

即使你做错，神还爱着你

义人呼求，耶和华会聆听；祂会拯救他们脱离一切患难。——诗篇 34:17

嗨，孩子们，如果你看到一个带感叹号的红色三角形，这代表什么意思呢？感叹号通常所表达的意思是表达强烈的情感！这个标志的意思是：**当心！**当心什么？当心有危险。不同的标志提醒你不同的事情。再看第二个三角形标记，它的意思是——**当心电击！**警示标志是为了保护我们。它们告诉我们要小心，不要受伤。



所以这与父母给孩子以“**不要**”开头的指令是一样的。不要碰那些剪刀，或者不要碰那个汤煲，为什么不能碰？因为如果我们这么做，我们可能会受伤。但如果我们选择不听的话呢，那么，我们将不得不面对我们愚蠢的行为所导致的后果。例如，鲍勃的爸爸告诉他：“不要玩火！”但是当鲍勃看到这个火苗时，他觉得很好玩，于是他决定用手指试一试——“哎哟，好痛！”鲍勃受伤是谁的错？是蜡烛的错吗？肯定不是。鲍勃受伤是因为他自己的行为，因为他选择去触碰火，结果他烧伤了自己的手指。**错误的选择总是会导致错误的后果。**对于我们来说，从一开始就学会做出正确的选择显得非常重要！

我们今天的圣经故事是关于一个人做了一件他自己都知道不应该做的事。是这样的，他做了一个错误的选择。这个人就是约拿。约拿不是一个普通人，他是一位先知。在圣经记录的那个年代，先知的工作是按照神的旨意把神的信息传递给人们。这一切都显得很好，只是约拿他自己并不总是按照神的话去做。



约拿的故事是这样开始的，有一天，神让约拿去一座叫尼尼微的大城。尼尼微的居民作恶，他们的恶行败坏他们的性命。因为神关心他们，神让约拿到尼尼微去告诉那里的百姓要他们改变自己的生活方式。约拿不在乎这件事，他并没有往尼尼微去，因为他不想听神的话。于是，约拿决定逃跑。他来到约帕港口，跳上一艘往他施方向去的船，往神吩咐他去的地方的相反方向逃跑。



我们都知道不服从是个糟糕的主意，所以你大概能猜到接下来会发生什么了。是的，约拿肯定会惹上麻烦。在往他施去的海面上起了大暴风，情况非常恶劣，水手们都认为他们会丧身大海。绝望之下，水手们把货物都扔下了船，但还是无济于事。约拿却一直在睡觉，他完全不知道发生了什么事。“在这个时候你怎么能睡得着呢？”船长喊道：“赶快起来，向你的神祈祷，也许祂会听我们的话，饶了我们的命。”尽管约拿知道风暴的发生是因为他要逃离神，但他却不祷告。



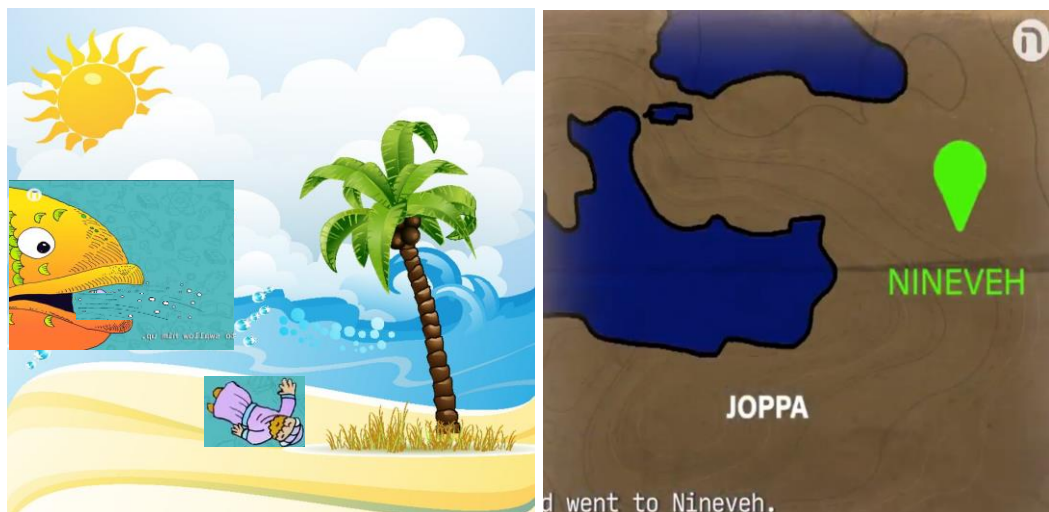
“我们该怎么处置你才能平息这场风暴？”水手们问约拿。“把我扔进海里，大海就会恢复平静了，我知道这场可怕的风暴是冲着我而来的，都是我的错。”约拿说。水手们可不想让约拿去送死，于是他们更加拼命地划船，想把船划到岸边。但风暴越来越大。最终，他们不得不把约拿抬起，抛向狂风大作的海里，风浪就立刻停下来了。



