

Characters in the story :

JONAH: a nerd of a prophet who learns the hard way that God loves everyone.

GOD: loves and forgives everyone, no matter where they come from, if they are sorry for what they have done wrong and promise to change their ways

When the sailors hear that Jonah is running away from his God they decide to throw him overboard and pray to his God to save them.

Those sailors have more sense than Jonah!

Draw the sailors on the boat, and the storm around the boat.



God miraculously rescues Jonah and tells him again to go to Ninevah and give God's message to the people there.

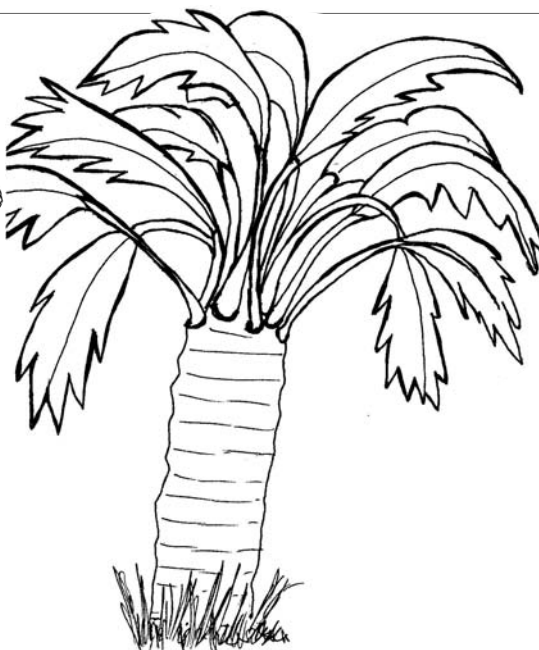
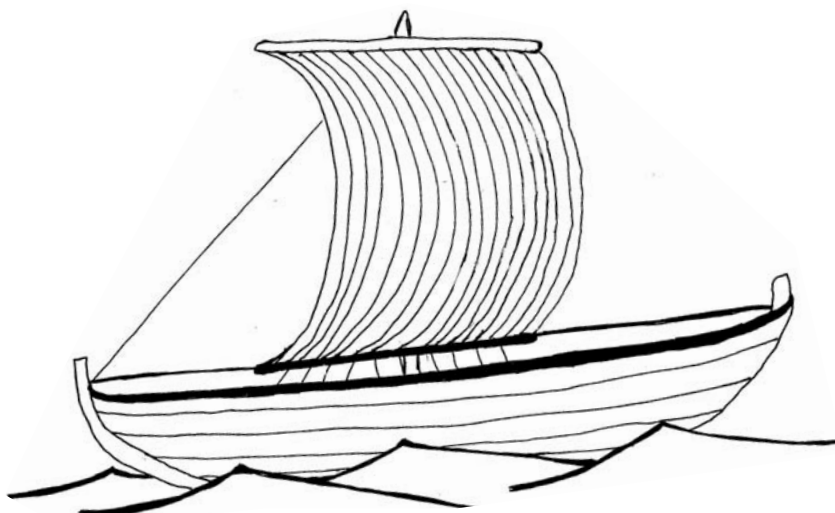
Jonah does it this time but pretty half-heartedly, but the King and the people of Ninevah also have more sense than Jonah and they decide to hear God's word and give up their wicked behaviour and so God forgives them.

Jonah thinks this is silly. He wants to see Ninevah destroyed so he goes off and sulks.

Jonah is told by the Lord to go to Ninevah and warn the people that he is angry with their bad behaviour and will destroy them all if they don't change their ways.

This is the sort of stuff most prophets are good at, but Jonah doesn't particularly want to go to Ninevah and so he takes a ship going in the opposite direction – to Spain in fact.

God says, "No, you don't, Jonah" and sends a big storm.



God teases him by giving him a plant to shade him and then gets a worm to kill it and this makes Jonah very angry.

The Lord says to him, "Wake up to yourself, Jonah. You get mad because a plant dies and yet you want all of Ninevah destroyed. That is thousands of people. Because I love them and they are sorry for their wicked behaviour I forgive them and I will not destroy them as I originally said I would. So there Jonah!

You've got a few things to learn about being a prophet."

Draw Jonah sulking under the tree.

Jonah's Story: text by **Avis Miller** Port Elliot Uniting Church, SA
Used with permission. Art work © Marnie Agnew January 2009