

Jonah Skit

Based on Jonah 1–3

Parts: Narrator (teacher), Jonah, Captain, 2–4 Sailors

Props: large sheet/tablecloth, chairs, empty boxes, spray bottle with water, optional electric fan and costumes (robe and belt for Jonah, sailor cap for the Captain, etc.)

Scene: Set up chairs to be the ship at the front of the classroom: place two (or more) per side facing forward, leaving room between for the ship’s crew to stand. Add one chair at the front and two at the back. The side chairs can be used for the sailors to sit and row. Place empty boxes in the ship if you have them. Across from the ship, make a “great fish” using several chairs with a sheet/tablecloth draped over it (where Jonah can be “swallowed”). Set up the fan, if available, so that it blows on the ship.

Choose a student to be Jonah, one to be the captain, and several students to be the sailors. Give costumes to Jonah and the captain if you brought them. Direct the captain and sailors to go into the ship to start. Jonah will stand up front close to you. Explain to the actors that they must listen closely and follow the directions and repeat lines as you and your assistant direct them.

Jonah did not want to take God’s message to the people of Nineveh. *Have Jonah cross his arms and shake his head no.*

Instead, he got on a ship going the other way. *Have Jonah pretend to pay the captain and then board the ship.*

But the Lord sent a strong wind upon the sea, and the ship was about to break apart! *Turn on the fan and blow it on the ship. Spray some water over the ship for a “storm” effect.*

The sailors were very afraid and cried out to their false gods. *Have sailors look terrified and drop to their knees.*

The captain knew they needed to make the ship lighter, so he said, “Throw all the boxes overboard!” *Have the captain repeat this line and have the sailors toss boxes out of the ship (without hitting anything or anyone!).*

But Jonah had gone down into the lower part of the ship and had fallen fast asleep. *Have Jonah lie down across the back chairs and pretend to be sleeping.*

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The captain came and found Jonah. He said, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray to your God!” *Have Jonah stand up and join the sailors.*

When the sailors found out that Jonah was running away from the one true God, they were very afraid. The captain asked Jonah, “What should we do to you to make the storm stop?” *Have the captain repeat the line.*

Jonah answered, “I know God sent this storm because of me. You must throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become quiet again.” *Have Jonah point to the sea.*

The men didn’t want to throw Jonah overboard (*have sailors shake their heads no*), so they sat down and tried to row really hard. *Have sailors sit in the side chairs and pretend to row frantically.*

But the storm was too strong. *Spray water toward the ship and turn the fan up.*

They knew they had to throw Jonah into the sea. *Have sailors surround Jonah and then pretend to throw him into the sea. Direct Jonah to yell and jump away from the ship. Have sailors stay in the ship.*

Immediately, the storm stopped. *Turn off the fan and put the spray bottle aside.*

Then God brought a great fish to swallow Jonah. *Have Jonah move under the sheet/tablecloth of the “great fish.”*

Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights! He couldn’t run from God anymore. In the belly of this great fish, Jonah prayed to God. *Have Jonah shout, “Lord, please help me!”*

And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out onto dry land. *Have Jonah jump out of the fish and land on the ground.*

The Lord spoke to Jonah a second time, saying, “Go to Nineveh, that great city, and give them the message that I tell you.”

This time, Jonah obeyed. *Have Jonah say, “Yes, Lord!”*

End of Skit

Have the class clap for the actors as they return to their seats.