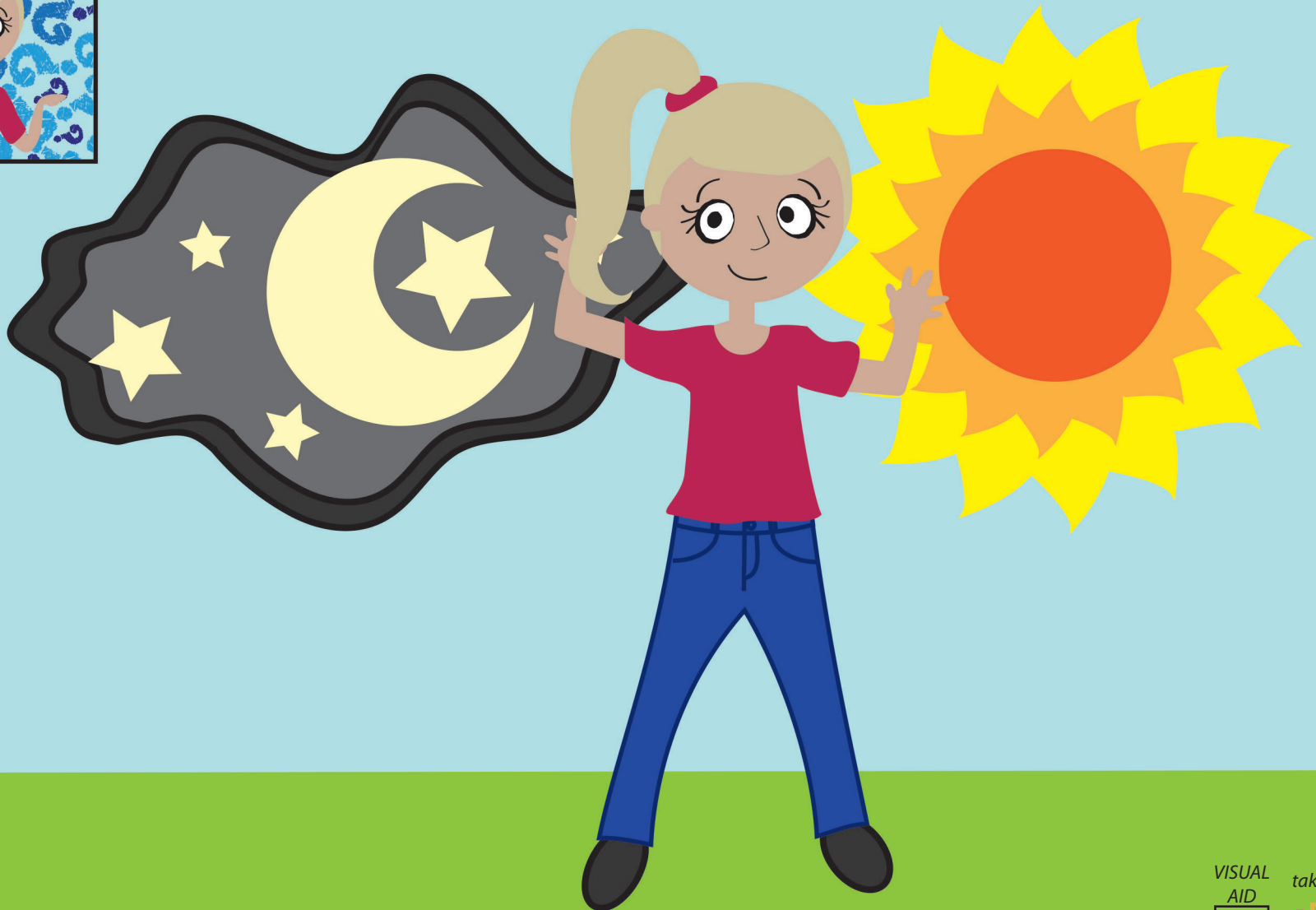


BIG QUESTION 14



How does God want us to pray?



ANSWER:

Every night and day... all the time!

VISUAL
AID
#1
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB

The Big Question

*Hold up the Big Question sign for all the children to see,
and say:*

The Big Question we are investigating today is
Big Question Number 14:

How Does God Want Us to Pray?
and the Answer is:
Every Night and Day...