风暴停了，但约拿死了吗？海浪把他吞没了吗？你能想象在约拿身上到底发生了什么事？没人能猜到接下来所发生的事情。神派了一条大鱼把约拿吞下去。神把约拿直接扔进大鱼的嘴里，从而把约拿从鬼门关里救了出来。约拿并没有淹死。神救了约拿，让约拿在大鱼的肚子里待了三天三夜。在大鱼的肚子里，约拿想起了神是如何救他的，使他不致于在大海中淹死。约拿书 2:2 是这样描述的：“**我遭遇患难中求告耶和华，你就应允我。我从阴间的深处呼求你，主阿，你就俯听我的声音。**”即便他在大海深处的鱼肚子里，神也听到了他的声音。约拿想要逃离神，但神从来没有远离约拿。



接下来发生的事情更令人惊奇。神命令大鱼把约拿吐到海滩上。耶和华第二次晓谕约拿：“你起来，往尼尼微大城去，把我给你的信息传下去。”这次，约拿就照神的话去了尼尼微。尼尼微人听了神的话，非常后悔，就不再作恶了。神看见他们是如此的后悔，于是神就没有毁灭那城。因为约拿听从耶和华的话，往尼尼微城去，他帮助拯救了这座城和那里的人民免遭灭顶之灾。约拿的故事帮助我们看到我们的神是多么的好和神奇。尽管约拿做出了错误的选择，惹上了麻烦，神却从未离开过他。即便约拿在大鱼和大海的深处，神都垂见他的祷告，还应允他。更令人惊讶的是，神又给了约拿第二次机会去做他应当要做的事，把神的旨意传达给尼尼微人。多好的一位神啊！



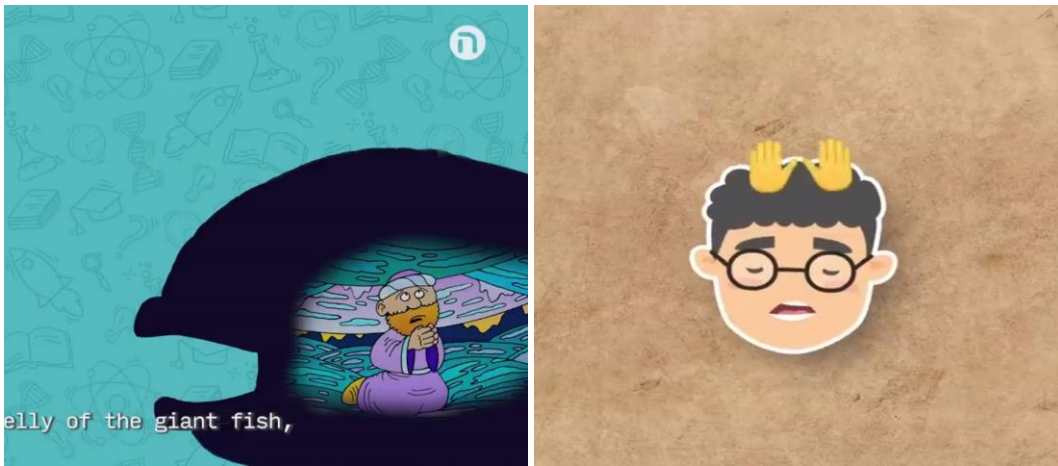
接下来，我来告诉你一位主日学的男孩惹上了麻烦所发生的事。他知道这是他自己的错，因为他的父母总是告诉他要收拾看管好自己的东西。他妈妈常常告诫他：“不要把你的眼镜到处乱放”，他爸爸也常提醒他：“要保管好你的钥匙。”，但他从来都不听。有一天，他下了公交车，立刻意识到自己惹上麻烦了，他把钱包落在公共汽车上了。“哦，我的天啊！”他大声喊叫起来，且追着那辆公共汽车跑了将近 15 分钟，希望能拿回他的钱包。最后，他放弃了，只能回家去，心里不停的咕嘟：“唉，我应该更小心点。现在惹上大麻烦了。”



