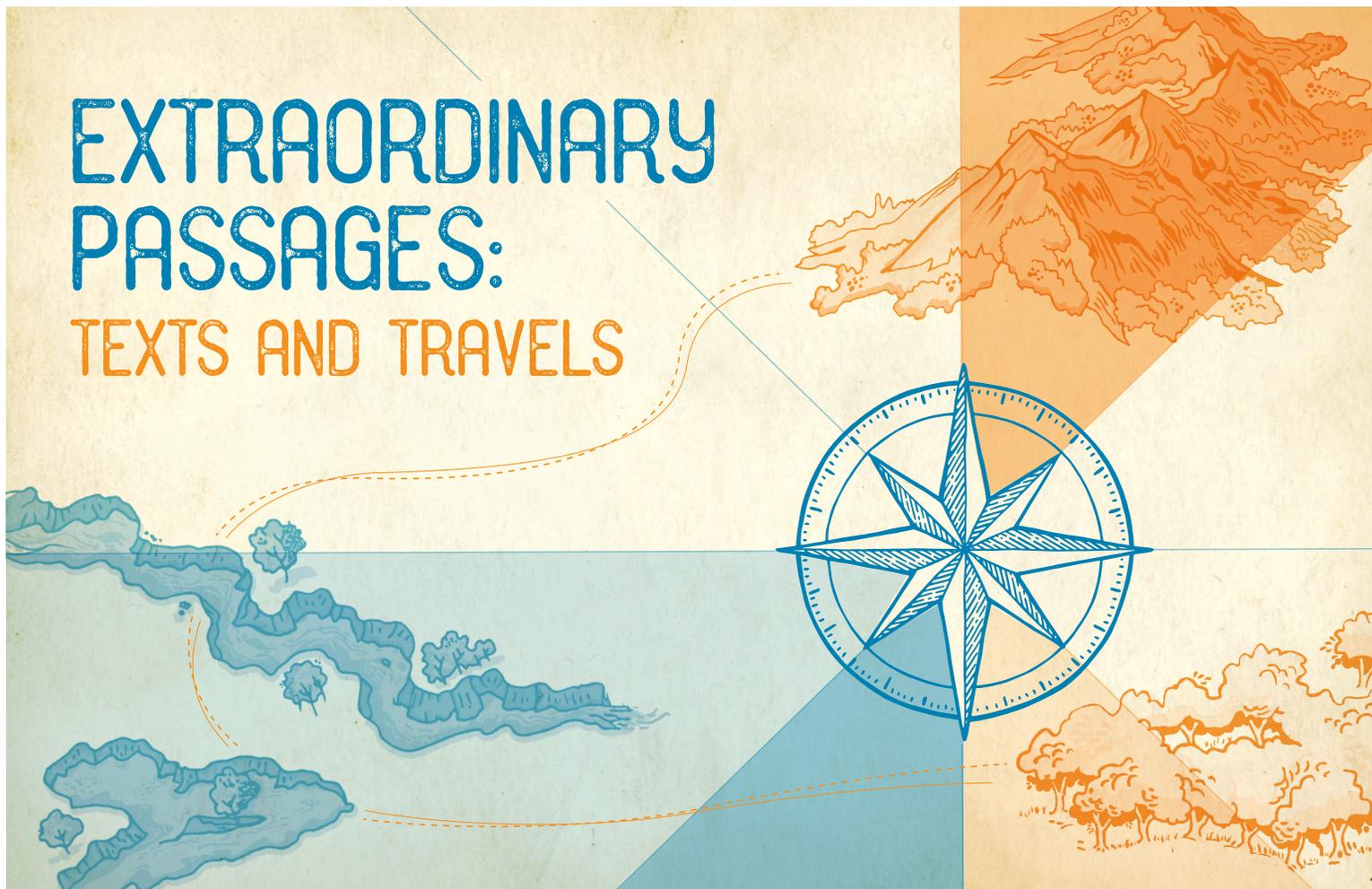


EXTRAORDINARY PASSAGES: TEXTS AND TRAVELS



Global Day of Jewish Learning: Curriculum



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www.theglobalday.org

A Project of the Aleph Society



Introduction (5 minutes)

Welcome to the Global Day of Jewish Learning!

Today we will travel with Jonah, whose story and extraordinary journey you may have read before. This time, we will also take a closer look at some other characters in the Book of Jonah whose stories are not as well-known. As we read the Bible text closely, we'll explore interpretations from commentators and find ways to connect the story with our own experiences.

