

Jonah Overboard- Lesson Scripts

**Day 1- Jonah Runs from God**

Characters: Mom, Aleah, Jonah, Sailors 1 and 2

*Set up: Mom is waiting for Aleah to go to bed*

Mom: Aleah, hurry up dear. It's time for bed.

*Aleah comes in with a yawn.*

Aleah: Here I am mom.

Mom: Good, now did you brush your teeth?

Aleah: Uh....

Mom: Better get that done.

*Aleah leaves and comes back again. Aleah shows her teeth for inspection.*

Mom: That looks better. Well, good night dear.

Aleah: But mom can't I have a story.

Mom: It's getting late.

*Aleah pleads with her eyes.*

Mom: Well alright... which one do you want to hear?

Aleah: Jonah!

Mom: But you've heard that one hundreds of time. Oh, alright.

*As mom begins the story. Jonah and other characters get ready to enter in.*

Mom: This story begin in a faraway in a land called Israel. You see there was a man, called, Jonah.

*Jonah enters.*

Jonah: Hi Lord, it's me Jonah.

Mom: You see Jonah was a man who knew the one true God. And one day God told Jonah he needed him to do something extra special.

Jonah: Uh, excuse God... Did I hear you right you want me to go where?

Mom: Nineveh, God wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against it.

Aleah: But Jonah didn't want to go.

Mom: That's right, Jonah did not want to go.

Jonah: Uh, God I gotta go.

Mom: So Jonah got up and ran away. He ran so far in fact that he came to the ocean.

Jonah: Well, here's the ocean. Maybe I get on a ship and sail as far away as I can from Nineveh.

*Some sailors come along*

Jonah: Hey you! Do you have a ship I can get on?

Sailor 1: Sure follow us.

Sailor 2: Where you headed? We are going to Tarshish.

Jonah: Anywhere but here.

Mom: So Jonah got on the ship and went down into the belly of ship and fell asleep. Like some good little children should be doing.

Aleah: Just a little bit more?

Mom: Well, while Jonah was down belly. God send a great wind and a big storm came upon the boat. The sailors were deeply afraid.

Sailor 1 and 2: Help! Help!

Aleah: But Jonah was fast asleep.

*Aleah yawns and looks tired.*

Mom: That's right. We will pick up the story tomorrow. But don't worry God knew exactly where Jonah was the whole time.

Aleah: Good night.

Mom: Good night.

## **Day 2- Jonah Overboard**

Characters: Mom, Aleah, Jonah, Sailors 1 and 2, Captain

*Set up: Breakfast time before school*

Mom: Aleah, time for breakfast!

*Aleah comes in ready for breakfast.*

Aleah: Oh mom, I had a dream about Jonah last night. Can't you tell me more this morning?

Mom: Well, I guess we have some time before you go to school. Ok, where were we?

Aleah: Jonah was fast asleep and there is a big storm.

Mom: That's right Jonah was in the big ship.

*Jonah enters in and is seen asleep. Sailors looking up like pleading to their own gods.*

Mom: The sailors were frightened for their lives. So they called out to their own gods but nothing was working.

Captain: I guess we will have to lightened the load. The storm is getting worse.

Sailor 1 and 2: Aye, Aye Captain!

Captain: And someone should go get that man Jonah. Nevermind I will do it myself.

Mom: So the captain went down into the boat to look for Jonah.

Captain: Jonah, man! Wake up and call on your god. We are about to die.

Jonah: uh, huh?

Mom: So Jonah went up to the top of the ship where the sailors where frantically throwing things overboard.

Sailor 2: I think we should cast these lots to see whose fault this is.

Aleah: It was Jonah's fault!

Mom: Yes, you got it. The lot fell to Jonah that means they asked Jonah all kinds of questions.

Sailor 1: Tell us what did you do to cause this trouble.

Sailor 2: What do you do?

Sailor 1: Where do you come from?

Jonah: Fellows, I am just a humble Hebrew who worships the God who made sea and land.

Mom: This terrified the sailors. A god who had control over both land and sea? Impossible.

Jonah: I am running away from my God.

Mom: And the seas got worse. And Jonah had an idea.

Aleah: Overboard!

Jonah: Alright fellows I caused this storm just toss me out now.

Mom: But the sailors did not want to do it.

Sailor 1: No way!

Sailor 2: I say we row for shore.

Mom: But try as they might they could not row for shore. Finally in desperation they prayed/

Captain: O Lord, please don't hold us accountable as we want to save this man's life but it looks like we have no other way.

Mom: And they tossed Jonah overboard. Immediately the sea was calm and they were amazed. They too started to praise this God of sea and land. You know God is so good that he is right there in the storm with us. Oh now, look at the time.... Grab your lunch and head off to school or you will be late.

Aleah: Ah, it was getting to the good part.

### **Day 3- Jonah In the Belly of the Whale**

Characters: Mom, Aleah, Jonah, Whale

*Set up: After school time*

Aleah: Mom, I'm home! I'm home! And I want to hear more of the Jonah story.