回到家，他把所发生的事告诉了妈妈。他的妈妈没有责怪他，而是说：“你知道这是你自己的错，都是粗心造成的，对吧？”妈妈接着说：“你最好求告神帮助你。”你知道这位男孩做了什么吗？没错，他祈祷。当他的妈妈打电话给公交公司时，他们是这样回答的：“是的，我们这里有一个钱包。有人发现这个钱包把它交给了公共司机。你可以明天来拿。”男孩会说什么呢？没错，他说：“谢谢你，耶稣！”



孩子们，今天我们学到了什么？我们知道当我们遇到困难的时候，我们可以向天父爸爸求助。诗篇 34:17 告诉我们：“义人呼求，耶和华会聆听；祂会拯救他们脱离一切患难。”当我们向耶和华呼求时，祂会垂听我们，帮助我们。这是否意味着我们因为知道神会救我们而可以去做错误的事情呢？不是这样的。就像我们所听到的约拿的故事，不服从神的旨意从来都不是一个好主意，它会给我们带来很多麻烦。**错误的选择总是会导致错误的后果**，这不是我们想要的。但有时我们会陷入困境，因为我们犯了错误或者我们把事情搞砸了。也许是因为你忘了做作业了，又或者是你错过了一个重要的测评时间，又或者是你做了什么或者没做什么，使你陷入困境。你搞砸了，你知道这是你的错，现在你惹上麻烦了。现在你该做什么？**你可以向天父爸爸求救，祂会回答你，即便这都是你的错。**



诗篇 34:17 告诉我们，你可能也想强调一下，它是这样说的：“义人呼求，耶和华会聆听；祂会拯救他们脱离一切患难。”谁是义人？就是我们自己！为什么我们是义人？这一切都是因为耶稣！因为耶稣在十字架上为我们所做的一切，使我们永远得以与神同在。这意味着我们在困难的时候可以大胆地去找祂，而不是惊慌失措或逃避。你可以跑向天父爸爸那里，向祂呼救。你可以祷告：“主啊，求你帮助我，指教我该怎样做。请赐给我我所需要的智慧，帮我摆脱这种困境吧！”当神照你说的那样做的时候，记得说“谢谢”！求神赐给你智慧，让你做出明智的选择，从而获得成功。你这样行，祂必垂听你，应允你。我们的神真是太好了！

孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的罪，使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！”

EVEN WHEN IT'S YOUR FAULT

The righteous cry out, and the lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. Psalm34:17, NIV

Hey Rock Kids, what does it mean? If you see a red triangle with an exclamation sign on it? An exclamation mark usually means ... So this sign means---- watch out! Watch out for what? Watch out for danger. Different signs warn you about different things. This one means --- watch out for electric shocks! Warning signs are there to protect us. They tell us to be careful so that we don't get hurt.

So this is the same when parents give their kids instruction that start with the word 'don't'. Don't touch those scissors. Or don't touch that pot. Why don't touch? Because if we do, we might get hurt. But what if we choose not to listen? Well then, we would just have to face the consequences of our foolish actions. For example, Bob's dad tells him, "Don't play with the fire!" But when Bob sees this. He decides to do this. OUCH! Whose fault was it that Bob got hurt? Was it the candle's fault? No. Bob got hurt because of his own actions, because he chose to touch the fire. The consequence was that he burnt his finger. Bad choices always lead to bad consequences. How much better it is for us to learn to make the right choices from the start?

Today's Bible story is about a man who decided to do something that he knew that he shouldn't do. Just like that he made a bad choice. This man was Jonah. Jonah was not an ordinary man. He was a prophet. During Bible times, a prophet's job is to deliver God's message to the people what God wanted them to do. This was all very good, except that Jonah himself didn't always do what God told him to do, Oh dear.

Jonah's story starts like this. One day, God told Jonah to go to a great city called Nineveh. The people in Nineveh were wicked, and their evil ways were destroying their lives. Because God cared about them, He told Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people to change their ways. But Jonah did not care. He did not go to Nineveh. He did not want to listen to God. So, Jonah decided to run away! He went to the port of Joppa and hopped onto a boat to Tarshish in the opposite direction of where God had told him to go.

