

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 4

### Law/Gospel

In my sin, I judge and condemn others. I am unforgiving because I am blind to my own sin and guilt. **God, who sees my sin, is rich in mercy and forgives me for Jesus' sake.**

### Bible Words

[Jesus said,] "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Matthew 12:40

### Just Joking

*Which bird helped Jonah in the belly of the fish?*

A swallow

### Sing

God, our Father, hear Your children

As we come to You in prayer,  
Knowing You are always with us,  
Giving us Your love and care.

Bless our parents, friends, and teachers,

Bless all those with whom we play.

Show us how to help each other  
In the things we do and say.

"God, Our Father, Hear Your Children," stanzas 1 and 2 by Sophie Damme, *Little Ones Sing Praise*, page 14, copyright © 1989 CPH.

## Jonah

### Book of Jonah

Many prophets spoke God's Word, but God sent only Jonah to prophesy in Nineveh, the capital city of Israel's Assyrian enemies. Jonah didn't want this assignment, so he hopped a ship and tried to hide from the Lord.

Jonah soon learned that you can't run away from the living God. The Lord sent a great wind that railed against the ship. The sailors felt afraid and called out to their gods. They hurled cargo overboard and fought the storm. All this while, Jonah slept in the hull.

Desperate, the sailors cast lots to discern who brought this evil on them; the lot fell on Jonah. He told them to hurl him into the sea to stop the storm. They refused, but finally relented. When Jonah went overboard, the wind and sea stopped raging.

The Lord sent a great fish to swallow Jonah. For three days and three nights, Jonah survived in the fish's belly. Finally, he prayed to the Lord and repented. "And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land" (Jonah 2:10).

Jonah went to Nineveh. He called the people to repent or be overtaken in forty days. The people and their king turned from their evil. God withdrew His judgment and preserved the city.

Jonah should have exulted in his success, but instead felt angry and wanted to die. He wanted God to take revenge on Israel's enemies, not offer grace. He told the Lord he fled because he knew "that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster" (Jonah 4:2). Gently, the Lord showed Jonah the reason for His grace, but the Bible does not share Jonah's response. Perhaps like us, he needed time to adjust his attitudes.

Jesus foretold that He would experience Jonah's separation from God (see sidebar Bible Words). Like Jonah, Jesus descended into darkness, forsaken by God (Matthew 27:46). For us, Jesus experienced judgment, condemnation, and death before He rose from the dead after three days to give us forgiveness and new life.

### Prayer

*Jesus, help us repent of our sin and trust You to save us, forgive us, and renew us, in Your name. Amen.*

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