Meaning:

Prayer is talking and listening to God. It's how God's people enjoy more of the special closeness they have with Him. It is a little bit like the forever happiness they will have with God when they live with Him in heaven.

God's people pray to God every night and day...and many times in between. There is so much to talk to Him about and God always wants to listen!

God's people tell God how wonderful He is. They say sorry for how they have disobeyed Him. They thank Him for all He's done for them and others. They ask Him to do great things. God's people want to stay close to God because He is the most wonderful person that anyone can ever know.

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

Big Q & A 14 Song

*DDD NIV Songs 14, track 12
(adapted version of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")*

How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!
How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!
Ev'ry night, ev'ry day,
Ev'ry night, ev'ry day,
Ev'ry night and day!
How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!

BIG QUESTION 14: Four truths about how we can pray



This Unit's Bible Truths

"Every Night and Day!" is a good beginning, but there's so more to learn. So it's time for us to dig down even deeper for more answers to our Big Question about God. We're going to be learning FOUR Bible truths that all tell us more about how God wants us to pray.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our four Bible truths on it? It's in the Big Question Box/Briefcase."

Choose a child to get it and hand it to you, then hold it up and show them the pictures of the four truths they will be learning.

After everyone has had a good look say...

"Ok, we've learned two truths about how God wants us to pray. They are: "He Wants Us to Praise Him" and, "He Wants Us to Confess Our Sins to Him" (point to pictures as you identify each Bible Truth). Now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these four truths we will be learning about today. Who would like to get it out of the Big Question Briefcase for me?"

Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the Bible Truth Clue sign and hand it to you.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 3:

How Does God
Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and
Day...

He wants us to
???? to Him!

HINT: This is what you say to
someone when they do something
nice for you. This word starts
with the letter "P" and it rhymes
with "plank."



ANSWER:

He wants us to THANK Him!

Visual Aid

#3



of BQB

Revealing the Bible Truth We Are Learning

Hold up the front side for the children to see. Cover up the answer, written along the bottom, and say:

**“How Does God Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and Day...
He Wants Us to ???? Him!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: This is what you say to someone when they do something nice for you. This word starts with the letter “P” and it rhymes with “plank.”

Can you guess? It’s “Thank.”

So, the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)