By travelling along with these other characters, we will see how journeys can happen in many forms — physical and spiritual — and how an individual's journey can have consequences for others.

➤ **Ask participants to share some answers to the following questions:**

1. Think of a journey you have been on that has changed you in some way. In what ways did you change?
2. Did your journey have an effect on people you met along the way? How?

Part One: Jonah On the Run (10 minutes)

Let's look together at the opening verses of the Book of Jonah.

➤ **Read Text #1 aloud.**

Text #1: Jonah 1:1-4. English translation from *The Steinsaltz Tanakh*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

וַיְהִי דְבַר־ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּהָאֱלֹהִים בְּרוּחַמִּתִּי לֵאמֹר: קוּם לֶךְ אֶל־נִינְוֶה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה וְקִרְא עָלֶיהָ כִּי־עֲלֹתָהּ רָעָתָם לִפְנֵי: וַיִּקַּם יוֹנָה לְבָרֶחַ תַּרְשִׁישׁ מִלִּפְנֵי ה' וַיֵּרֶד יָפוֹ וַיִּמְצָא אֲנִיָּה בָּאָה תַרְשִׁישׁ וַיִּתֵּן שְׂכָרָהּ וַיֵּרֶד בָּהּ לְבֹא עִמָּהֶם תַּרְשִׁישׁ מִלִּפְנֵי ה': וַה' הִטִּיל רִיחַ־גְּדוֹלָה אֱלֹהִים וַיְהִי סַעֲר־גְּדוֹל בַּיָּם וַהָאֲנִיָּה חֲשָׁבָה לְהִשָּׁבֵר:

1 The word of the Lord was with Jonah son of Amitai, saying: 2 Rise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim against it, as their evildoing has arisen before Me. 3 Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from before the Lord, he went down to Jaffa, and found a ship bound for Tarshish; he paid its fare, and he went down into it, to come with them to Tarshish from before the Lord. 4 But the Lord cast a great wind upon the sea, and there was a great storm in the sea, and the ship was about to be wrecked.

➤ **Ask:**

1. Jonah is asked by God to journey to Nineveh to give them a prophecy, but Jonah chooses to board a ship to Tarshish instead. Why do you think Jonah tried to run away?

Compiled between the 1st and 8th centuries CE, the *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer* ("The Chapters of Rabbi Eliezer") is a work of explanations and stories about Bible. This Midrash gives us an interesting reason for why Jonah decided to flee.

On A Journey With Jonah (Middle School)

► Read Text #2 aloud.

Text #2: *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer 10, “The History of Jonah”*. Translated by Gerald Friedlander.

בחמישי ברח יונה מפני אלקים, ולמה ברח, אלא פעם ראשון שלחו להשיב את גבול ישראל ועמדו דבריו, שנאמר (מלכים ב יד, כה): “הוא הִשִּׁיב אֶת גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל מִלְּבֹוא חַמַּת” וגו’. פעם שניה שלחו לירושלים להחריבה, כיון שעשו תשובה הקב”ה עשה כרוב חסדיו ונחם על הרעה ולא חרבה, והיו ישראל ק— וראין אותו נביא שקר. פעם ג’ שלחו לנינוה, דן יונה דין בינו לבין עצמו, אמר: אני יודע שזה הגוי קרובי התשובה הם, עכשיו עושין תשובה והקב”ה שולח רוגזו על ישראל, ולא די שישאל קורין אותי נביא השקר אלא אף העכומ”ז.

On the fifth day Jonah fled before his God. Why did he flee? Because on the first occasion when God sent him to restore the border of Israel, his words were fulfilled, as it is said, “And he restored the border of Israel from the entering in of Hamath” (II Kings 14:25). On the second occasion God sent him to Jerusalem to (prophecy that He would) destroy it. But the Holy One, blessed be He, did according to the abundance of His tender mercy and repented of the evil (decree), and He did not destroy it; thereupon they called him [Jonah] a lying prophet. On the third occasion God sent him against Nineveh to destroy it. Jonah argued with himself, saying, “I know that the nations are nigh [near] to repentance, now they will repent and the Holy One, blessed be He, will direct His anger against Israel. And is it not enough for me that Israel should call me a lying prophet; but shall also the nations of the world (do likewise)?”

