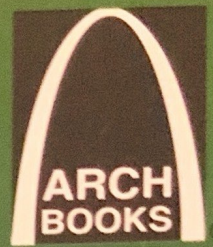


LEARNING BIBLE STORIES IS FUN WITH



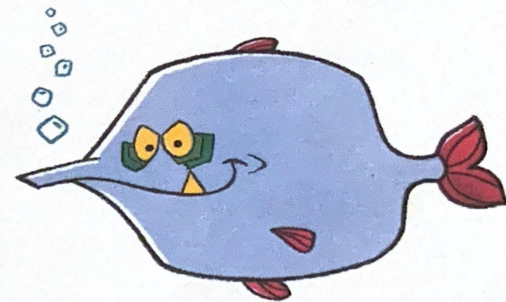
JONAH and the Very BIG Fish



JONAH^{and} the Very BIG Fish

The Book of Jonah for children

Written by Sarah Fletcher
Illustrated by Chad Frye



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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
MIAMI - FLORIDA

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God spoke to a man called Jonah.
“Up now, Jonah! Go!
Folks in Nineveh are wicked.
Tell them that I know.”



Jonah didn't want to do it,
So he ran away.
By the sea he found a ship that
Sailed that very day.

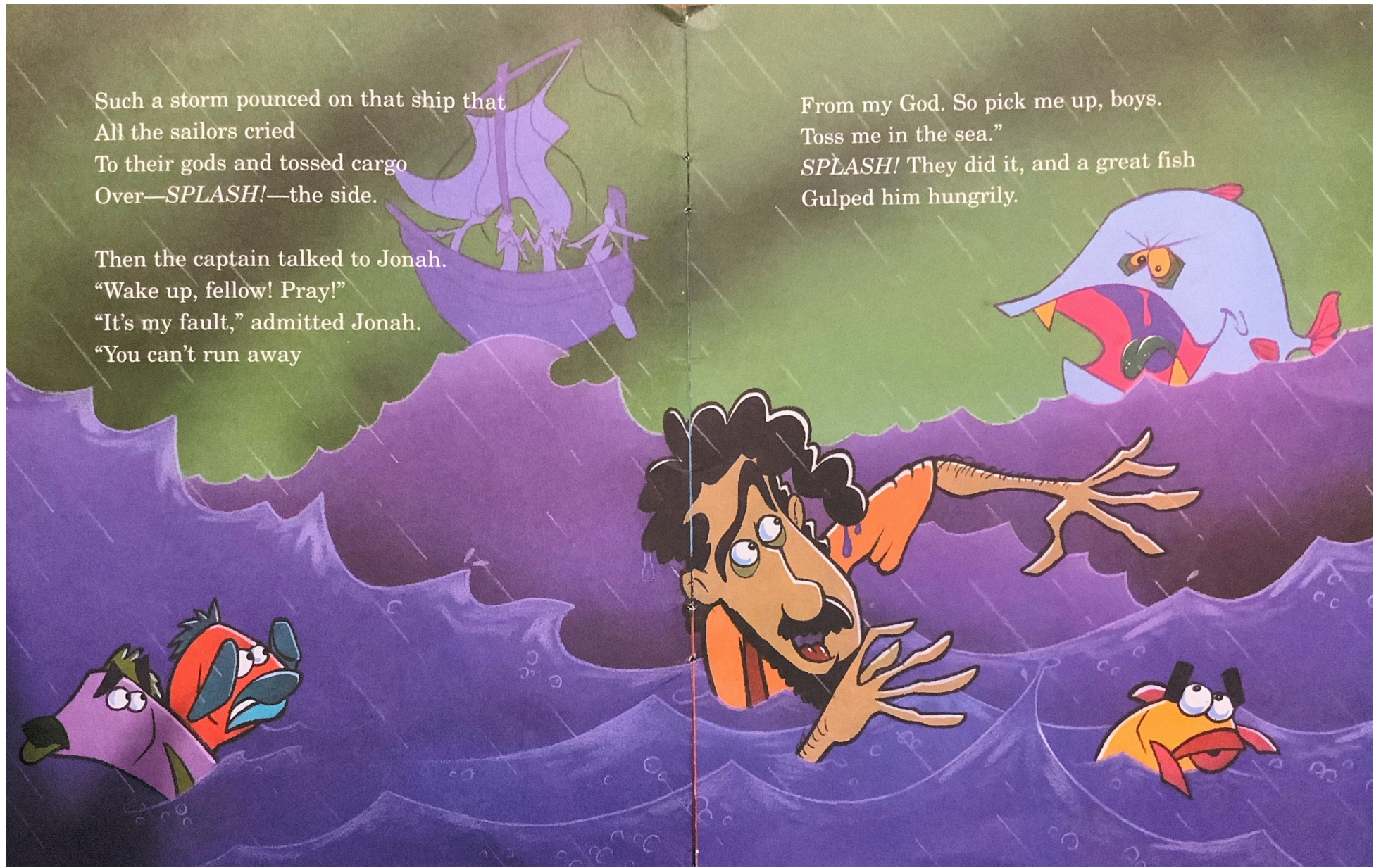
Jonah paid his fare and boarded.
Then he went below.
He was sleeping when God sent the
Wind. And, wow, did it blow!