**“How Does God Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and Day...
He Wants Us to THANK Him!”**

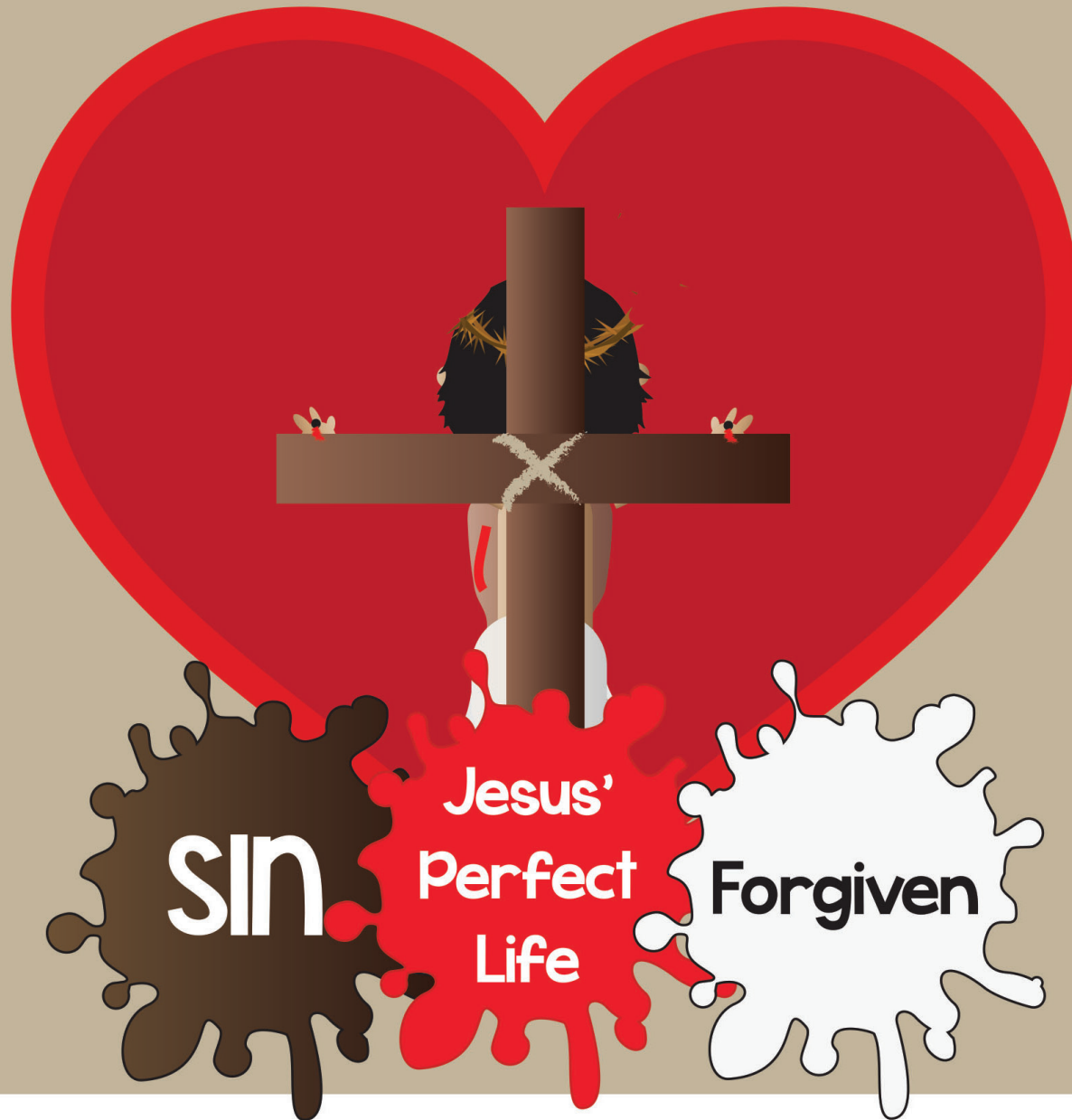
And here is what this Bible Truth means:

(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)

Prayer is talking to God and listening to Him. Prayer is a little taste of the forever happiness God’s people will have with Him in heaven. When God’s people pray, they thank God for what He has done.

There are so many things God’s people can thank Him for. He keeps the world going, every day and night. He provides them with food, friends, and family. He gives them the Holy Spirit to comfort them and help them do whatever good things He wants them to do. He answers their prayers. Best of all, He has taken away the punishment they deserved for their sins when Jesus suffered and died on the cross for them. In heaven, God’s people will thank God forever and ever. They will never run out of things to thank God for.

We can become God’s people, too, when we turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Then we can thank Him for being our Savior, too!



**“Give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.”
Psalm 107:8, NIV 1984**

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse

Remove the Bible Verse Picture from the "Bible" folder and hold it up for all the children to see, then say:

Psalm 107:8 tells us:

Psalm 107:8

"Give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men."

Learn a Little: "Give thanks to the LORD."

What does that mean?

God's people have so much to thank the LORD for! What wondrous works He has done for them! He sent Jesus to be their Savior and forgive all their sins. He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of them and help them love Him and live for Him! And one day, they will all go to live with Him forever.

"Now it's time to do a bit more deep down investigating. Let's see what Detective Dan wants us to help him figure out. Would someone like to get it out for me?"

"We've said our Bible verse, now let's sing it!"

"We've said our Bible verse, now let's sing it!"

Give Thanks to the Lord:

Psalm 105:1,2, ESV

DDD NIV Songs 14, track 21

Give thanks to the LORD, give thanks,
Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds
among the peoples, peoples.
Tell all His wondrous works!
Glory in His holy name,
Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD
Rejoice, rejoice!
Psalm One-o-five, one through three.

"Now it's time to do a bit more deep down investigating. Let's see what Detective Dan wants us to help him figure out. Would someone like to get it out for me?"

"The Case of the Wet and Wild Thank You" The Book of Jonah



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who got wet in the wild storm? Why did he get so wet?
2. What did he thank God for doing?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 107:8, NIV

"Give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men."

