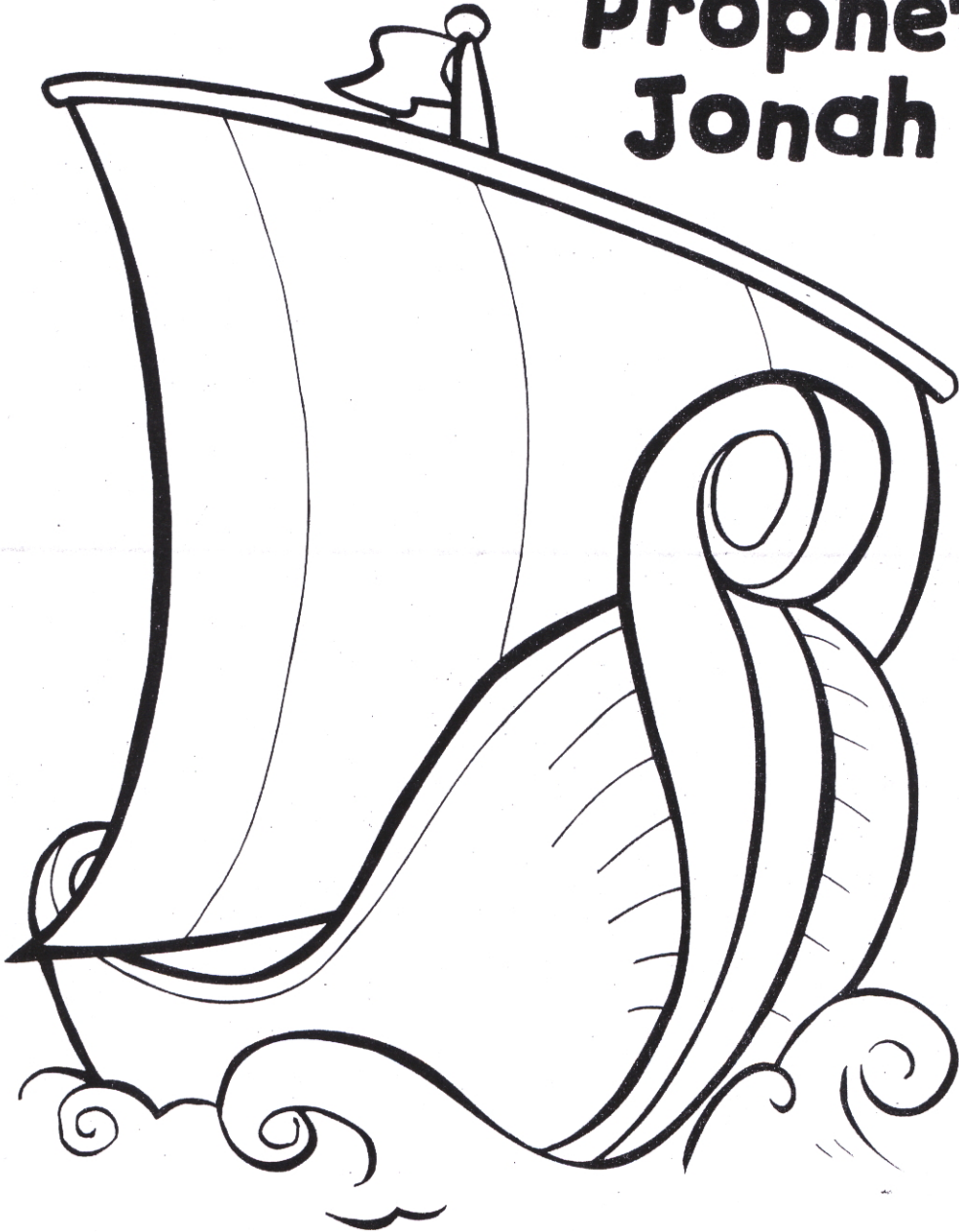


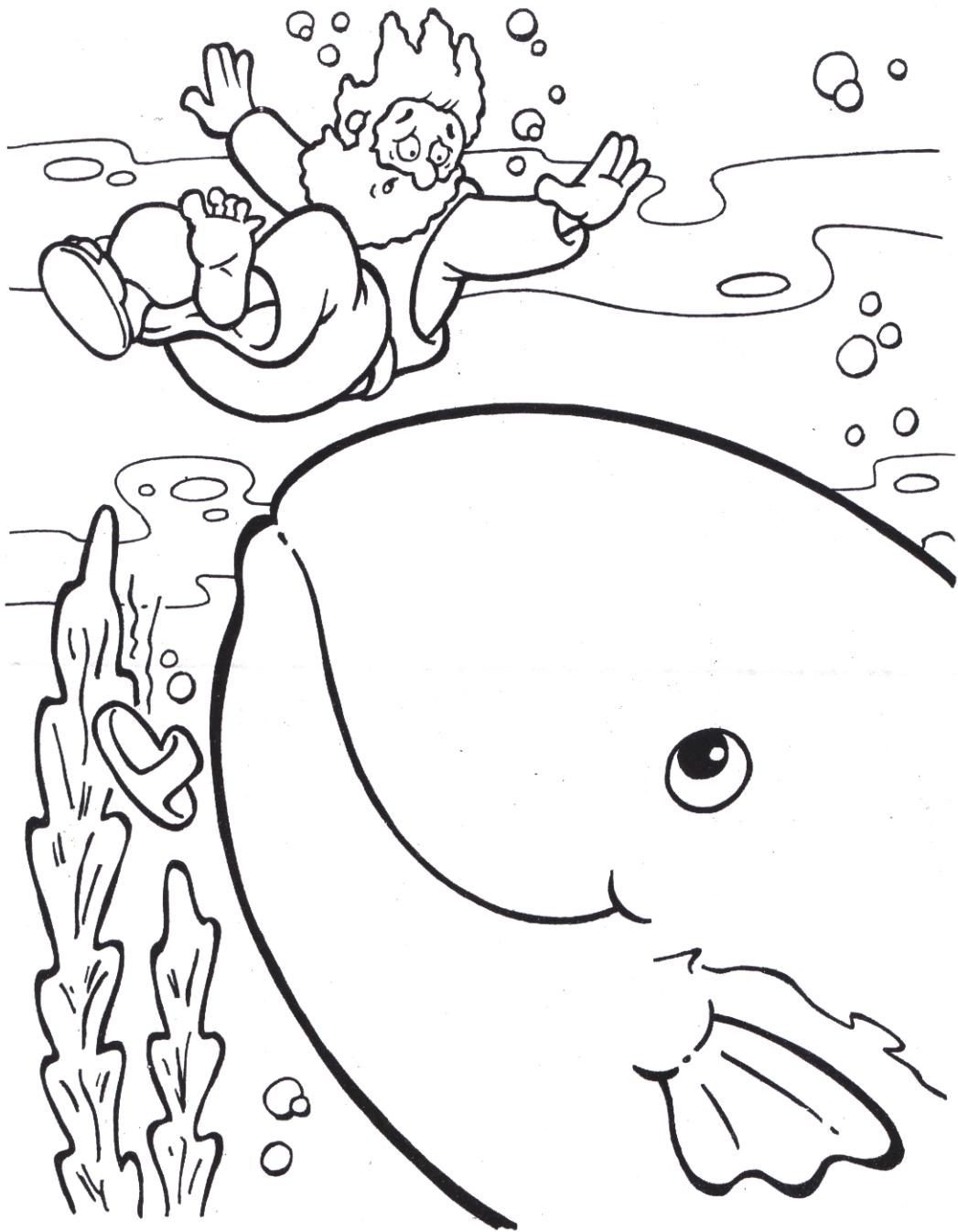
# THE PRODIGAL SON:



# The Prophet Jonah



Jonah was a prophet whom God sent to Nineveh, but Jonah didn't want to go. He got on a ship going the opposite direction.



There was a terrible storm and Jonah knew God was angry with him. To save the ship, the crew threw Jonah over the side, where he was swallowed by a great fish.

# How to Catch a Baseball

*Willie Mays is sixth on the all-time list for games played, tenth for slugging average, eighth for at bats, ninth for hits, third for home runs, fifth for runs scored, and seventh for runs batted in. Yet he's most remembered for "the catch" in the 1954 World Series.*

—A Good Dad Observation

**W**hen catching a baseball, a beginner usually thinks the glove does it all. So he holds out the glove, keeps his hand firm, and waits for the ball to be "trapped" in the vast recesses of webbing and pocket. Keeping his hand tight and stiff, he develops "hard hands." And, as a good dad knows, hard hands don't catch many baseballs.

The secret to helping your child develop "soft" hands, which *do* catch balls, is to have him practice catching bare-handed. If a baseball's too hard for him to catch bare-handed at first, he can begin with a light plastic ball.

Teach him how to hold his hands: palms facing out with (1) fingers down to catch balls below his waist or (2) fingers up for balls above his waist. Then show him how to close on the ball, with his fingers relaxed, not stiff and tense.

Now show him how to "give" with his hands, letting them travel slightly away from the ball as it arrives. Catching the ball with "give" absorbs some of its energy and lessens its impact, so it won't sting.

Once he's got this down pat, let him put on that glove. But remind him to keep allowing his hands to give a little—not too much, but just enough to make his hands "soft." Eventually, he'll learn to do this without even thinking about it.

There are, of course, more skills to catching than having soft hands—fielding a fly ball up near his head, so he can throw it quickly, for example. But he'll learn these other skills, too, as he goes along. And while he's developing the patience and determination to catch a ball well, he'll also be learning another lesson: it's important to have good technology, whether it's a faster computer or a baseball glove that helps us catch better. But he should never forget, it's the human hand behind that technology that really makes things work.