The Midrash is referring to another story about Jonah in II Kings 14:25. Remember, Jonah is a prophet, and it’s his job to give people instructions from God when they are breaking God’s laws. In II Kings, Jonah was sent to warn the king of Samaria that God would destroy the Samaritans if they did not stop oppressing the Israelites. According to the *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer*, the Samaritan king stopped oppressing the Israelites — so God did not have to destroy the Samaritans. That meant Jonah’s prophecy never came true — Samaria wasn’t destroyed, so there was nothing to prove that Jonah was telling the truth, and everyone then called him a liar. Because of his experience being called a “lying prophet,” Jonah would rather try and hide from God than take the chance that people would call him a liar again.

► Ask:

1. What do you think about this explanation? Do you agree or disagree that this is why Jonah ran away? Why?
2. Why do you think Jonah is so afraid of being called a “lying prophet”? What might be some consequences of making “false” prophecies?
3. Does the Midrash change how you feel about Jonah’s decision to run away? Why or why not?

When Jonah boards a ship to flee, God sends a great storm to threaten him. What happens next has an effect on more than just Jonah. There are others aboard the ship, and their journey is about to get much more complicated.

Part Two: A Journey with the Sailors (10 minutes)

The Book of Jonah extends the story beyond Jonah himself to include the other people on the ship: the sailors.

► Ask a participant to read Text #3 aloud.

Text #3: Jonah 1:5-16. English translation from *The Steinsaltz Tanakh*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

וַיִּירָאוּ הַמַּלְחָיִם וַיִּזְעְקוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אֱלֹהָיו וַיִּטְלוּ אֶת־הַכֵּלִים אֲשֶׁר בָּאֲנֵיהֶם אֶל־הַלָּם לְהַקֵּל מֵעֲלֵיהֶם וַיּוֹנֶה יָרֵד אֶל־יָרֵכְתִי הַסְּפִינָה וַיִּשָּׁב וַיֵּרָדֶם: וַיִּקְרַב אֵלָיו רַב הַחֵבֶל וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מִה־לָּךְ נָרַדְּם קוֹם קְרֵא אֶל־אֱלֹהֶיךָ אוֹלַי יִתְעַשֶּׂת הָאֱלֹקִים לָנוּ וְלֹא נֹאכַד: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ לְכוּ וְנִפְלֵה גּוֹרְלוֹת וְנִדְעָה בְּשִׁלְמֵי הַרְעָה הַזֹּאת לָנוּ וְנִפְלֹ גּוֹרְלוֹת וַיִּפֹּל הַגּוֹרֵל עַל־יוֹנָה: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הִגִּיד־נָא לָנוּ בְּאֲשֶׁר לְמִי־הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת לָנוּ מִה־מְלֹאכְתְּךָ וּמֵאֵינן תְּבוֹא מָה אַרְצְךָ וְאֵי־מִזֶּה עִם אֶתֶּה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם עַבְרֵי אֲנִי וְאֶת־הָ אֱלֹקֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲנִי יְיָ אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה אֶת־הַיָּם וְאֶת־הַבְּשֶׁה: וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יָרָאָה גְדוּלָּה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מִה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ כִּי־יָדְעוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים כִּי־מִלְּפָנֶיךָ ה' הוּא בָרַח כִּי הִגִּיד לָהֶם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מִה־נִּצְעָשָׂה לָךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה הַיָּם מֵעַלְיָנוּ כִּי הַיָּם הוֹלֵךְ וְסֹעֵר: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׂאוּנִי וְהִטִּילְנִי אֶל־הַלָּם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה הַיָּם מֵעַלְיָכֶם כִּי יִדְעֵ אֲנִי כִּי בְּשִׁלְיִי הִסַּעַר הַגְּדוֹל הַזֶּה עָלֵיכֶם: וַיַּחֲתְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לְהַשִּׁיב אֶל־הַיָּבֵשָׁה וְלֹא יָכְלוּ כִּי הַיָּם הוֹלֵךְ וְסֹעֵר עָלֵיהֶם: וַיִּקְרָאוּ אֶל־ה' וַיֹּאמְרוּ אָנָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ נִאֲבָדָה בְּנַפְשׁ הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה וְאֶל־תָּמוּן עָלֵינוּ דָם גָּמְוֵא כִּי־אֶתֶּה ה' בְּאֲשֶׁר תַּפְצֹתָ עָשִׂיתָ: וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־יוֹנָה וַיִּטְלֵהוּ אֶל־הַיָּם וַיַּעֲמֵד הַיָּם מִזְעָפוֹ: וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יָרָאָה גְדוּלָּה אֶת־ה' וַיִּזְבְּחוּ־זֶבַח לָהּ: וַיִּדְרוּ נְדָרִים:

5 The sailors were afraid, and each man cried out to his god, and they cast the articles that were on the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. But Jonah descended to the hold of the ship, and he lay down, and fell asleep. 6 The captain approached him and said to him: What is it with you that you have fallen asleep? Arise, call to your God; perhaps God will reconsider with regard to us, and we will not perish. 7 Each man said to his counterpart: Let us cast lots, that we may discover due to whom this misfortune is upon us. They cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. 8 They said to him: Please tell us, due to whom is this misfortune upon us? What is your labor and from where do you come? What is your country and from what people are you?