1. Who had something wonderful to thank God for? What was it?
2. How did the LORD show His unfailing love to him?

(more listening and discussion questions are included in the curriculum at praisefactory.org)



1. Jonah was a prophet, a special messenger of the LORD. Prophets were SUPPOSED to tell the LORD's messages, so the people would obey Him. But this time, Jonah wanted to keep his mouth SHUT! "Go to Nineveh, the big city of your enemies, the Assyrians. I have a message for them," the LORD had told Jonah. "Tell them: 'I've seen all the terrible things you have done. In forty days, I'm going to punish you,'" the LORD said.



2. "No! I don't want to go," thought Jonah. "The LORD wants the people of Nineveh to hear His warning, so they will turn away from their sins and not be punished," Jonah guessed. "They are Assyrians, our mean enemies. What terrible things they've done to us, the people of Israel," Jonah exclaimed. "I don't want the LORD to have mercy on them! I want Him to punish them NOW!"



3. "I am NOT going to Nineveh. I am NOT going to give them the LORD's message. I'm going to run far, far away instead!" Jonah decided. Uh, oh! Was this a good idea? Can anyone really run away from God and His good plans? Jonah certainly thought he could!



4. So, Jonah went to Joppa, by the sea. He found a boat headed to Tarshish --a city about as far away from Nineveh as he could get. He paid for his ticket and got on board. Jonah was going to escape from the LORD and escape from his job. No, sir! He would not be part of the LORD's plan of mercy this time.



5. But Jonah was wrong! No one can escape from the LORD, no matter how hard they try. The LORD is everywhere, all the time. He knows everything there is to know. There is no escaping from Him and His good plans. The LORD knew exactly what Jonah was up to. He knew that Jonah was disobeying Him.

Good, Good, Good



Bad, Bad, Bad



6. Yes, the LORD knew Jonah inside and out! He knew Jonah hated the people of Nineveh. Jonah was acting like he had no sin that deserved God's punishment. Was Jonah right? Was he without sin? Was he better than the people of Nineveh?



7. Jonah was very wrong! The truth was that Jonah deserved God's punishment for his own sins, just as much as the people of Nineveh deserved it for theirs. He had chosen to disobey the LORD, just like they had. Yes, Jonah needed to confess his sins and ask for the LORD's mercy, just like they did. Jonah didn't understand this yet, but the LORD was going to teach this to him, as Jonah was just about to find out.



8. Out at sea, Jonah soon fell asleep. He was on his way to Tarshish. Now he could relax, or so he thought.



9. Suddenly, a big storm struck. “Whoosh, boom, bang, slap!” went the strong wind on the sails and the big waves on the sides of the boat. Up and down, side to side, the boat was tossed in the storm. It would sink if something wasn’t done quickly!



10. The sailors were terrified. "Help us! Help us!" they each cried out to their gods. But their gods were just fake gods. They couldn't stop the storm or help the sailors. "Whoosh, boom, bang, slap!" The waves kept splashing up high and the winds kept blowing as strong as ever.



II. The sailors decided to throw things off the boat. Maybe this would keep it from sinking. Off went barrels and ropes, riggings, and supplies. Would this be enough to keep the ship from sinking? No, try as they may, it was not enough. The sailors were losing all hope. They would surely drown. Were they right? Was there no one who could help them?



12. But there **WAS** someone who could, and only Jonah knew who it was. It was the LORD. He had brought this big storm and it was only He who could help them out of it.



13. The sailors found Jonah asleep and woke him up. Perhaps his god could help them, they hoped. "Get up, Jonah! Cry out to your god! Perhaps he will help us!" the sailors pleaded with Jonah. Jonah knew the LORD could help them, but it would take more than praying to Him for this storm to stop.



14. "The LORD has brought this storm upon us because I have disobeyed Him," he told them. "I have a message from Him that I was supposed to give, but I ran away instead," he explained. "You must throw me off the ship if you want the storm to stop," he said. The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah off the ship. They knew he would die in the big waves. But they knew they would all die if they didn't. What should they do?



15. They had no choice. The storm was getting worse and worse. So, they threw Jonah overboard into the big, swirling waves.



