

September 22, 2002

Hey Kids!

Guess who is celebrating a birthday this week? Shamu!



Seventeen years ago a bouncing baby whale, named Shamu, was born at Sea World in Orlando, Florida! Since that time, Shamu has moved to Texas and has given birth to her own family. She has become a very popular whale and has many visitors every year at the San Antonio theme park.

I wonder, can you think of another popular whale?

Are you thinking of the whale that swallowed Jonah? Even though we don't know the exact name of that whale, or big fish, he's a popular Bible story character. We read about him in the book of Jonah in the Old Testament.

God told Jonah to go to a place called Ninevah. People were acting badly there. God wanted Jonah to tell them to stop behaving badly. But Jonah didn't want to go! He hopped on a ship headed for Tarshish instead! He got himself in a big mess and landed in the belly of a whale.

While inside the whale, Jonah prayed to God. After three days, the whale spit Jonah out on the land. Jonah realized the right thing to do was to go to Ninevah and tell the people there to stop being bad, just as God had asked him. God gave Jonah a second chance to do the right thing.

God gives all of us second chances to do the right things. If we mess up, each day is a new opportunity to make things right. Isn't that good news?

To discover what happened to Jonah and the whale, read Jonah chapters 1 and 2 in your Bible.



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Activities

Unscramble these words from the Jonah story.

vaniNeh _____

laweh _____

odG _____

honaJ _____

pdyrea _____

Dot out a "big fish" and then connect the dots.

What would you name the whale in the story of Jonah?

Pray:

**Dear God, thank you for giving us second chances.
Help me to always try to do the right things.
Amen.**