9 He said to them: I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land. 10 The men feared with great fear, and they said to him: What is this that you have done, for the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he told them. 11 They said to him: What shall we do to you, that the sea will calm from upon us, as the sea continually grew stormier. 12 He said to them: Lift me and cast me into the sea, and the sea will calm from upon you, as I know that it is due to me that this great storm is upon you.

13 The men rowed to return to dry land, but they could not, for the sea continually grew stormier upon them. 14 They called to the Lord and they said: Please Lord, please let us not perish for this man's life, and do not put upon us innocent blood, for You, Lord, have done as You desired. 15 They lifted Jonah and cast him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 The men feared the Lord with great fear; and they slaughtered an offering to the Lord, and took vows.

➤ Ask

1. Why did Jonah avoid telling the sailors and the captain that he was the reason for the storm?
2. What did the sailors try to do to calm the sea before throwing Jonah overboard? Why do you think they waited so long to do that?

In Text #4, we go back to the *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer*, to look at the way the sailors avoid throwing Jonah overboard, even though they are in danger.

➤ Read Text #4 aloud.

On A Journey With Jonah (Middle School)

Text #4: *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer* 10, “The History of Jonah.” Translated by Gerald Friedlander.

מיד נטלוהו והטילוהו עד ארכובותיו ועמד הים מזעפן; לקחו אותו אצלם והים סוער עליהם; הטילוהו עד צוארו והעמיד הים מזעפן; ועוד העלו אותו אצלן והים הולך וסוער עליהם; הטילוהו כולו ומיד עמד הים מזעפן.

They took him [Jonah] (and cast him into the sea) up to his knee-joints, and the sea-storm abated. They took him up again to themselves and the sea became agitated again against them. They cast him in (again) up to his neck, and the sea-storm abated. Once more they lifted him up in their midst and the sea was again agitated against them, until they cast him in entirely and forthwith the sea-storm abated, as it is said, “So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.”

The sailors hesitate to hurt him, even though Jonah tells them that’s what they need to do to end the storm. Instead, they try dipping him up to his knees in the water. The storm stops, so they pull him back up, thinking it’s over for good. But the storm starts again the moment Jonah is lifted out. They try again, with the same result, until finally the sailors accept that the only way to stop the storm is really to throw him completely in.

➤ Ask:

1. What effect does Jonah’s presence on the ship have on the lives of the sailors?
2. Do you think the sailors’ lives changed after they met Jonah? How and why?
3. Has your understanding of the Book of Jonah changed now that you’ve met the sailors? How and why?

Part Three: A Journey With the Fish (15 minutes)

You might think that this is where Jonah meets his end, but Jonah does not drown. Instead, he is swallowed by an enormous fish! Let’s return to the Book of Jonah to see what happens next, and to meet another character.

➤ Read Text #5 aloud.

Text #5: Jonah 2:1-2, 11. English translation from *The Steinsaltz Tanakh*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

וַיִּמֶן ה' דָּג גָּדוֹל לְבָלֵעַ אֶת־יוֹנָה וַיְהִי יוֹנָה בְּמִעֵי הַדָּג שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַיְלֹת: וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל יוֹנָה אֶל־ה' אֱלֹהָיו מִמִּעֵי הַדָּגָה:
...
וַיֹּאמֶר ה' לַדָּג וַיִּקָּא אֶת־יוֹנָה אֶל־הַיַּבֶּשֶׁה:

1 The Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the innards of the fish for three days and three nights. 2 Jonah prayed to the Lord, his God, from the innards of the fish...11 The Lord told the fish, and it spewed Jonah onto the dry land.

In Text #6, the *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer* suggests what the fish might have said or might have been doing when Jonah suddenly appeared. Let’s read this together in *chavruta*. Chavruta is partnered learning. Learning with a friend or two allows you to share ideas and insights with one another as you read and discuss texts together.

➤ Ask participants to read Text #6 and discuss the questions together in *chavruta*.

Text #6: *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer* 10. “The History of Jonah”. Translated by Gerald Friedlander.