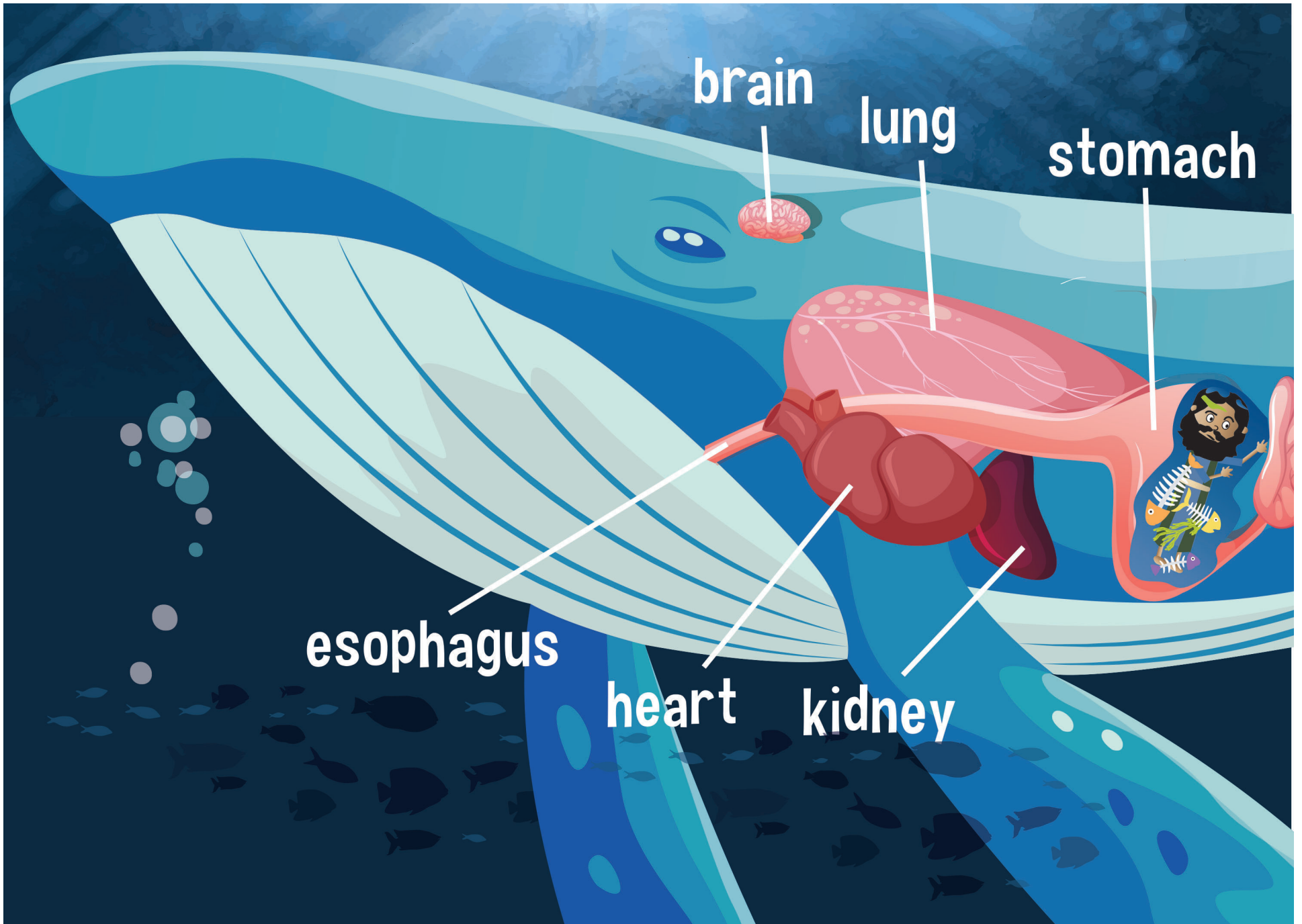
16. And as soon as they did, the sea grew calm. Jonah's God was God. But Jonah was headed down, down, down, into the depths of the sea.



