

Jonah and the Whale

There once was a man named Jonah. Jonah was a prophet of God. God would speak to Jonah and Jonah would tell the people what God wanted them to know. One day, God called Jonah to go to a place called Ninevah to talk to the people. The people of Ninevah were wicked, evil people. God wanted Jonah to go to them and tell them to stop living their evil lives and turn to Him and live in a way that pleased Him. If they didn't, He would destroy them. Jonah didn't want to go to Ninevah. The people in Ninevah were enemies to his people. He wanted God to destroy them. He didn't want to help them, so he ran away from God. Instead of going to Ninevah, Jonah got on a boat headed to a city called Tarshish in the other direction.

While Jonah was on the boat, he went down inside the boat and fell asleep. While he was sleeping, there came a great storm. The wind was whipping, and the waves were crashing into the boat. The sailors were afraid the boat was going to break. They started throwing all the heavy stuff out of the boat to keep it from sinking. The sailors started praying that the storm would stop but they were praying to fake gods not the real God. They were all very afraid and didn't know what to do. Then the shipmaster went down into the boat and woke up Jonah to ask him to pray to his God to save them.

Jonah knew that the storm was his fault. He knew that God had sent the storm because he was trying to run away. Jonah told the other sailors what he had done. Then he told them the only way the storm would stop was if they threw him out of the boat. At first, the other sailors didn't want to throw him out. They tried to fight the storm, but the waters were too rough. They decided it was best to toss Jonah overboard and that is just what they did. As soon as Jonah was out of the boat, the storm stopped. All the sailors knew that Jonah's God was the one true God and they prayed and worshipped Him.

When Jonah hit the water, God sent a great big fish. The fish swallowed Jonah whole, but Jonah didn't die. Jonah lived inside the whale's belly for 3 days and 3 nights. While he was in the belly of the fish, Jonah prayed. Jonah thanked God for saving his life during the storm and from the teeth of the big fish.

After the third day, the big fish vomited Jonah out of his belly and onto dry land. Once Jonah was on land, God told him again to go to Ninevah and warn the people. This time Jonah listened. He traveled to Ninevah and told the people about God and how they needed to change their ways and started living the way God wanted them to live and the people listened. Everyone, even the king of Ninevah, was very sorry for the way they had been living. They stopped doing the bad things they had been doing and started worshipping the one true God. God saved Ninevah, God saved the sailors, and God saved Jonah.