אמר לו הדג ליונה: אין אתה יודע שבא יומי להאכל בפיו של לויתן? אמר לו יונה: הולכני אצלו, אמר יונה ללויתן: בשבילך ירדתי לראות מקום מדורך שאני עתיד ליתן חבל בלשוניך ולהעלותך ולזבוח אותך לסעודה הגדולה של צדיקים... אמר לו: הרי הצלתיך מפיו של לויתן, הראני כל מה שבים ובתהומות, והראהו נהר גדול של מימי אוקיינוס

The fish said to Jonah, Dost thou not know that my day had arrived to be devoured in the midst of Leviathan's mouth? Jonah replied, Take me beside it, and I will deliver thee and myself from its mouth. It brought him next to the Leviathan. (Jonah) said to the Leviathan, On thy account have I descended to see thy abode in the sea, for, moreover, in the future will I descend and put a rope in thy tongue, and I will bring thee up and prepare thee for the great feast of the righteous... (Jonah) said to it (i.e. the fish), Behold, I have saved thee from the mouth of Leviathan, show me what is in the sea and in the depths.

According to the *Pirkei de-Rabbi Eliezer*, the fish is in danger of being eaten by an even bigger fish called the Leviathan. Since he is currently inside the smaller fish, Jonah doesn't want that fish to be eaten, since he himself will get digested. So, he promises his fish to save them both from the hungry Leviathan. Jonah scares the Leviathan with a prophecy of being cooked and eaten at a feast. In exchange for being saved, the fish takes him on a tour of the deep sea.

➤ Ask:

1. What are the events the text is describing? What, if anything, surprises you?
2. We know the fish has a positive impact on Jonah, because he is saved from drowning underwater. What do you think was Jonah's impact on the fish?

Thinking about the fish as a character with a speaking role in the Book of Jonah offers us another perspective and journey to explore. Jonah's journey puts him on a path to intersect with this fish, who has a life and a history of its own. The fish and Jonah are on the same path for a time, and their days together change the course of the story.

Part Four: Does the Journey Really Change Anything? (15 minutes)

When the fish spits Jonah up onto dry land, God instructs Jonah — again — to go to Nineveh, and Jonah finally does. When Jonah reaches Nineveh and gives his prophecy (Jonah 3), the people of Nineveh change their ways and God spares them from His destruction.

You might think Jonah's story is finally over, now that his mission is complete. However, the Book of Jonah continues with a description of Jonah after he gives the prophecy to the people of Nineveh. Let's look at a little of what Jonah says when God shows mercy to the people of Nineveh.

➤ Ask a participant to read Text #7 aloud.

On A Journey With Jonah (Middle School)

Text #7: Jonah 4:1-4. English translation from *The Steinsaltz Tanakh*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

וַיִּרַע אֱלֹהֵינוּהָ רָעָה גְדוֹלָה וַיִּחַר לוֹ: וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אֱלֹהֵי וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי ה' הַלֹּואֲנִיָּה דְבָרַי עַד־הַיּוֹתֵי עַל־אֲדָמָתִי עַל־כֵּן קִדְמָתִי לְבָרַחַ תִּרְשִׁישָׁה כִּי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אַתָּה קָל־חַנּוּן וְרַחוּם אַרְךָ אַפְיִם וְרַב־חֶסֶד וְנֶחֱם עַל־הַרְעָה: וַעֲתָה ה' קַח־נָא אֶת־נַפְשִׁי מִמָּנִי כִּי טוֹב מוֹתִי מִחַיִּי: וַיֹּאמֶר ה' הֲהִיטֵב תַּעֲרֶה לָךְ:

1 Jonah was displeased with great displeasure and he was upset. 2 He prayed to the Lord, and said: Please, Lord, is this not what I had said while I was in my own land? Because of this I initially fled to Tarshish, as I knew that You are God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness, and reconsidering of harm. 3 Now, Lord, please take my life from me, as my death is better than my life. 4 The Lord said: Are you truly so upset?

➤ Ask:

1. Does anything surprise you about Jonah's reaction? Why?
2. Jonah delivers the prophecy, but did he have a choice to do so? Do you think he finally did as God asked because he truly saw the importance of God's command, or is he just going through the motions?
3. If Jonah has changed his behaviour but has not changed his heart and mind, is that really a transformation? Has he really changed as a person?
4. Think of a time when you were in a situation like Jonah's, where you had to do a certain thing but your heart wasn't in it, or you went along even though you didn't want to. How did that make you feel?

Conclusion (10 minutes)

Let us look at how the journeys of the various characters come together, and how we relate to them.