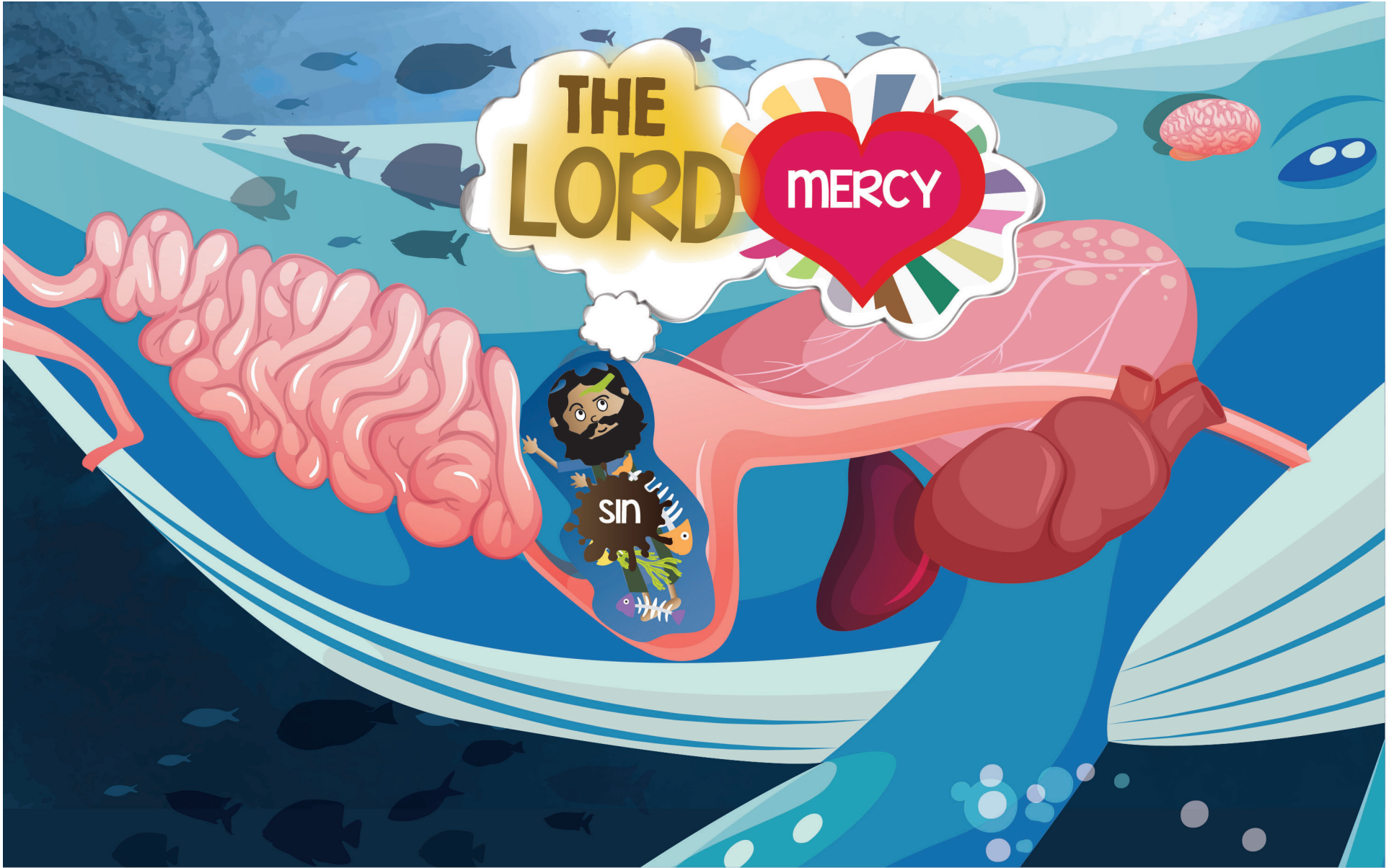
17. The LORD would have been right to let Jonah die in that storm and Jonah knew it. Jonah had refused to obey Him on purpose. But the LORD treats His people better than they could ever deserve. Jonah cried out to the LORD to rescue him, even as he was drowning for disobeying Him. Would the LORD help Jonah, or was it too late?



18. No, it was not too late! Instead of letting Jonah die, the LORD sent a giant fish to swallow Jonah, keeping him safe and alive inside its big belly.



19. For three days and three nights, Jonah lay in that yucky, fish belly.



20. And as he lay there, Jonah thought about how he had disobeyed the LORD. He thought about how he had deserved God's punishment, but how God had sent the big fish to rescue him. The LORD was giving Jonah a chance to turn away from his sins and obey Him, and Jonah took it. How merciful the LORD had been to him! How grateful Jonah was!



