

“Bible Stories for Kids: Jonah Can’t be Lost”

by
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- What** This fun scene tells the story of Jonah in one whale-of-a-tale, exploring disobedience to God and His always-waiting, great grace.
- Themes: Obey, Obedience, God’s Plan, Repentance
- Who** Narrator
Jonah
Sailor 1
Sailor 2
Ninevite 1
Ninevite 2
- When** Bible times
- Wear (Props)** Narrator can be dressed in neutral modern clothes or in Biblical garb like the rest of the cast.
You’ll need something for a boat. Cardboard cut and painted or a sheet draped over chairs.
Also, fashion a big fish. Go as fancy or as simple as you want. Cardboard and some paint will do or add foil and reflective paper, glitter, for a fishy scaly appearance.
Water blasters to get your audience wet if desired. A stool for the Narrator.
- Why** The Book of Jonah
- How** The Narrator speaks directly to the audience possibly seated on a stool. You will need some people to operate the fish, water blasters and possibly move the boat. With a lot of movement in this script for your actors be mindful of their costuming to allow for ease of movement.
- Time** Approximately 4-5 minutes

Narrator: I think this is a perfect time and place for telling you a little story. And I'm telling you now, it may become one of your favorites. So let's begin. Ok, there was this guy. His name was Jonah.

*Enter **Jonah**. In the following dialogue the **Narrator** acts as the Voice of God and should change their voice accordingly at those times for the best narration of the story.*

Narrator: God told Jonah, "Jonah, Go to the city of Nineveh and tell them that they are being very bad and are making me very angry."

Jonah: *(looking up as though speaking to God)* Nineveh Ha! Yeah. Not gonna happen.

***Sailor 1, Sailor 2** enter in their big boat and **Jonah** walks toward them and pantomimes asking to climb aboard. They welcome him in and begin to sail away.*

Narrator: Yep. You heard that right. Jonah told God "no". God told Jonah to go one place but instead, Jonah headed down to the docks and boarded a ship going in the exact *opposite* direction of Nineveh. I don't think God was too pleased with Jonah disobeying him like that. In fact, he sent a violent storm with rushing winds and breaking waves that threatened to sink the boat and drown them all!

Sailor 1: We're going to drown! This storm is going to kill us all!

Sailor 2: It was so calm! How did this happen?

Jonah: It's my fault. Y'see...I'm trying to run away from God but...apparently that's not working.

Sailor 1: Apparently!

Jonah: Just, uh...throw me overboard!

Sailor 2: What?! Are you crazy?!

Jonah: Throw me overboard! The storm will stop, and you'll survive.

Sailor 1: But what about *you*?!

Jonah: *(rethinking the repercussions of his plan)* Huh. That's a good question...maybe we should rethink...

***Sailor 1** and **Sailor 2** pick **Jonah** up and throw him overboard before he finishes speaking.*

Jonah: Ahhhhhhh!!!!!!

Narrator: The crew threw Jonah overboard and *immediately* the storm stopped.

Sailor 1: Hey, the storm stopped.

Sailor 2: Good luck, buddy.

Sailor 1 and Sailor 2 quickly sail away.

Narrator: The storm stopped but Jonah was in for an even bigger surprise.

Jonah: Wait, what? Whattya mean, "an even bigger surprise"?

Narrator: God sent one really, really big fish to swallow up Jonah.

Enter the REALLY BIG FISH begin maneuvered by Sailor 1 and Sailor 2.

Jonah: He did *what?! (turning and seeing the REALLY BIG FISH) Ahhhhhh!!!!!!*

Exit REALLY BIG FISH leaving Jonah sitting in the middle of the stage huddled down like he's in the damp, dark belly of the fish.

Narrator: The really big fish swallowed Jonah and Jonah was stuck inside that fish for *three* days. Three long, smelly, stinky and sticky days. I think God thought Jonah needed some time to think about his choice to disobey God.

Jonah: There's not a whole lot to do inside the belly of a fish for *three days* but think! *(to God)* I didn't listen to you. I should have. Then I almost died in that storm on the sea. But you saved me. True...sending a big fish to swallow someone is a weird way of saving them, but I get it. You're giving me a second chance. I promise...I'll listen this time. So, uh...maybe...I can get out of this fish now?

Counselor: So God commanded that really big fish to vomit Jonah up onto dry land.

Enter Sailor 1 and Sailor 2 in the back as the "vomiting" occurs they shoot large water guns out into the audience at the same time as Jonah hurls himself forward as though being vomited out of a really big fish's mouth onto a beach.

Jonah: *(spewing and sputtering as he tries to speak to God)* Thanks...I think. *(wiping off his arms, head, face of the icky.)* Ew. That was gross.

Narrator: Then God spoke to Jonah again saying, "Go to Nineveh and tell them what I told you to tell them." And do you think he listened this time?

Jonah: You better believe I listened this time! I'm not gonna let *that* happen again. *(still shaking off some fish goo)* Bleck!

*Enter **Ninevite 1** and **Ninevite 2** as **Jonah** moves to them and pantomimes telling them what God has said about them and their city. The **Ninevites** show great fear and worry on their faces.*

Narrator: Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people there that God was very angry with them and he was going to destroy their entire city and everyone in it.

Ninevite 1: Wait a second. What if we repent? Yeah! Repent!

Ninevite 2: We'll turn to God and stop being bad and start doing good things!

Ninevite 1: We'll listen to God and obey what he tells us. Do you think he won't destroy us then?

Ninevite 2: I think we have to try.

*The **Ninevites** get down on their knees and pantomime asking, begging for forgiveness. They stand up and are all cheery big smiles and give **Jonah** a handshake, a big hug, each other hugs, a group hug! They are trying to be good.*

Narrator: When God saw that the people of Nineveh were truly sorry for being mean and unkind and disobedient to God and that they really wanted in their hearts to do good and listen to God and obey him he decided *not* to destroy Nineveh.

***Jonah** and the **Ninevites** cheer and group hug.*

Ninevite 1: Jonah, because you obeyed God and came to warn us, we were all saved. *You* saved us!

Jonah: *God* saved you. And it took getting swallowed by a really big fish to make it happen.

Ninevites: *(looking confused)* What?

Jonah: Nevermind. It's a long...disgusting story.

*The **Ninevites** cheer again and, wrapping their arms around **Jonah**, lead him out almost dragging him a little reluctantly offstage and they celebrate as they go.*

Narrator: I'm sure this sounds like one whale of a tale. And I sure am glad God hasn't sent a big fish to swallow me up when I disobey! Jonah tried to hide from God. He tried to do what *he* wanted to do and not listen to God, but you can never be lost with God. God knew *exactly* where Jonah was. He sent a storm and a fish to prove it. And it took a storm and fish to make him see that obeying God is better, and less disgusting, than not obeying God.