Such a storm pounced on that ship that
All the sailors cried
To their gods and tossed cargo
Over—*SPLASH!*—the side.

Then the captain talked to Jonah.
“Wake up, fellow! Pray!”
“It’s my fault,” admitted Jonah.
“You can’t run away

From my God. So pick me up, boys.
Toss me in the sea.”
SPLASH! They did it, and a great fish
Gulped him hungrily.



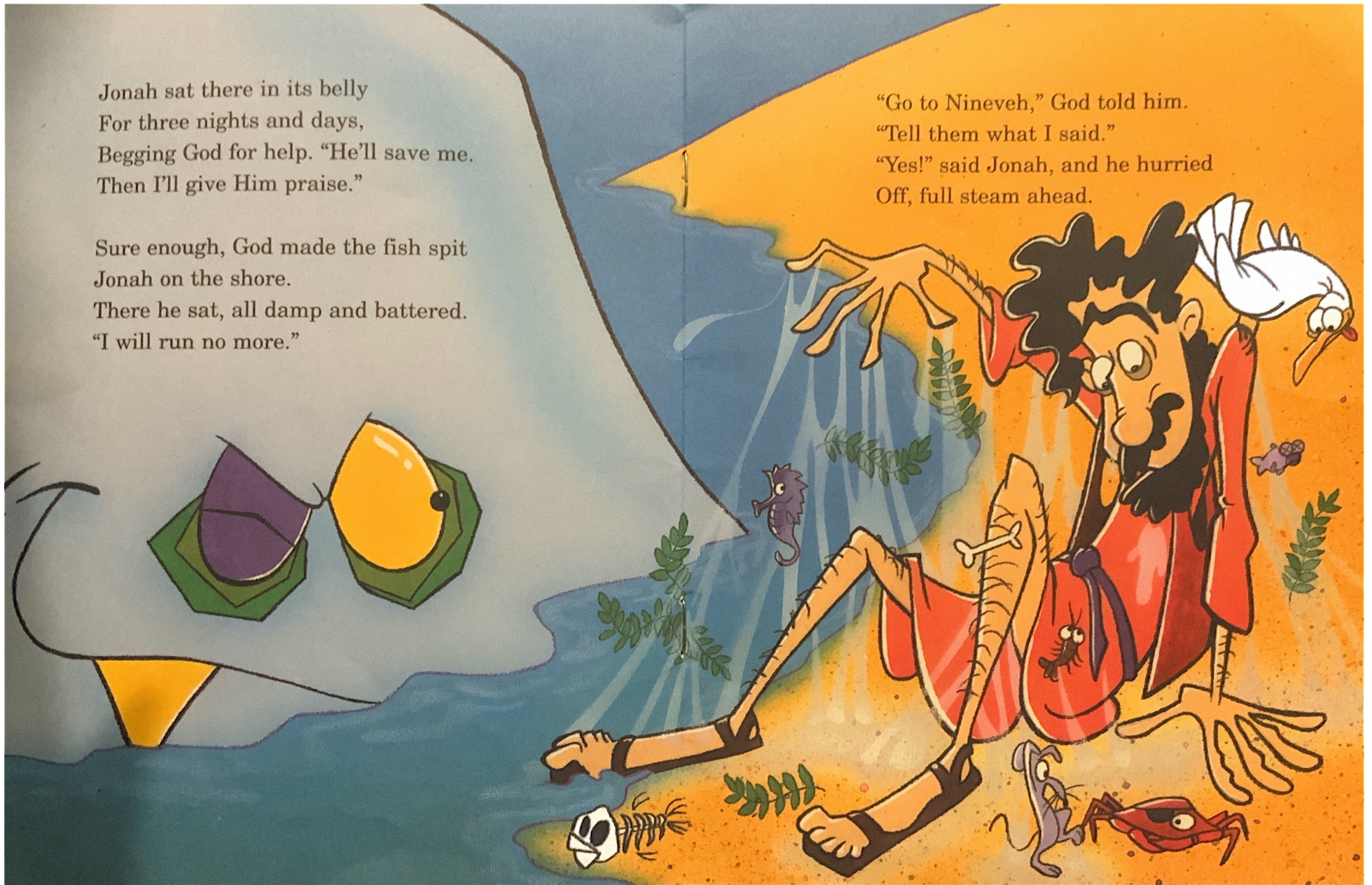
Jonah sat there in its belly
For three nights and days,
Begging God for help. "He'll save me.
Then I'll give Him praise."

