

Man Overboard!

The Scene: a boat

The Simple Setup: Use masking tape to create the outline of a simple boat on the floor.

For Extra Impact: Next to the boat outline, use tape to make the outline of a large fish on the floor next to the boat.

Bible Story

Jonah Flees
From God

Scripture

Jonah 1:1-17

The Characters

Narrator: a friendly storyteller

Jonah: a guy

Sailors: kids willing to be sailors on the boat

Fish: kids willing to “swim” around the outside of the boat

The Skit

After you've assigned the roles of Jonah and the sailors, appoint the rest of the kids to be Fish. If you have a small group, let kids play more than one role.

As the skit begins, the stage is empty except for the boat outline. The Sailors are inside the boat. Narrator may be offstage or at one side of the stage throughout the skit. Fish are outside the boat.

Narrator: Jonah was a prophet of God, and God had a BIG job for him to do.

The problem was that Jonah didn't WANT to obey God. God had told Jonah to go to the wicked city of Nineveh to tell the people there to shape up and stop sinning. But Jonah said, “NO WAY!” and ran the other way. Look, here he comes now! Look at how SCARED he looks, and how his knees are shaking, and how he keeps looking over his shoulder like he can HIDE from God.

Jonah:

Nineveh! No WAY am I going there—the people there are MEAN!
Maybe if I run away, God won't see me. I know! I'll get on a boat that's going in the opposite direction.

Narrator:

So Jonah hopped on a boat going to Tarshish. Sailors were hoisting the sails, pulling on ropes, and getting ready to cast off. As soon as they set sail, Jonah went below deck and drifted off to sleep. But up on DECK it was a different story!



Start the "Jonah Flees From God" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry* CD (track 23). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

Narrator:

God sent a powerful wind over the sea, causing a HUGE storm. Just listen to the wind blow and the waves crash! The Sailors were so scared they shouted to their gods to SAVE them. THEN the Sailors started throwing all the cargo overboard, piece by piece. But the storm STILL kept up. The wind got even LOUDER, and the waves got HIGHER! The storm was SO bad that even the fish around the boat were getting seasick—look at them turning green! The Sailors didn't know what to do, so they woke up Jonah.

Sailors:

Get up! How can you sleep through this STORM? Who ARE you, anyway?

Jonah:

Um...well...I...I'm Kermit the Frog!

Sailors:

NO you're not! He's green and hangs out with a pig. Who are you REALLY?

Jonah:

Well...I...I'm Prince Charming! THAT'S who I am!

Sailors:

YOU'RE not charming! Who are you REALLY?

Jonah:

OK, fine. I'm a Hebrew who worships the one true God. I've been running away from him—or at least TRYING to.

Narrator:

The SAILORS smacked themselves on the head. They knew that if Jonah was running away from the true God, THAT explained the mess they were in. The storm was getting worse by the minute! Jonah and the Sailors could barely STAND because the boat was rocking back and forth so much. The WIND howled and the waves were HUGE! Even the fish in the sea were scared!

Jonah:

This storm is all MY fault. The only way to stop it is to throw me into the sea!

Narrator:

The Sailors didn't want to throw Jonah into the sea, so they rowed hard. Then they rowed HARDER. Then they rowed harder than THAT. But the wind kept howling, and the waves got bigger. Finally, the Sailors gave up. They picked Jonah up and tossed him into the sea. INSTANTLY, the wind stopped and the waves returned to normal.

Stop playing track 23.

Narrator:

The Sailors were AMAZED. They decided to follow God. And Jonah? Well, he was busy sinking to the bottom of the sea, drowning. The fish waved to Jonah as he went past. But God sent a HUGE fish to swallow Jonah up! Jonah suddenly found himself sitting right INSIDE the belly of that fish!

Jonah:

Eeyew! It sure is STINKY in here! And no wonder—look at what this fish has been eating for lunch. There's tuna, and an old boot, seaweed, and...gulp...I don't even want to know what THAT is! I sure have made a mess of things by disobeying God. I guess it's GOOD that I have some time to think.

Narrator:

It turned out Jonah had a LOT of time to think about what he'd done. Jonah was stuck inside that fish for three whole DAYS!



To Talk About

- ◆ **Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh. When was a time you didn't want to obey God?**
- ◆ **Jonah thought he'd be able to hide from God, but he couldn't. How does it make you feel to know that God can see you all the time?**
- ◆ **God could have punished Jonah by letting him drown, but God saved Jonah. When was a time God kept you safe?**

Topical Tie-Ins: Obedience, God's Provision, God's Omnipotence