

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: For the ship, set up chairs at the front of the classroom: place two (or more) per side facing forward then add one chair at the front and two at the back to be the bow and stern of the ship. The side chairs can be used for the sailors to sit and row. Place empty boxes in the ship. Set up the fan, if available, so that it blows on the ship. Across from the ship, make a “great fish” using several chairs with a sheet/tablecloth draped over it (where Jonah can be “swallowed”). Give costumes to Jonah and the captain if you brought them.

Choose a student to be Jonah, one to be the captain, and several students to be the sailors. 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 directions and repeat lines as you direct them.

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

Instead, he boarded a ship headed to Tarshish. *Have Jonah pretend to pay the captain and then board the ship.*

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea so that 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 afraid and cried out to their false gods. *Have sailors look terrified and drop to their knees.*

The captain said, “Throw all the cargo overboard! We must lighten the ship or we’ll die!” *Have the captain repeat this line and have the sailors throw boxes out of the ship (without hitting anything or anyone!).*

But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and fallen fast asleep. *Have Jonah lie down on the chairs in the stern and pretend to be sleeping.*

The captain came and found him. He said, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and call out to your God! Perhaps he will remember us, and we won’t all die.”

Have Jonah stand up and join the sailors. The sailors decided to cast lots, kind of like throwing dice, to see who was responsible for the bad storm. And the lot fell on Jonah.

The sailors demanded to know who he was and where he was from. Jonah said, "I am from Israel, and I fear the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. I am running from the Lord." *Have Jonah repeat the last sentence.*

Hearing this made the men very afraid. They asked, "What should we do to you so the sea and the storm will quiet down?" *Have the captain repeat the line.*

Jonah answered, "You must pick me up and throw me into the sea. I know it's because of me that this great storm has come." *Have Jonah point to the sea.*

The men didn't want to throw Jonah overboard (*have sailors shake their heads no*), so they rowed hard to try to get the ship to dry land. *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 had no choice but to throw Jonah into the sea. *Have sailors surround Jonah and then pretend to throw him out. Direct Jonah to yell and jump away from the ship.*

Immediately, the sea stopped its raging. *Turn off the fan and put the spray bottle aside.*

The men on the ship realized that this miracle was from the Lord. They said, "The God of Jonah is powerful! He is the true God!" *Have the captain and sailors kneel down and worship/pray.*

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 repented and cried out to the Lord to save him. *Have Jonah cry out, "Lord, save 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 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.