

E4K Staff Skit



The Book of Jonah

Key verses:

“Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God’s love for them.

⁹ But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you. Jonah 2: 8,9 new NIV

Lk 11 ³⁰ For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.

Camper parts for Friday Spectacle

Level 1 fish in the sea, sing a song Scene 5

Level 2 plants & worm. Scene 8

Level 3 Ticket sellers. Scene 3

Level 4 Ninevites Scene 6

Level 4 Sailors, Scene 2

Skit 1: God's message to Jonah. Monday A.M.

Cast: Jonah, Herald

Scene: a very simple desk or just a chair, a large scroll and plume pen, a drink of water. Sign post: Isreal > Nineveh > Tarshish >

Jonah: [enters writing on a large scroll. Stops, puts hand up to ear to listen, nods and starts to write.]

This is what God says. NO,,,,,,,,[crosses out and writes] God told me.....much better! [walking back and forth on the stage, scribbling and talking, freezes]

Herald - [enters, goes over to Jonah, but address the audience] Hi! This is Jonah! He is a prophet! He lives in Israel! [point to the sign] A prophet speaks words from God! [point up to God and stand back to the side.]

Jonah: [starts writing and pacing again...] This is what God says, hmmm..... [Stops and listens with hand to ear] What, Lord?

Voice of God: [on microphone] Take a message to the great city of Nineveh.

Jonah: [writing and pacing....] Take a message to the great city of Nineveh. [realize, stop, gulp] WHAT? NINEVEH? [shaking head] No, no, no .. please tell me again, Lord?

Voice of God: [on microphone] Take a message to the great city of Nineveh. I have seen its wickedness.

Jonah: Nineveh! NO! [throws down the paper and runs off the stage toward stairs, holding his fingers in his ears]

Herald: God sent Jonah a message. I don't think Jonah likes the message.

FINIS

2nd ending: have some fun with Jonah when he is frozen, waving, "Hi Jonah" etc., poking him, pushing him. When Jonah says, "No" he can get more adamant, stamp on the paper, run off middle aisle holding his fingers in his ears.

Skit 2 Jonah Runs Away Monday PM

Cast: Jonah, Herald

Note: in FRI Spectacle there will be an added scene with Level 3 students with placards with advertisements for Nineveh and Tarshish on either side who will be advertising these two places.

Scene: same as scene 1, desk or chair to sit in, a drink of water, scroll, plume pen, suitcase or bag, a few things to stuff in his bag. Sign post: Israel > Nineveh > Tarshish >

[Jonah has a Hawaiian shirt & swim trunk under his costume for the second ending]

Jonah: [sneaks back onto the stage, sits down, acts like he's going to start again.] OK, where were we, ... [reads what is on the paper] This is what God says: Take a message to the great city of Nineveh. [taking a drink, slams cup down] ¹ WHAT!!!! NINEVEH! They worship idols! They rob people! They kill people! They hate God! They are the ENEMIES of Israel! [carry on with many nonverbals, temper tantrums, etc., FREEZE in a pout]

Herald: God said to Jonah, "Take a message to the great city of Nineveh. I have seen its wickedness.

[taps on the Nineveh sign] In Nineveh, they are VERY SCARY. They hurt people! They rob people! They kill people! They hate God! They are the ENEMIES of Israel. God loves Israel... and God loves Jonah!" [when he says "God loves Jonah" Jonah is a very childish, pouty pose. H. pats Jonah on the head and tsks, ² [EXIT Herald]

Jonah: [UNFREEZE] No! I am not going to Nineveh! [starts running around, grabs a bag and starts packing] Those bad people? No! I will not go! Please, destroy Nineveh! They are the enemies of Israel! They worship idols! They are bad. Go ahead and destroy them! ³

FINIS

2nd ending:

1 [taking a drink, spits water out]

2 Second time, Jonah breaks freeze and sticks his tongue out.

3 takes off his robe, has a Hawaiian shirt and swim trunks underneath - "I need a vacation!"

Skit 3 - Ticket purchase Tues AM

Cast: Jonah, Ticket seller

Scene: TICKET COUNTER WITH MAP WITH CITY SIGNS ON IT - NINEVEH, TARSHISH, ISREAL, EGYPT, ETC.

Note: in FRI Spectacle there will be an added scene with Level 2 students with placards with advertisements for Nineveh and Tarshish on either side who will be advertising these two places.

Jonah: [enters with Hawaii shirt & bag and walks around to ticket seller] I want to buy a ticket!

Ticket: Where do you want to go?

Jonah: [looking back and forth to the two signs, looks up, then in a low voice, sneaky] Can you show me where Nineveh is?

