



4. Bible Study

Jonah Finally Listens to God: Book of Jonah

Set Up: Read the Book of Jonah through in preparation for telling the story. There are many ways to bring the story of Jonah to life using simple props or common household items to stimulate the boys' senses. An open can of tuna provides a fishy smell; some water and a small plastic figurine inside a balloon simulates Jonah in the fish's belly.

Commander Says: The people who lived in Ninevah did not know God and did not live to please Him. But God loved the people of Ninevah and wanted them to learn about His love.

One day, God spoke to Jonah. He told Jonah to go to Ninevah and share God's love with the people there.

Jonah didn't want to go. So he ran away. Jonah boarded a ship that was headed the opposite direction. While he was on the ship, there was a terrible storm. The sailors were very afraid and did everything they could think of to keep the ship afloat.

The captain found Jonah sleeping in the bottom of the ship and woke him. He asked Jonah to start praying and asking his God to save them.

Jonah told the sailors that he was running from God. He told them that if they would throw him into the water, the storm would stop. At first the men didn't want to throw Jonah overboard, but he finally convinced them. As soon as they did so, the storm stopped.

When Jonah was in the water, he was swallowed by a giant fish and stayed inside it for three days. During those three days, Jonah prayed. At the end of three days, the fish spit Jonah up on a beach.

Then God asked Jonah to go to Ninevah again. This time Jonah said yes. When Jonah went to Ninevah, he told the people to stop doing bad things. The king and all the people listened and believed in God. They stopped doing evil and were saved from God's punishment.

Review: Ask the boys, "What do you think would not have happened if Jonah had listened to God the first time?" Let the boys retell the story and act it out as they do.