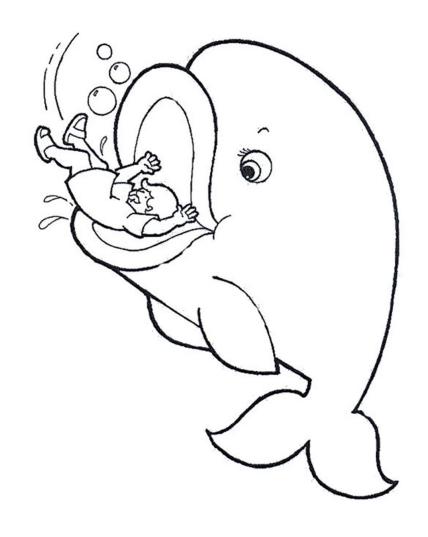
WE NEED TO OBEY

Taken from "Animals of the Bible" (Children's Ministry Deals)

If fish were as smart as humans, I wonder how many of them we'd catch. Fish would be smart enough to realize that a worm dangling in the middle of the lake is probably a trap. They'd be wise enough to know they shouldn't grab that worm, and they'd have the good sense to warn other fish. But if fish were as smart as humans... some of them would still probably eat the



worm! Why? Because as smart as we are, as much as we know what's right and what's wrong, we still sometimes make the wrong choice. We see the bait. We take it. By the time we realize it's a trap, it's too late.

The world wants to lure us away from doing God's work. The world wants to distract us.

The world puts out a lot of bait to lead us away from God. Don't take the bait. Listen to God, and follow His instructions. Be wise enough to say no to sin, and have the courage to step out in faith.

God will never lead us into a trap. God will use us to do great things. When we are obedient, God can use us to save others. Let's be obedient believers, and let's commit to always going God's way.

Read Jonah 1 and 2 together.

- What did God tell Jonah to do?
- What did Jonah do instead?
- What did the fish do to stop Jonah from disobeying God?

- Why did God give Jonah a second chance?
- Does God give us second chances when we disobey?

God had a special mission for Jonah, but Jonah ran away from God. God sent a storm and then a big fish to get Jonah's attention. In the end, Jonah realized the importance of obeying God.

Here is a verse to learn this week that will remind us that we should obey God!

"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NIrV)

Bring in some BIG craft paper or construction paper so your kids can draw and cut out some BIG fish. Let them use more construction paper, scissors, and glue to decorate their BIG fish.

