

**GO!**  
Join the Story!

## GROUP ACTIVITY

This activity can be used in a small group at church or even with your kids at home!

### The Big Whale Fail

**Say:** We all miss the mark sometimes—that's called sin. In our story for today, Jonah and the people of Nineveh both missed the mark big time! But God was patient and gave them a second chance to turn away from sin. We're going to do an activity right now that will help us see how hard it is to stay on the right path when we're focused on sin.

**Directions:** Give each kid a "Jonah's Giant Fish (Whale Fail)" outline drawing along with a marker. Tell them to study the picture for a moment. The object is for the kids to trace the outline of the fish without messing up or coloring off of the line. But as with all good fish stories—there's a catch! The kids will have to do it without looking. When ready, have them place their marker somewhere on the outline of the fish. Hold up the sign that says, "Sin." Tell the kids that they have to keep their eyes on the "Sin" sign while tracing the outline of the fish. Kids may not look where they are drawing. When they think they're finished, allow them to look down and show each other how they did. No one will be able to trace the outline without messing up. Next, tell the kids that you have good news—they get a second chance. Allow the kids to do it again, but this time they can turn away from the "Sin" sign and keep their eyes on the drawing while they trace it. When finished, ask the kids how they did the second time.

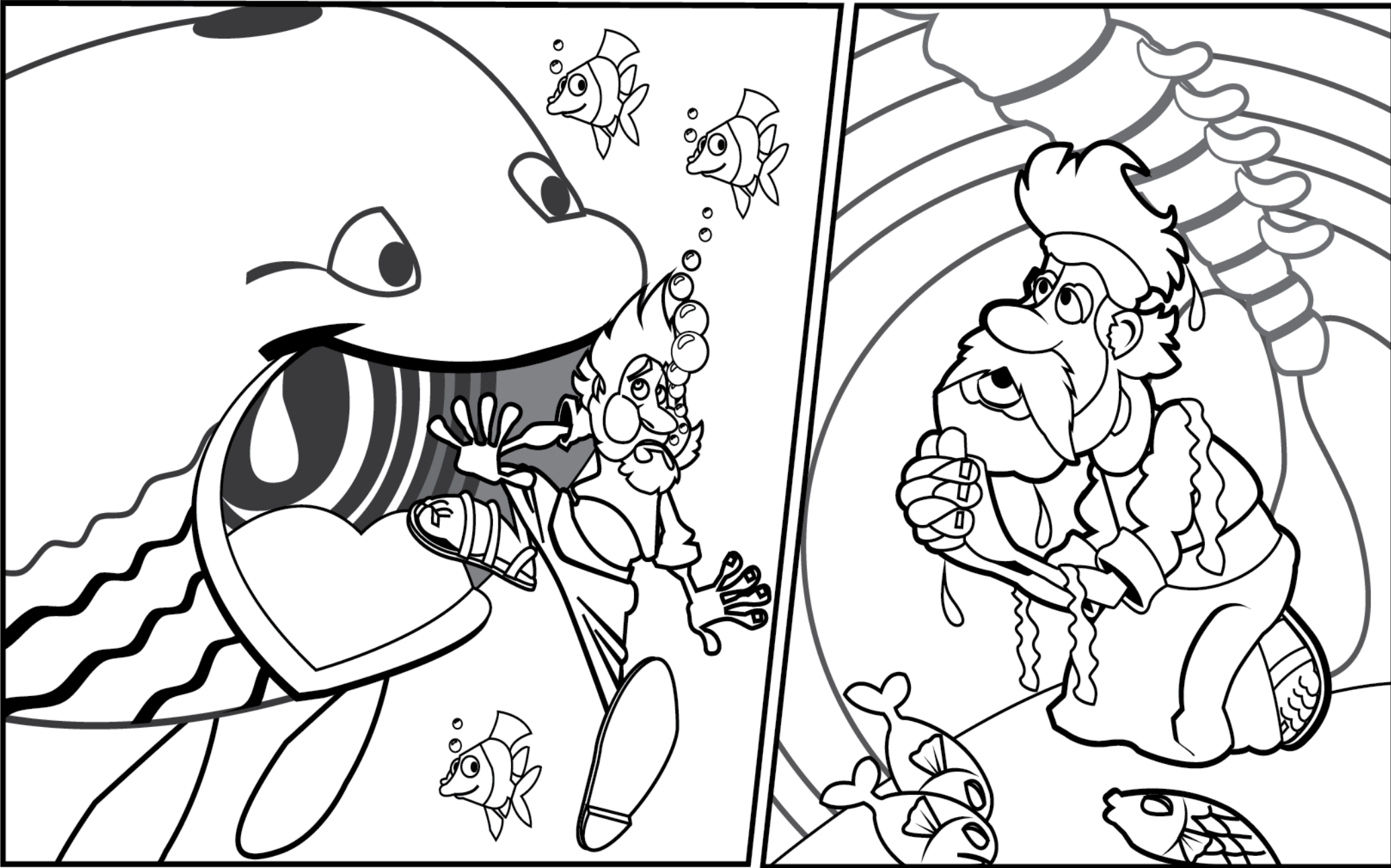
**Say:** When you were focused on the "Sin" sign, it was impossible for you to trace the drawing perfectly. But then I gave you a second chance. And when you turned away from the "Sin" sign, you were able focus on the drawing and stay on the lines.

**Question:** How is that kind of like following God?

**Say:** God gives us a path to follow—He tells us what is right and wrong. But when we're focused on sin, it's impossible to stay on His path. Fortunately, when we mess up, God gives us a second chance. And when we turn away from sin, like Jonah and the people of Nineveh did, we're able to follow God and stay on the right path.

**Question:** When is a time that God gave you a second chance to do the right thing?

**Question:** In the story, God did big things through Jonah when he turned away from sin. What kind of big things do you think God might want to do through you if you keep your eyes on Him?



“God is patient with you. He wants all people to turn away from their sins.” 2 Peter 3:9b (NIrV)