Ticket: WHERE?

Jonah: (looking around to see if anyone is listening, then in a low voice) Nineveh, where is it?

Ticket: [loud voice] Oh yes, Nineveh... it's 300 nautical miles to the east. I can sell you one ticket for Nineveh! That will be one gold coin!

Jonah: [looks at the map, puts hand on Nineveh, looks for the place most opposite of Nineveh and says] No, here! What is this place?

Ticket: Oh Sir, that's Tarshish. That is the opposite way. You want to go to Nineveh over here.

Jonah: (louder voice, looking up at the sky toward God) NO, NO, NO, I DO NOT want to go to Nineveh. How much to go to Tarshish?

Put in wee ones here... NO, NO, NO. GO GO GO [Level 2 Song on Fri Night]

Ticket: Are you sure? Tarshish is two gold coins!

Jonah: Hurry up! I need a ticket for Tarshish. [exchange money and ticket, shake hands. Jonah walks off with the ticket toward the ship, he is relieved] Tarshish, here I come! I need a vacation!

FINIS

Second time: Herald stands on the side and give commentary, way to go! Or No, not Tarshish! Encourages the kids to say "Nineveh, Nineveh," while Jonah is deciding.

Skit 4 Jonah joins the Ship Tues PM

Cast: Jonah, Captain, Sailors 1-8, Herald (we can expand or combine sailors to make the right number)

Scene: Ship - can there be an idol on deck?

Captain: Welcome to our ship!

Jonah: Thank you! Are we going to TARSHISH?

Captain: Yes! We are going all the way to Tarshish!

Sailor 1: [takes his bag] Hey! You go below! The seas can get rough!

Sailor 2: But they don't scare us cause we're strong and brave!

Sailor 3 We're the kings of the sea and we rule the waves. ¹

[Jonah goes "below" and lays down to sleep, storm sound effect comes]

Herald: [enters, looking at Jonah who is sleeping] Jonah, you cannot hide from God.

[All Sailors & Captain] AHHH this is the worst, most terrible storm that we've seen

Sailor 4: The Waves are so Big! We're turning all green! We need help! [takes out an idol and bows] Please help us!

Sailor 5: This doesn't look good! Everyone, Pray! [fingering beads] God of the sea, please help us! God of the land, please help us! God of the sky, please help us! God of the storm, please help us! God of the fish, please help us! Etc.

Sailor 6: I am afraid to die! [pulls coins out of his pocket and throws them to the sea] God of the Sea! Take my money! Please help us!

Sailor 7: Throw out some cargo. We're starting to SINK! [goes to the idol and bows down to it] God of my fathers, please help us!

Captain: [waking Jonah] Jonah! Wake up! Do not sleep! Wake up and pray to your God! Maybe he will help! This is a terrible storm! [Jonah gets up and goes on top with others, grumpily.]

[Storm gets worse, and they throw things off the boat, even the idol.]

Skit 5: Jonah thrown overboard, Fish Swallows and Jonah delivered Wed AM

Sailor 1: Hey! Someone on this ship is bad luck. Who is it? Who is it?

Sailor 2: Yes! Let's find out who is bad luck! Number 6 is our bad luck!

[all gather round and throw dice. Meanwhile the ship is rocking. Throw and cheer at other numbers. Jonah rolls....6! Boo! YOU!!]

Captain: Tell us, who are you?

Sailor 3: Where are you from?

Sailor 4: What is your country?

Sailor 5: Who are your people?

Sailor 6: Who is your god?

Jonah: I am from Israel! I worship Jehovah, the God of heaven who made all the sea and the land!

[sailors are impressed, stand back]

Sailor 7: What bad thing have you done? We are all afraid!

Jonah: I am hiding from the Lord! [all are afraid, a little mad]

All Sailors together: Hiding from the Lord!

Sailor 8: What should we do to make the sea calm down for us?

Jonah: Throw me into the sea, and the sea will become calm. I am guilty!

[sailors all together]: NO, NO WAY, THAT WOULD BE WRONG!

Captain: Come on men, let's go back to land! [try to fight the storm again, a big wave comes and they all fall over. - we might toss a big basket of confetti to show a wave? One of the sailors almost falls over and the others all have to pull him back in.]

Captain: Men! Stop! This is not helping! Jonah! Come here!

Captain: Oh God who made the sea and the land, do not kill us! Jonah is the guilty one!

[all grab Jonah, pick him up over head, and start to throw him over - FREEZE]

Herald - goes around to see Jonah's face - Jonah, you cannot hide from God!