21. So right there, in the belly of that fish, Jonah prayed to the LORD a prayer of thanks. "I was sinking down in the stormy waters about to die," Jonah said to the LORD. "I deserved Your punishment, but You rescued me when I prayed to You. Thank you, LORD, for saving me!" The LORD heard Jonah's prayer. He knew his heart had changed. The LORD spoke to the fish, and it swam near the beach and spit Jonah out upon the dry land.



22. Jonah was so thankful that the LORD had saved him! He knew didn't deserve it. Now, he was ready to obey the LORD. He would go to Nineveh and give the people the LORD's message. He would give them the chance to be spared God's punishment, even though THEY didn't deserve it. So, off went Jonah to Nineveh. Over the hills of Israel, then through dry, wilderness lands he travelled. At last, he could see the great walls of Nineveh, that big city full of their mean enemies.



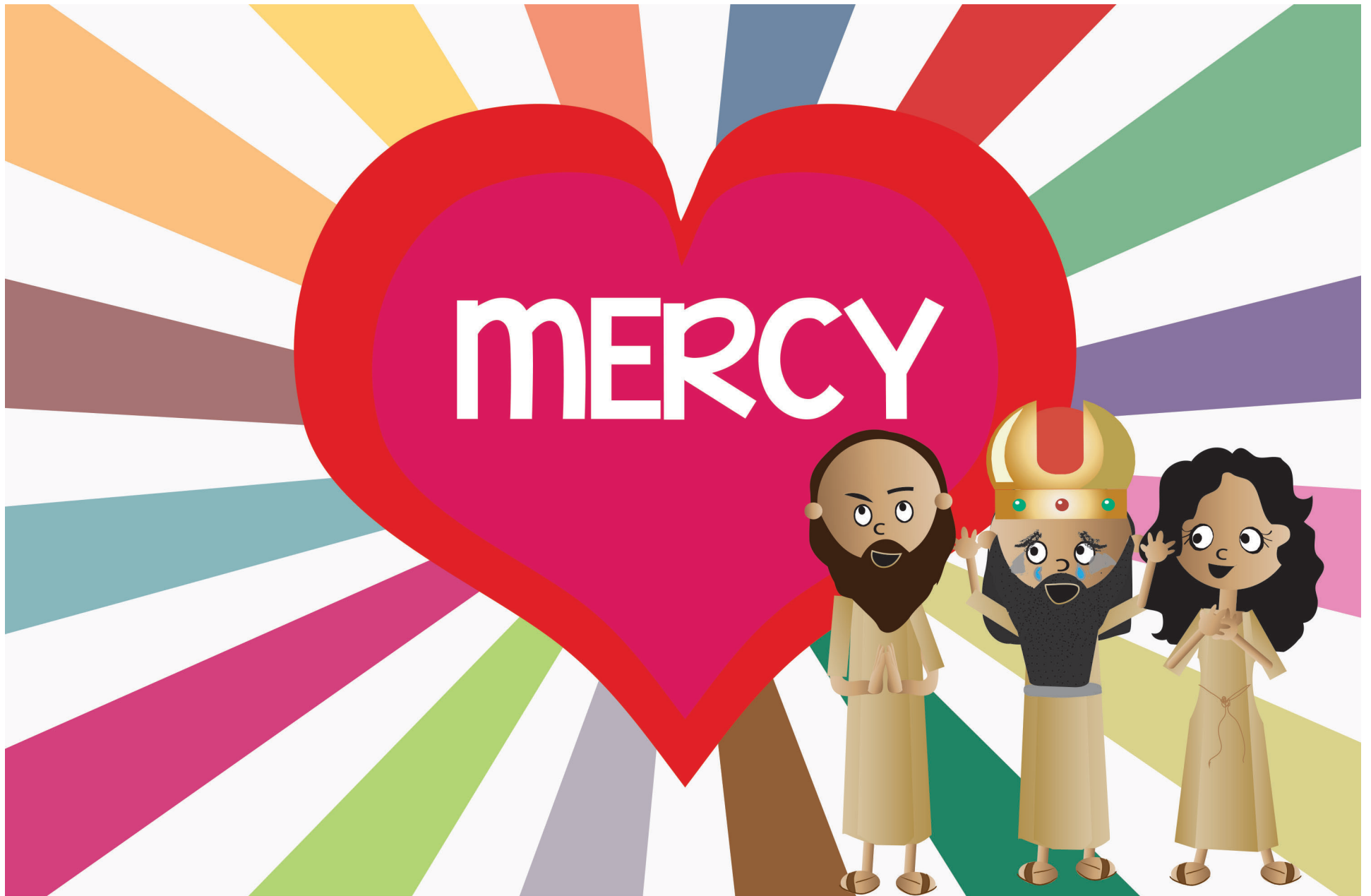
23. Jonah walked around Nineveh's great walls, then into the city to find the king. "The LORD says: 'I've seen what you and your people have been up to. I've seen all the terrible things you've done. In forty days, I'm going to punish you for them,' Jonah told him. And what would the king do? They worshiped fake gods, not the LORD. Would he really believe this message from the LORD?"