Activity: So...You've Met Jonah

A big part of Jonah's journey takes place on the ship with all the sailors. As we've seen, their lives and their journeys are certainly affected by Jonah! Then, there is something fascinating about being swallowed and spat out by a fish that captures the imagination. What would it be like to meet Jonah and get caught up in his journey?

1. Imagine that you are the fish who swallows the prophet Jonah. While he's in your stomach, you can hear each other and have a conversation.

OR

Imagine you are on the ship — the captain or one of the sailors — and Jonah comes aboard, bringing the biggest storm you've ever seen.

2. Using the comic-book page panel and your own creative ideas, draw your interpretation of what your character would do or say in the situation. What would you feel about meeting Jonah? What would you feel after he left? What would you do when this strange prophet appears in your life?
3. Use speech bubbles to write in dialogue, descriptions or narration. Don't worry — you don't have to draw like a comic-book artist!

On A Journey With Jonah (Middle School)

➤ **Hand out the activity sheet and let students use their imaginations. When they are done, Invite a few of the students to show their drawings or read through their scripts. Then, ask:**

1. Do you think Jonah is the hero of this book? Do you think Jonah is the hero of his own story?
2. We've seen how, just by showing up in the lives of others, Jonah's journey has a ripple effect on those who meet him. What are some ways that you and your journey can affect others around you?



On A Journey With Jonah (Middle School)

Part One: Jonah On the Run

Text #1: Jonah 1:1-4. English translation from *The Steinsaltz Tanakh*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

וַיְהִי דְבַר־ה' אֶל־יוֹנָה בֶן־אֲמִיטָי לֵאמֹר: קוּם לְךָ אֶל־נִינְוֶה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה וְקִרְאָה עָלֶיהָ כִּי־עָלְתָה רָעָתָם לִפְנֵי: וַיָּקָם יוֹנָה לְבַרְחַת מִרְשִׁישָׁה מִלְּפָנֵי ה' וַיֵּרֶד יָפוֹ וַיִּמְצָא אֶנְיָה | בָּאָה מִרְשִׁישׁ וַיְתֵן שְׂכָרָהּ וַיֵּרֶד בָּהּ לְבוֹא עִמָּהֶם מִרְשִׁישָׁה מִלְּפָנֵי ה': וְהָ ה' הִטִּיל רוּחַ־גְּדוֹלָה אֶל־הַיָּם וַיְהִי סַעֲר־גְּדוֹל בַּיָּם וַהֲאֵנְיָה חֲשָׁבָה לְהִשְׁבֵּר:

1 The word of the Lord was with Jonah son of Amitai, saying: 2 Rise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim against it, as their evildoing has arisen before Me. 3 Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from before the Lord, he went down to Jaffa, and found a ship bound for Tarshish; he paid its fare, and he went down into it, to come with them to Tarshish from before the Lord. 4 But the Lord cast a great wind upon the sea, and there was a great storm in the sea, and the ship was about to be wrecked.

Text #2: Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer 10, “The History of Jonah”. Translated by Gerald Friedlander.

בחמישי ברח יונה מפני אלקים, ולמה ברח, אלא פעם ראשון שלחו להשיב את גבול ישראל ועמדו דבריו, שנאמר (מלכים ב' יד, כה): "הוא השיב את גבול ישראל מלבווא חמת" וגו'. פעם שניה שלחו לירושלים להחריבה, כיון שעשו תשובה הקב"ה עשה כרוב חסדיו ונחם על הרעה ולא חרבה, והיו ישראל קוראין אותו נביא שקר. פעם ג' שלחו לנינוה, דן וונה דין בינו לבין עצמו, אמר: אני יודע שזה הגוי קרובי התשובה הם, עכשיו עושין תשובה והקב"ה שולח רוגזו על ישראל, ולא די שישאל קורין אותי נביא השקר אלא אף העכמו"ז.

On the fifth day Jonah fled before his God. Why did he flee? Because on the first occasion when God sent him to restore the border of Israel, his words were fulfilled, as it is said, "And he restored the border of Israel from the entering in of Hamath" (II Kings 14:25). On the second occasion God sent him to Jerusalem to (prophesy that He would) destroy it. But the Holy One, blessed be He, did according to the abundance of His tender mercy and repented of the evil (decree), and He did not destroy it; thereupon they called him [Jonah] a lying prophet. On the third occasion God sent him against Nineveh to destroy it. Jonah argued with himself, saying, "I know that the nations are nigh [near] to repentance, now they will repent and the Holy One, blessed be He, will direct His anger against Israel. And is it not enough for me that Israel should call me a lying prophet; but shall also the nations of the world (do likewise)?"

