

The Story of Jonah (Jonah)

You will need:

Narrator
Jonah

Optional props

Boat
Belly of the fish - see note in story
Sign to Nineveh

Teach the congregation these trigger words before beginning the story.

Right - 'YEY!' with thumbs up

Wrong - 'BOOO!' with thumbs down

Storm - Half say 'WOOOOOooooOOO!' and half say 'CRASH' and Clap once after.

Boat - (*sing*) 'Row, row, row your boat.'

Narrator: The people of Nineveh were not living as they should. They were not living the right way. They were living the wrong way. And so God decided to send someone to the town of Nineveh to sort them out and tell them how to live the right way and not the wrong way, before they got themselves into all manor of trouble!
God decided to send a man. This man's name was Jonah.

[Enter Jonah.]

Jonah: Hi I'm Jonah.

Narrator/God: Jonah!

Jonah: Yes God?

Narrator/God: Go to the town of Nineveh and tell them that they need to live the **right** way and not the **wrong** way.

Narrator: And did Jonah go to the town of Nineveh as God had asked? Well Jonah? Did you?

Jonah: Did I!? Did I!?... No I did not! Those guys in Nineveh are crazy. By the way, which way is Nineveh?

Narrator: It's that way I believe. *[pointing one way.]*

Jonah: Okey doke! *[walking off the other way.]*

Narrator: HEY! JONAH! Where are you going?

Jonah: As far away from Nineveh as possible! I HATE the people of Nineveh. I'd rather be swallowed by a lion or a hippo... or a fish even, if there was ever one big enough... ha.

Narrator: Ok then... So, Jonah hated the people of Nineveh and did the opposite of what God asked and went off in the opposite direction to Nineveh.

He then got in a **boat**... The **boat** set sail... And off Jonah went... Sailing far, far away from the town of Nineveh.

[Jonah gets into a 'boat and pretends to sail/ row.]

Jonah: Tally-Ho!

Narrator: But, after a short time on this **boat**, Jonah came up against a **storm**. A **storm** so ferocious, so vicious and so terrifying, that all aboard the **boat** shook with fear.

Jonah: Yikes!

Narrator: Amid the ferocity of the **storm**, Jonah ended up being thrown out of the **boat** and into the sea amongst the crashing waves and the sea creatures.

[Jonah to act along with the narration.]

The **boat** was now out of sight and the **storm** had stopped. And as Jonah paddled around in the sea, his legs aching, and his arms tiring, something huge was making its way nearer... and nearer... and nearer... and nearer... Until eventually, straight in-front of Jonah, staring him directly in the face was a great, BIG fish! Jonah looked at the fish and the fish looked at Jonah. And then... GULP! ...The fish swallowed Jonah whole and swam away deep, deep into the sea.

[You could create a 'belly of a fish' here using material/ a 'den'. You could use a bubble machine and fish/ seaweed... be as creative as you can!]

And so Jonah sat inside the smelly belly of the fish. I imagine he felt better off in the **storm** on the **boat**.

Jonah: Let me out of here! This isn't funny! It stinks in here. I don't even like fish.

Narrator: After one whole day, Jonah was...

Jonah: Still inside the fish...

Narrator: After two whole days, Jonah was...

Jonah: Still inside the fish...

Narrator: And after three whole days, Jonah was...

Jonah: Surprise! I'm still inside the fish!

Narrator: Eventually, after Jonah had been inside the fish for three days, God made the giant fish cough Jonah up onto dry land.

[Jonah is 'spewed' out of the belly!]

Stood there on the shore, covered in mucus and fish gunk, Jonah heard God speak to him once again.

Narrator/God: Jonah!

Jonah: Yes God.

Narrator/God: Go to the city of Nineveh and show them how to live the **right** way instead of living the **wrong** way, as I asked you to do before.

Narrator: And Jonah did just that. After being in a **boat**, and in a **storm** and in the belly of a fish, Jonah realised that he was wrong to hate the people of Nineveh just because they were different to him, and he began to care about them. Jonah finally went to show the people of Nineveh the **right** way to live, so that they would no longer live the **wrong** way. And because of this the city of Nineveh was kept safe.