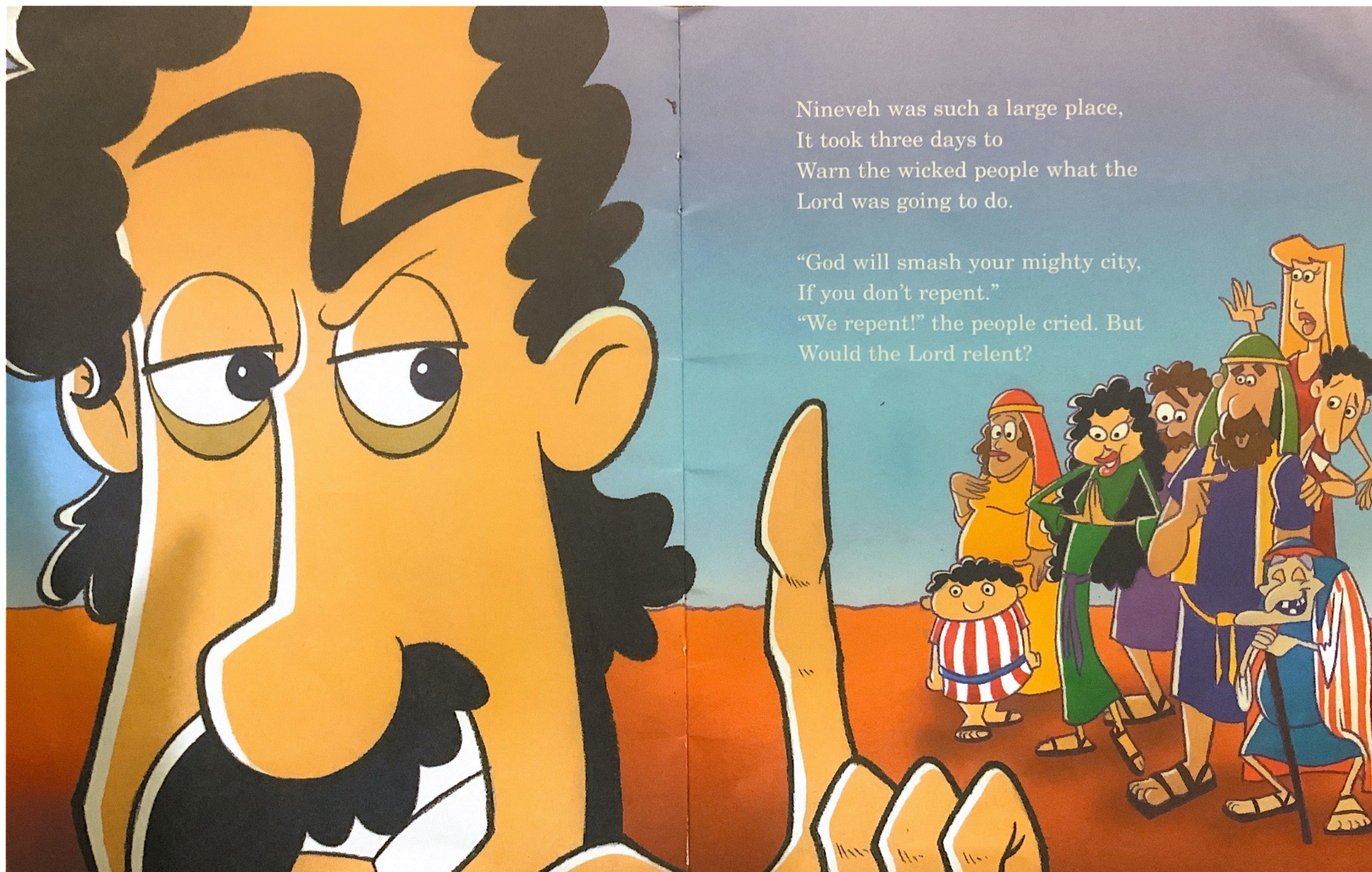
Sure enough, God made the fish spit
Jonah on the shore.
There he sat, all damp and battered.
"I will run no more."