Uh oh, now we already know that disobedience is a bad idea. So you can probably guess what's coming. Yes, Jonah gets into trouble. On the way to Tarshish, there was a terrible storm. It was so bad that the sailors all thought they were going to die. Desperately, they threw cargo off the ship, but it made no difference. All this time Jonah was sound asleep. He had no clue what was going on. "How can you sleep at a time like this?" The captain of the ship shouted, "Get up and pray to your God. Maybe He will listen to us and spare our lives." But Jonah did not pray even though he knew that the storm was happening because he was running away from God.

"What should we do to you to stop this storm?" the sailors asked? "Throw me into the sea and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault." Jonah said. The sailors didn't want Jonah to die so they rowed even harder to try to get the ship to shore. But the storm just grew bigger and bigger. Finally, they picked Jonah up and threw him into the stormy sea, and the storm stopped at once.

Whoa, the storm died down, but did Jonah die? Did the waves swallow him up? What do you think happened to Jonah? Well, no one could have guessed what happened next. The Lord sent a great big fish to swallow him up. God snatched Jonah from the jaws of death and put him straight into the jaws of giant fish. Jonah didn't drown. God saved Jonah and Jonah stayed inside the giant fish for three days and three nights. In the belly of the giant fish, Jonah remembered how God saved him from drowning in the sea. Jonah 2:2 tells us, **"I cried out to the Lord in my great trouble, and He answered me. I called to You from the land of the dead, and Lord, You heard me!"** And even though he was in the belly of the fish deep in the ocean, God heard him. Jonah wanted to run away from God. But God was never far away from Jonah.

What happened next was amazing. The Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah onto a beach. Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time. "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Deliver the message I have given you." This time, Jonah did what God told him to do and went to Nineveh. After the people of Nineveh heard what God said, they were so sorry that they stopped being wicked. And when God saw how sorry they were, He did not destroy the city. Because Jonah obeyed the Lord and went to the city of Nineveh. He helped save the city and its people from destruction. The story of Jonah helps us see just how good and amazing our God is. Even though Jonah made bad choices and got into trouble. God never, never left him. When Jonah was inside the fish and deep in the ocean, God heard him and answered him when he prayed. Even more amazing, God gave Jonah a second chance to do what he was meant to do, deliver God's message to the people of Nineveh. What a good, good god we have.

Let me tell you what happened to a boy from Rock Kids who got himself into a spot of trouble. He knew it was his own fault because his parents were always telling him to pick up his stuff. "Don't leave your glasses lying around", his mom said. "Take care of your key", his dad said. But he never listened. One day, he got off the bus and knew he was in trouble. He had left his wallet on the bus. "Oh no!" He cried. He chased after the bus and ran after it for 15 minutes, hoping to get his wallet back. Finally, he gave up and walked home. "Ah, I should have been more careful. I'm in so much trouble now."

At home, he told his mom what happened. Instead of scolding him, his mom said, "You know it's your own fault for being so careless, right?" Then she said, "You better ask God to help you." And do you know what he did? That's right, he prayed. When his mom called the bus company, this is what they said, "Yes, we have the wallet. Someone found it and gave it to the bus driver. You can come and collect it tomorrow." What did the boy say? That's right, he said, "Thank You, Jesus."

So Rock Kids, what did we learn today? We learn that we can call on daddy God for help when we are in trouble. Psalms 34:17 tells us this, **"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles."** When we cry out to the Lord, He hears us and helps us. Does this mean we can go about doing the wrong thing just because we know that God is going to rescue us? No. As we saw the story of Jonah's disobedience is never a good idea and it can get us into a whole lot of trouble. Bad choices have bad consequences, and that's not what we want. But there are times when we get into trouble because we've made a mistake or we've messed up. Maybe you forgot to do your homework. Or you missed out on an important assessment date. Or you landed yourself in trouble because of something you did or did not do. You messed up. You know it's your fault and now you are in trouble.

What do you do now? **You can call on daddy God and know that He will answer you even when it's your fault.**

Psalms 34:17 tells us this, you might want to highlight it as well. It says, **"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles."** Who are the righteous? We are! Why are we righteous? **Because of Jesus! Because of what Jesus did for us at the cross. We are forever right with God. This means we can boldly go to Him in our time of trouble. Instead of panicking or running away from the situation. You can run to Daddy God and cry out to Him for help. You can pray. "Help me Lord, show me what to do. Give me the wisdom I need. Help me to get out of this mess."** And when the Lord does what you ask, remember to say "thank You"! Ask Him for wisdom to make good choices that bring good success to you. And when you do, he will surely hear you and answer you. What a good, good God we have.

Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus' name," and everyone say, "Amen."