

9

Joash, the Only Link

God had promised King David that the Saviour of the world would one day sit on his throne. He also said that the Saviour would come from the family line of David. So when David died, his son became king. When that son died, his son became king. It was like a chain which God strung down through the years. Each king was a link in that chain and his son became the next link.

Then something happened. When one of the kings died, his mother, Athaliah, decided to be queen instead of letting the king's son be the next ruler. That meant she had to get rid of her grandsons to keep the people from making one of them king.

Athaliah's daughter heard about her mother's terrible plan. She rushed to the king's house and grabbed up the youngest son, baby Joash. Quickly she carried him to

the temple, where her husband was priest. There she hid him in a bedroom.

Athaliah killed all the brothers of Joash. Any one of them could have been the link in God's chain, but now they were dead.

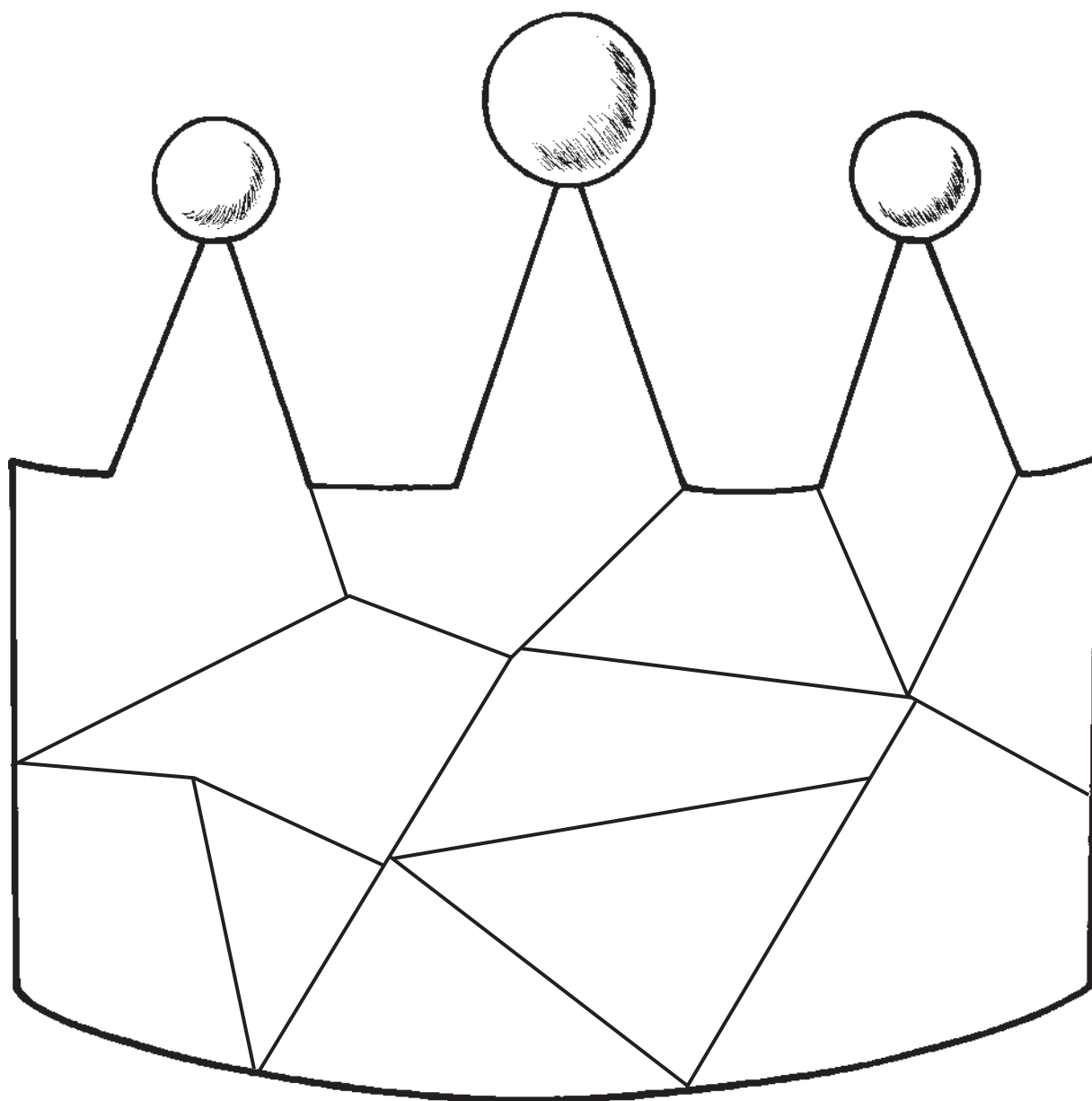
Little Joash was the only link left.

Of course God needed only one link. He used Joash to make his promise to David come true.

When Joash was seven years old, his uncle brought him out of the place where he had lived in secret for six years. The people were astonished and very happy to find out that one of the king's sons had been alive all those years.

Joash's uncle put the crown on the boy's head and made him king of Judah. The only link in God's chain was just a seven-year-old boy. But that was all God needed to keep His promise.

Find the puzzle pieces on page 35. Cut and paste them onto the crown, matching the shapes.



Follow the words across the crown to find what Joash was.