Part Two: A Journey with the Sailors

Text #3: Jonah 1:5-16. English translation from *The Steinsaltz Tanakh*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

וַיִּירָאוּ הַמַּלְחִים וַיִּזְעַקוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אֱהֹיֹוֹ וַיִּטְלוּ אֶת־הַפְּלִים אֲשֶׁר בָּאֵנְיָה אֶל־הַיָּם לְהַקֵּל מֵעֲלֵיהֶם וַיּוֹנֶה יָרֵד אֶל־יַרְכְּתֵי הַסְּפִינָה וַיִּשְׁכַּב וַיִּרְדָּם: וַיִּקְרַב אֵלָיו רַב הַחֵבֶל וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מַה־לָּךְ נִרְדָּם קוּם קִרְא אֶל־אֱלֹהֶיךָ אוֹיְבֵי יַתְעֲשֶׂת הָאֱלֹהִים לָנוּ וְלֹא נֹאדָד: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ לְכוּ וְנִפְיֵלָה גּוֹרְלוֹת וְנִדְעָה בְּשִׁלְמֵי הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת לָנוּ וַיִּפְלוּ גּוֹרְלוֹת וַיִּפֹּל הַגּוֹרֵל עַל־יוֹנָה: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הַגִּידֵה־נָא לָנוּ בְּאִשֶׁר לְמִי־הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת לָנוּ מִה־מְלֹאכְתְּךָ וּמֵאֵין תְּבוֹא מִה אַרְצֶה וְאֵי־מִנֶּה עִם אֶתָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם עֲבָרִי אֲנִי וְאֶת־הָ אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲנִי יָדָא אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה אֶת־הַיָּם וְאֶת־הַיַּבֶּשֶׁת: וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יָרְאָה גְּדוֹלָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ בִּי־נִדְעוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים כִּי־מִלְּפָנֵי ה' הוּא בִרְחַת כִּי הִגִּיד לָהֶם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מַה־עָשָׂה לָּךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה הֵנָּה מֵעַלְיָנוּ כִּי הֵנָּה הוֹלֵךְ וְסַעֵר: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׂאוּנִי וְהִטִּילְנִי אֶל־הַיָּם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה הֵנָּה מֵעַלְיָכֶם כִּי יוֹדַע אֲנִי כִּי בְשָׁלְוִי הִסַּעַר הַגְּדוֹל הַזֶּה עָלֵיכֶם: וַיַּחֲתְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לְהַשִּׁיב אֶל־הַיַּבֶּשֶׁת וְלֹא יָכְלוּ כִּי הֵלֵךְ הוֹלֵךְ וְסַעֵר עָלֵיהֶם: וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל־ה' וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲנָה ה' אֱלֹהֵינָא נִבְדָּה בְּנַפְשֵׁי הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה וְאֶל־תִּתֵּן עָלֵינוּ דָם נְקִיָּה כִּי־אֶתָּה ה' בְּאִשֶׁר תַּפְצֹת עֲשִׂיתָ: וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־יוֹנָה וַיִּטְלוּ אֶל־הַיָּם וַעֲמַד הֵנָּה מִזְעַפּוֹ: וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יָרְאָה גְּדוֹלָה אֶת־ה' וַיִּזְבְּחוּ־וַיָּבֹה לָה' וַיִּזְדְּרוּ נְדָרִים:



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5 The sailors were afraid, and each man cried out to his god, and they cast the articles that were on the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. But Jonah descended to the hold of the ship, and he lay down, and fell asleep. 6 The captain approached him and said to him: What is it with you that you have fallen asleep? Arise, call to your God; perhaps God will reconsider with regard to us, and we will not perish. 7 Each man said to his counterpart: Let us cast lots, that we may discover due to whom this misfortune is upon us. They cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. 8 They said to him: Please tell us, due to whom is this misfortune upon us? What is your labor and from where do you come? What is your country and from what people are you?

9 He said to them: I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land. 10 The men feared with great fear, and they said to him: What is this that you have done, for the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he told them. 11 They said to him: What shall we do to you, that the sea will calm from upon us, as the sea continually grew stormier. 12 He said to them: Lift me and cast me into the sea, and the sea will calm from upon you, as I know that it is due to me that this great storm is upon you.