FINIS

SECOND ENDING__Cast: Jonah, Captain & Sailors, fish

[Scene starts with all throwing Jonah overboard]

Captain: Ready? On Three! [second time - sailors carry Jonah together onto the stage]

[All] ONE - TWO - [STOP]

Herald: STOP! [enters, running, runs around to see Jonah's face] Jonah, you cannot hide from God! [Steps back - OK, THREE!] Jonah is thrown overboard.

[Storm stops]

Captain and Sailors: Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you [all get down and bow to God and thank him]

Jonah: [disappears under the waves while the Captain and sailors say above lines. He pops up, trying to swim, almost drowns, etc.] HELP ME God, Help!

FISH: [comes swimming in, at first Jonah tries to run from it, then it swallows Jonah. Jonah flounders; "HELP ME God, Help!!" they swim around the stage or room, up and down, a wild ride. Fish comes to front stage, Jonah is visible.

Jonah prays to God, Lord, I am guilty! But from the water, I call to you! From the belly of the fish, I call to you! I was drowning, and you sent this fish to save me

Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you.

Herald [reporting from the sea, has a life preserver around his tummy]: So, God sent the fish to Jonah in the sea and then answered his prayer, now what will we see?

[First ending]

Second time: More fish madness, 2nd time Herald has child's inflatable around his tummy

[Fish begins to vomit.... throws up Jonah on the land]

Jonah: [stands up, checks himself out. He has his swim trunks and a bunch of seaweed around him.] THANK YOU, GOD, [shouts] I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you.

Yes Sir! I'm going to Nineveh! [he doesn't look very happy but resolute]

FINIS

Skit 6 Jonah delivers the Message to Nineveh WED PM

Cast: Jonah [looks disheveled, swim trunks and sea weed], Herald, Ninevites 1-9, King of Nineveh

Scene: Jonah sitting on beach. (maybe off to the side of the Nineveh stage)

Voice of God: [on microphone] Take a message to the great city of Nineveh.

Jonah: [Jumping up quickly....] Yes, Lord? I'm listening!!!

Voice of God: [on microphone] Take a message to the great city of Nineveh. I have seen its wickedness.

Scene: Nineveh

People of Nineveh:

1. We don't need God
2. We can do as we please
3. We won't listen to what God decrees
4. We like to be wicked
5. So big in our Might
6. We are corrupted

[ALL] Yes, we are the Ninevites

1&2 We are from Nineveh!

3&4 We like to hurt people!

4&5 We like to rob people!

5&6: We like to kill people!

7&8: We worship our idols!

8&9: [or all] We are the ENEMIES of Israel!

Herald: As a reporter with a microphone and a "Channel 3" sign

As you can see, we are in lovely Nineveh today, where the sun is shining. Look at the beautiful city! Look at the big fat cows and donkeys! Look at the camel! Nineveh is a big, rich place.

SING: WE ARE THE NINEVITES SONG

Jonah walks up the aisle. Has a sign on a stick to hold up: 40 days. [Jonah is washed up with seaweed on him.]

Jonah: 'People of Nineveh! God will destroy this city in forty days. He will destroy you in forty days. God will destroy this city in forty days! He will destroy you in forty days'.

Herald: Today in Nineveh a strange man walked in. He is very strange indeed. He looks strange! And he smells strange! Excuse me! Excuse me!

Jonah: Yes?

Herald: What is your name sir!

Jonah: My name is Jonah. I am a Hebrew. I serve the God who made the sea, the sky the land.

Herald! You are Hebrew! This is a dangerous place for you. Why did you come here?

Jonah: I have a message from God.

Herald: and what is this message?

Jonah [stops and shouts]: 'People of Nineveh! God will destroy this city in forty days. He will destroy this city in forty days.

Herald! Interesting message. Let me see what people think. Sir, what do you think about this message of Jonah?

Nineveh 1: Did he say 40 days and God will destroy our city? I am afraid!

Herald: And what do you think, mam?

Nin 2: I believe Jonah is from god! He came out of the sea! I am afraid that God will destroy our city!

Nin 3: I am going to tell the king! [runs off stage]

Herald: I think we are going to have to interview the King to find out what he thinks about this.

[crowd parts and king come forward.]

Herald: Excuse me, your royal highness, can you please tell your people what you think about this strange man Jonah?

King: What does his sign say?

Nin #3: 40 Days! He says 40 days and God will destroy our city!

King [confers with a royal councilor] I have an announcement to make! Where is my royal herald?

Herald: Yes, where is your royal herald? [everyone looks around]. OH! That's me! I am the Royal Herald! [Runs up to the king and bows. King hands him a scroll rolled up.]