"Go to Nineveh," God told him.

"Tell them what I said."

"Yes!" said Jonah, and he hurried
Off, full steam ahead.





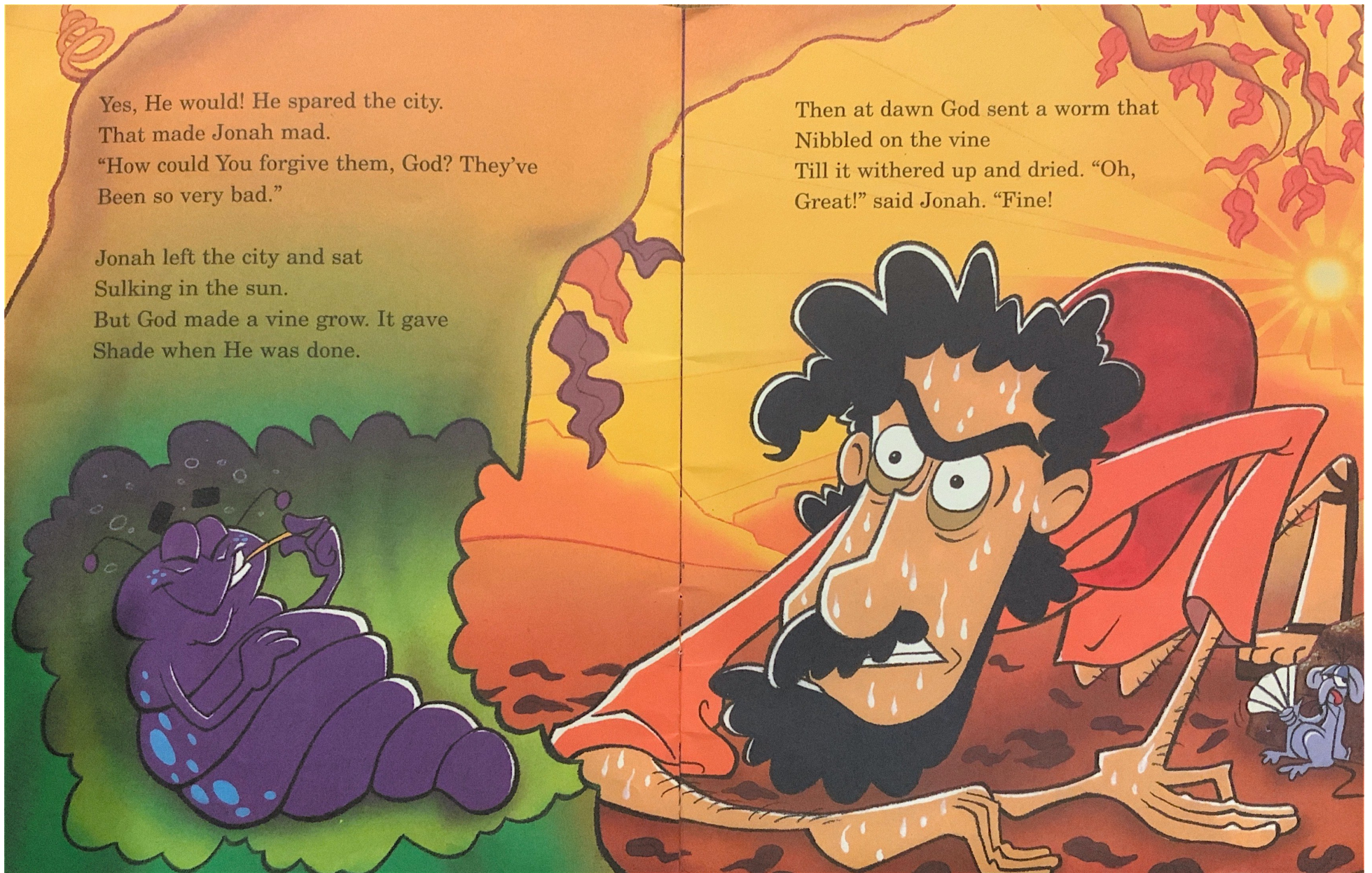
Nineveh was such a large place,
It took three days to
Warn the wicked people what the
Lord was going to do.