13 The men rowed to return to dry land, but they could not, for the sea continually grew stormier upon them. 14 They called to the Lord and they said: Please Lord, please let us not perish for this man's life, and do not put upon us innocent blood, for You, Lord, have done as You desired. 15 They lifted Jonah and cast him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 The men feared the Lord with great fear; and they slaughtered an offering to the Lord, and took vows.

Text #4: *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer 10, "The History of Jonah"*. Translated by Gerald Friedlander.

מיד נטלוהו והטילוהו עד ארכובותיו ועמד הים מזעפו; לקחו אותו אצלם והים סוער עליהם; הטילוהו עד צוארו והעמיד הים מזעפו; ועוד העלו אותו אצלן והים הולך וסוער עליהם; הטילוהו כולו ומיד עמד הים מזעפו.

They took him [Jonah] (and cast him into the sea) up to his knee-joints, and the sea-storm abated. They took him up again to themselves and the sea became agitated again against them. They cast him in (again) up to his neck, and the sea-storm abated. Once more they lifted him up in their midst and the sea was again agitated against them, until they cast him in entirely and forthwith the sea-storm abated, as it is said, "So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging."

Part Three: A Journey With the Fish

Text #5: *Jonah 2:1-2, 11*. English translation from *The Steinsaltz Tanakh*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, forthcoming from Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

וַיִּמַן ה' דָּג גָּדוֹל לְבַלְעַ אֶת־יוֹנָה וַיְהִי יוֹנָה בְּמִעֵי הַדָּג שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַיְלֹת: וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל יוֹנָה אֱלֹהֵי ' אֱלֹהֵי מִמְּעֵי הַדָּגָה:
...
וַיֹּאמֶר ה' לְדָג וַיִּקַּא אֶת־יוֹנָה אֶל־הַבְּשָׂה:

1 The Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the innards of the fish for three days and three nights. 2 Jonah prayed to the Lord, his God, from the innards of the fish...11 The Lord told the fish, and it spewed Jonah onto the dry land.



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Text #6: Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer 10. “The History of Jonah”. Translated by Gerald Friedlander.

אמר לו הדג ליונה: אין אתה יודע שבא יומי להאכל בפיו של לוייתן? אמר לו יונה: הולכני אצלו, אמר יונה ללוייתן: בשבילך ירדתי לראות מקום מדורך שאני עתיד ליתן חבל בלשוניך ולהעלותך ולזבוח אותך לסעודה הגדולה של צדיקים... אמר לו: הרי הצלתיך מפיו של לוייתן, הראני כל מה שבים ובתהומות, והראהו נהר גדול של מימי אוקיינוס

The fish said to Jonah, Dost thou not know that my day had arrived to be devoured in the midst of Leviathan’s mouth? Jonah replied, Take me beside it, and I will deliver thee and myself from its mouth. It brought him next to the Leviathan. (Jonah) said to the Leviathan, On thy account have I descended to see thy abode in the sea, for, moreover, in the future will I descend and put a rope in thy tongue, and I will bring thee up and prepare thee for the great feast of the righteous... (Jonah) said to it (i.e. the fish), Behold, I have saved thee from the mouth of Leviathan, show me what is in the sea and in the depths.

Part Four: Does the Journey Really Change Anything?

Text #7: Jonah 4:1-4. English translation from *The Steinsaltz Tanakh*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

וַיֵּרַע אֱלֵי־יוֹנָה רָעָה גְדוֹלָה וַיַּחַר לוֹ: וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אֶל־ה' וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכָהּ ה' הֲלוֹא־אֲנִי דִבַּרְתִּי עַד־הַיּוֹתֵי עַל־אֲדָמָתִי עַל־כֵּן קָדַמְתִּי לְבָרְחַם תַּרְשִׁישׁ כִּי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אַתָּה קִלְ־חַנּוּן וְרַחוּם אָרָךְ אֶפְלִים וְרַב־חֶסֶד וְנֶחֱם עַל־הַרְעָה: וְעַתָּה ה' קַח־נָא אֶת־נַפְשִׁי מִמֶּנִּי כִּי טוֹב מוֹתִי מִחַיִּי: וַיֹּאמֶר ה' הֲהֵיטֵב תָּרַח לָךְ:

1 Jonah was displeased with great displeasure and he was upset. 2 He prayed to the Lord, and said: Please, Lord, is this not what I had said while I was in my own land? Because of this I initially fled to Tarshish, as I knew that You are God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness, and reconsidering of harm. 3 Now, Lord, please take my life from me, as my death is better than my life. 4 The Lord said: Are you truly so upset?



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So...You've Met Jonah



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