Herald: [rises and reads]

People of Nineveh! The king says, 'Hurting and robbing and killing are wrong. We must change.

We will tell Jonah's God that we will repent! Everyone, throw out your idols! We will not eat or drink. We will not let our animals eat or drink. We will put on sackcloth to say we are sorry. We will stop hurting and robbing and killing. We will ask Jonah's God to forgive us.

Ninevites Repent Song Here

[People all put on sack cloth, throw out idols, even animals have sackcloth.]

[Jonah marches out of the city and sits down. He props up a white board and writes a big 40 on it and sits down to wait.]

FINIS

Skit 7 Jonah learns a Lesson THURS AM

Cast: Jonah, Herald,

Scene: Nineveh City, Jonah has a calendar where he's marking off days.

Jonah: (marks off "2" and writes "1") Yay! Only one more day and Nineveh is destroyed!

[sits down, waits, and then gets up and writes "0" Looks over at the city. Counts on his fingers, shakes his head. Jonah is stomping back and forth across the stage. It is hot, he fans himself from time to time.]

JONAH: I knew it! I knew it! *(He lifts his fists and looks up.)* Why did you do that, God? I told the people of Nineveh they were going to be destroyed. Did you destroy them? No! You saved them. God, you are wrong, and I am angry! *(Jonah sits and pouts.)*

Herald: *(Walking past)* Good day, Jonah. *(exit Herald)*

(Jonah gives the man an angry look. He does not answer, he just fans himself and pouts.)

Herald *[walking past]* hello again! *[Jonah runs him off the stage, herald stops]*

H: Jonah, why are you so angry! God didn't destroy Nineveh!

JONAH: *[wipes his brow from heat]* I am angry! I am angry at God. God is too nice! When I was still at home, I knew that God was so kind that he would forgive the Ninevites! That's why I hid from God in Tarshish! I knew if the people in Nineveh repented, God would not destroy them.

Herald: Jonah, I am a Ninevite! I am glad that God did not destroy us. Jonah, is it right to be angry?

Jonah: OH>... I am SO ANGRY *[volcanic]* Go Away! *[exit Herald]*

Jonah: Oh! It's so hot! That hot wind! I hate it. He lays down, fanning himself, putting a piece of paper or clothing over his face, and goes to sleep.

FINIS

Skit 8 Jonah repents THURS PM

Cast: Jonah, Herald, Plant, Worm, voice of God

Scene: Nineveh City

[Jonah is sleeping on the stage. A plant grows up behind him and shades him. He wakes up]

JONAH: [stretches and yawns] What! Good Morning. Oh, look at this amazing vine! Oh, how nice! Thank you, vine. Your leaves keep the sun off. And they keep the hot winds off me. Thank you, good vine. [Jonah puts on sunglasses and sips a lemonade out of a straw; he is happy.]

(Jonah falls asleep. The vine is eaten by a worm and dies. After a minute Jonah wakes up. He raises his arms and yawns.)

JONAH: Oh! The sun is hot today. And this wind is very hot. *(He puts his arms over his head.)* I'm burning in the heat. Where is my vine? *(He looks for the vine, it is limp, it is dead.)*

JONAH: *(temper tantrum)* Just kill me, God. I do not want to live. I said Nineveh was going to be destroyed. Nineveh was not destroyed. I had a nice vine to protect me, now it's dead. [wah, wah, wah] *(Picks up the end of the vine)* It's dead! My good vine is dead. A worm has killed it!

(Jonah wipes his head and face.) I am so hot, so hot. I wish I were dead.

Voice of GOD: *(microphone)* Jonah, why are you angry?

JONAH: I am angry! That vine was a good vine. It is not right to destroy it.

Voice of GOD: You cared for that vine, but you did not put it there. You did not grow it. It was just a vine that grows and dies. {Jonah says nothing, pouts}

Voice of GOD: Jonah, I care, too! I care for the city of Nineveh! I care for all those people and even their animals!

JONAH: *(His head is down, no answer for God)*

[possible first ending]

Herald [enters whistling] I'm so happy! I'm so happy! I'm so happy I'm not destroyed today! Jonah! What's the matter!

Jonah won't answer.

Herald: Jonah, why are you angry? It is right to be angry? God prepared a fish to swallow you in the sea. That's pretty amazing. [Jonah turns away]

Herald: The fish vomited you onto land! You brought the message of *God* to us! [Jonah is softening]

Herald: Jonah, remember what you said in the belly of the fish:

"Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from *God's* love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. [takes out paper and plume pen, hands them to Jonah, Jonah slowly takes them]

Why don't you write a book about it? [Jonah smiles, nods, picks up the paper, and starts writing]

FINIS