

# THE STORY OF JONAH

## Memory Verse

But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

## Story Characters

Narrator  
God  
Jonah  
Sailor #1  
Sailor #2  
Fish  
People of Nineveh

Narrator:

*Has God ever asked you to do something that you just didn't want to do? Jonah had that happen to him. Here is his story.*

God:

Jonah, I have a mission for you. Go to the great city of Nineveh and tell the people who live there that their sins have come to My attention.

Jonah:

Me? Go to Nineveh? I don't want to go to Nineveh.

God:

Jonah, go to Nineveh.

Jonah:

Maybe I will run away. I will get on a ship and sail somewhere else — anywhere but Nineveh.

Narrator:

*Jonah falls into a deep sleep aboard the ship when suddenly . . .*

Sailor #1:

Excuse me, sir. Jonah, please please wake up!

Jonah:

What is it? What's wrong?

Sailor #1:

A storm, sir. We're afraid the ship will break apart in this wind. The captain sent me to ask you to pray to your God to help us.

(Sounds of storm increasing.)

Sailor #2:

Jonah, Jonah, we think this storm is your fault! What terrible thing have you done to bring all this trouble on us poor sailors? Tell us.

Jonah:

I am a Hebrew. I worship the Lord, but I am running away from Him and what He wants me to do.

Sailor #1:

What should we do? We've already thrown all the cargo off the ship and it hasn't helped. We don't want to die.

Jonah:

Pick me up and throw me into the sea.

Sailor #2:

No, sir, we can't do that. Let's try rowing again.

(Sounds of storm increasing.)

Sailor #1:

It's no use. We are going to have to throw Jonah overboard. Oh God of Jonah, please don't let us die.

Narrator:

*The sailors threw Jonah overboard and a large fish swallowed him up.*

Fish:

Gulp!

(Sounds of storm fade into quiet.)

Narrator:

*While Jonah was in the belly of the fish, he prayed to God.*

Jonah:

Lord, my God, when I almost drowned, I called for help. And You listened to my cry. I will sing a song of

thanks. I will do what I have promised. Lord, You are the one who saves.

Narrator:

*God hears the prayer of Jonah and causes the fish to spit Jonah out on the shore. Then Jonah keeps his promise to God and goes to Nineveh.*

(Sounds of crowded city)

Jonah:

People of Nineveh, I have a message for you from God. In 40 days, Nineveh will be destroyed because of your sins.

People of Nineveh:

Oh, no! We need to repent for our sins. We will wear black clothes and we won't eat to show God how sorry we are. Please, Lord God, turn away your anger.

God:

I will have compassion on you, and I will not destroy you.

Narrator:

*If you want to read more about Jonah and the people of Nineveh, check out the book of **Jonah**. It's in the Old Testament section of your Bible.*

*Bible Source: Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version, A Bible for Kids, Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.*

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<https://kidscorner.reframemedia.com/bible-stories/the-story-of-jonah>

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