_____.

Joash was seven years old when he began to reign ... in Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 24:1

10

I Won't Go



The prophet Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. He did not want to tell those wicked people that God was going to overthrow them. He was afraid when they heard that, they might repent. Then God would have mercy on them. Jonah did not care about the people of Nineveh because Nineveh was Israel's enemy. Jonah did not want God to have mercy on them.

He told himself, "I won't go to Nineveh." So he got into a ship going the other way across the Great Sea.

God wanted Jonah to take his warning to Nineveh. He set about getting the disobedient prophet to change his mind.

First, he sent a great storm down on the sea. The wind began to howl and the waves began to roll. The sailors took down the sails to keep them from being ripped to shreds. But that did little good. The wind rose to a shriek and the waves rose

higher. Before long the sailors knew they could not handle the ship in such a wind. They threw the cargo overboard. They called on their gods to save them. But the storm raged on.

All this time Jonah lay sleeping down in the hold. The shipmaster woke him, crying "What do you mean by sleeping at a time like this? Get up. Call on your God. Maybe He can save us!"

The sailors believed the storm was the fault of someone on board the ship. They cast lots to find out whose fault it was. The lot fell on Jonah.

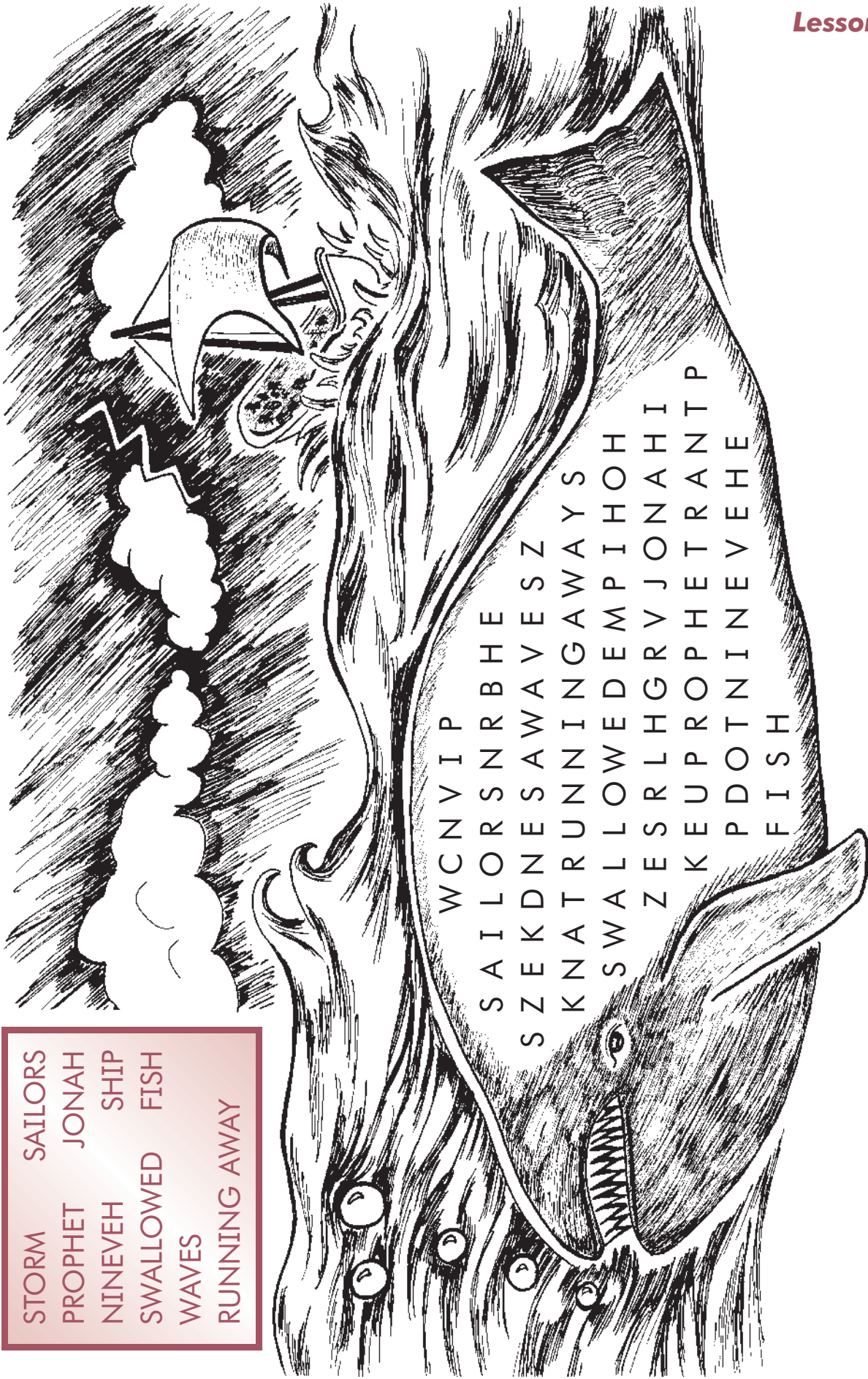
Jonah said, "This storm is my fault. I am running from God. Throw me overboard and the storm will stop."

So they threw the prophet into the sea, and immediately the wind stopped and the waves grew calm.

Then God had a big fish close by. When Jonah hit the water, the fish opened his mouth and swallowed

Find and circle the words from the list, in the fish.

STORM SAILORS
PROPHET JONAH
NINEVEH SHIP
SWALLOWED FISH
WAVES
RUNNING AWAY



Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. Jonah 1:17