"God will smash your mighty city,
If you don't repent."
"We repent!" the people cried. But
Would the Lord relent?

Yes, He would! He spared the city.
That made Jonah mad.
“How could You forgive them, God? They’ve
Been so very bad.”

Jonah left the city and sat
Sulking in the sun.
But God made a vine grow. It gave
Shade when He was done.

Then at dawn God sent a worm that
Nibbled on the vine
Till it withered up and dried. “Oh,
Great!” said Jonah. “Fine!”

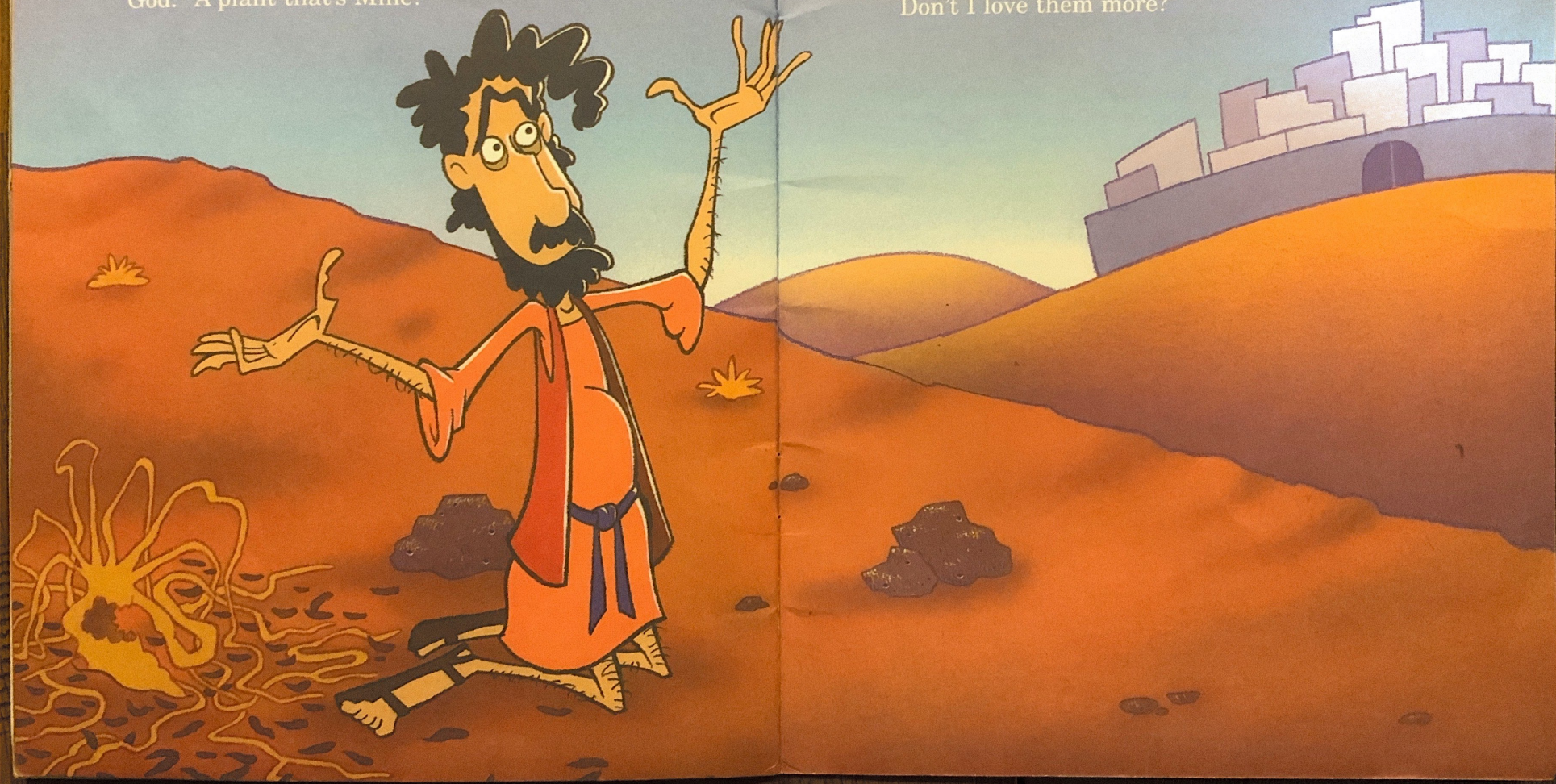


"Why not let me die as well? I
Loved that pretty vine."

"You are angry for a plant?" said
God. "A plant that's Mine?"

"Nineveh was full of people,
Wicked to the core.

Shouldn't I forgive them, Jonah?
Don't I love them more?"





Dear Parents:

Explain to your child that it's impossible for human beings to understand how very much God loves us. Even when we turn away from Him and do things that hurt Him, He doesn't turn away from us. Remind your child that it was God's love for us that made Him send His own Son, Jesus, to live, die, and rise again so we might be God's children forever. That's a lot of love! Just as Jonah stayed inside the fish for three days, Jesus stayed inside the tomb for three days, then rose again to win us new life. Enjoy sharing some fish crackers with your child. Praise and thank God for the love He has shown to you.

The Editor

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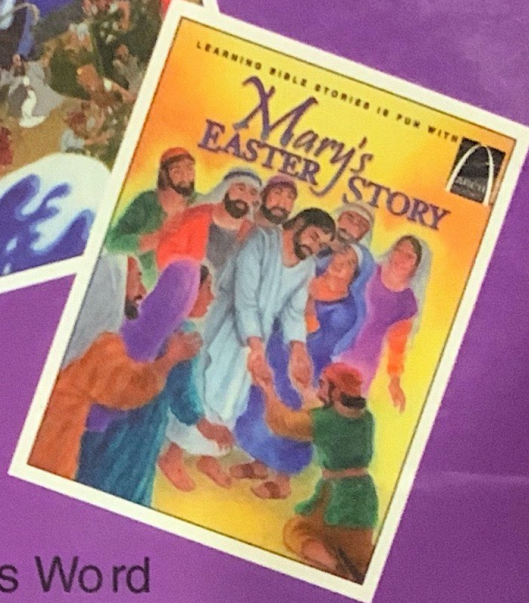
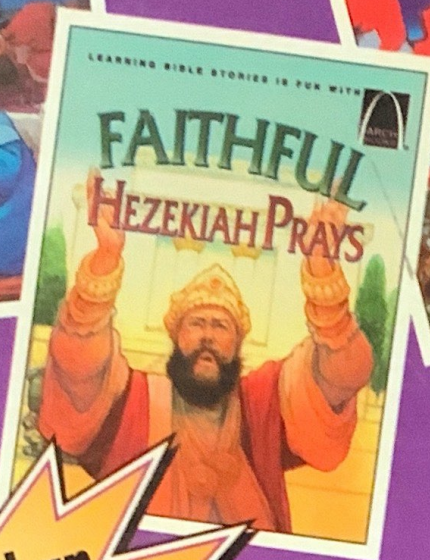
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