24. Yes, he did! He believed the LORD's message and turned away from his evil ways. He ordered the people, to repent, also. "Let all the people and even all the animals, put on clothes of sadness," the king of Nineveh ordered. "Let no one eat or drink but spend all your time praying to the LORD. Turn away from your sins. Perhaps He will have mercy and not punish us," he exclaimed.



25. The people obeyed. Everyone put on the scratchy sackcloth, the clothes of sadness. They even put it on their animals. For forty, long days, they prayed and prayed. "LORD, have mercy, LORD, have mercy," they pleaded. But would He? Would the LORD really have mercy on them?



26. Yes, He would! Day Forty came and the LORD did NOT punish them. Oh, how the people of Nineveh must have thanked the LORD that day! They had deserved His punishment, but He chose to have mercy on them. What an amazing God is the LORD!

"The Case of the Wet and Wild Thank You" The Book of Jonah

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who got wet in the wild storm? Why did he get so wet? Jonah did. He was thrown into the sea when he admitted that his sin against the LORD was the reason for the storm.

2. What did he thank God for doing?
For not letting him drown in the sea, but rescuing him with the big fish. God was merciful to Jonah.

For You and Me:

We may never get thrown into a stormy sea or need God to rescue us by being swallowed by a huge fish. But, there is still something we need God to rescue us from. Something BIGGER than the stormy sea. We need Him to rescue us from the punishment we deserve from Him for our sins! God provides us that rescue through Jesus when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. And if we do, we will have far more than Jonah did to thank God for!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 107:8, NIV

"Give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men."

1. Who had something wonderful to thank God for? What was it? Jonah. For rescuing him from dying in the sea.

2. How did the LORD show His unfailing love to him?
He rescued Jonah and gave him another chance to obey Him.

For You and Me:

We may never get thrown into a stormy sea or need God to rescue us from being swallowed by a huge fish. But, there is still something we need God to rescue us from. Something BIGGER than the stormy sea. We need Him to rescue us from the punishment we deserve from Him for our sins! God provides us that rescue through Jesus when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. And if we do, we will have far more than Jonah did to thank God for!

How Does God Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and Day!...
He Wants Us to Thank Him!

The Gospel



There are many things that God's people thank God for. They know He is the One who gives them everything good that they enjoy.

But most of all, God's people love to thank God for saving them from their sins and making them His people. How amazing it is that God would send His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take God's punishment for their sins. And, that on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had beaten sin and death for them. They thank God for His work in their hearts. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, and will keep helping them their whole lives.

We can become God's people, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Ask Him to help you.

He loves to do this!



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for being so good to us. You fill our lives with so many good gifts! You make the way for us to be Your people.

C God, so often we forget just how good You have been to us. We forget that the good gifts we enjoy each day come from You. We forget how amazing it is that You would save us and make us Your people through Jesus. How ungrateful we are! Oh, how we need a Savior!

T Thank You for continuing to be so good to us, even when we forget to be grateful to You. Thank You for all of Your good gifts that we enjoy each day. Thank You, especially, for sending Jesus to be our Savior, so we can become Your people.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to see more of Your good gifts and thank You for them.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