Mom: Ok, why don't you help me with dinner and I will tell you more. But first did you have any homework?

Aleah: I got it all done at school. I promise.

Mom: Alright, then you clean these vegetables while I finish the bread for dinner.

Aleah: Ok, so last we saw Jonah he was overboard!

Mom: Yes, Jonah was overboard and in great trouble. But God provided a big fish.

Aleah: A whale?

Mom: We aren't really sure but it had to have been big.

Aleah: I hope I never get eaten by a whale.

Mom: Jonah wasn't really eaten, but he was in the whale's belly.

*Jonah appears forlorn in the belly of the whale.*

Jonah: Hey God, it's me Jonah again. Remember me here inside this whale?

Mom: And Jonah started to pray from the inside of the whale.

Jonah: I am in distress here. It is smelly and cramped. I get it you sent me into this great big sea. I was terrified as the waves hit me.

Aleah: That would be scary!

Mom: Yes, Jonah was praying to God about his troubles.

Jonah: But even then you saved me by providing this whale.

Mom: He could see that God was still watching out for him.

Jonah: You are the only true God. Idols are nothing. Only you are the real God.

Aleah: Amen!

Mom: Jonah had a lot of time to think inside that whale, but God heard his prayers. And God hears our prays. So...

Aleah: Yuck...

Mom: Yuck?

Aleah: I remember what comes next.

Mom: Oh, you mean the part where the whale spits him up on the land.

Aleah: Threw him up you mean... Yuck.

Mom: Yes, I guess that would be yuck. Well, it looks like dinner is almost ready. Please go get your dad.

Aleah: But I want to hear more.

Mom: You will, now please go.

Aleah: Alright.

#### **Day 4- Jonah Goes to Nineveh**

Characters: Mom, Aleah, Jonah, People, King

*Set up: Bed time again*

*Aleah is already in bed and looks like she is saying prays.*

Aleah: Amen. Mom, do you think God heard me like he heard Jonah in the belly of the whale?

Mom: Yes, I am sure he did.

Aleah: Is Jonah going to listen now to God.

Mom: Well, let's find out. Are you all ready?

Aleah: Uh... huh.

Mom: So now that Jonah is back on dry land.

*Jonah enters in.*

Jonah: I am so thankful to be back on land again!

Mom: God spoke to Jonah again and told him to go to Nineveh to preach a message.

Jonah: Ok, Lord. I hear you this time.

Aleah: And Jonah went this time.

Mom: Yes, Jonah went to Nineveh to preach the message the God had given him.

*Jonah in the city milling with people around.*

Jonah: Forty days and Nineveh will be overturned.

*People starting repeating this like a game of telephone until to gets to the king of Nineveh.*

Jonah: Forty days and Nineveh will be overturned.

King: Forty days!

People: Forty days!

Mom: And people all the way to the king took the message seriously.

King: Let us take this message seriously. I proclaim a day of repentance. Maybe this God will have compassion on us.

*People and king look repentant.*

Aleah: And God said!

Mom: And God saw this and said to himself. That he would not destroy them.

Aleah: Yay, God!

Mom: You see God had a mission for Jonah to those people of Nineveh.

Aleah: Yay Jonah!

Mom: But there is more to the story... another day.

Aleah: Awww....

Mom: I know. Now go to sleep.

### **Day 5- Jonah's Dilemma**

Characters: Mom, Aleah, Jonah, Dad

*Set up: Church time*

Mom: Aleah, it's time for church.

Aleah: Coming mom. I don't want to miss anything. Will you tell me the rest of the Jonah story while we go? Is dad already gone?

Mom: Yes and yes. Dad will meet us at the church this morning.

Aleah: Mom, why did Jonah not want to go to Nineveh in the first place? We live in Nineveh and it's not that bad is it?

Mom: Oh, Aleah. Nineveh was a very different place when I and your dad was growing up. I can see why Jonah did not want to go, but I am so glad he did. Now last we saw Jonah he had left the city.

*Jonah enters and sit down waiting.*

Jonah: Ok, God. Any time you want to get rid of this city I am ready.

Mom: You see Jonah had given the message but his heart was not in the right place.

Aleah: Oh, he didn't really want us to be saved?

Mom: Right, to Jonah and his people we have been the enemy. But God had something different in mind.

Jonah: So, you aren't going to strike the city are you? I knew it! Because you are a God of compassion and love.

Mom: But the Lord was still talking with Jonah and asked him, "Have you any right to be angry?" But Jonah was angry. He sat in the heat, but God provided shade.

Jonah: It is so hot out here! Whew, glad for that shade.

Mom: But the plant died when a worm chewed it. And Jonah was unhappy again.

Jonah: Great now my shade is gone. God, why did you send me to this city? I look like a liar. Nothing happened in 40 days.

Mom: But God asked him again, “Do you have a right to be angry about this vine?”

Jonah: I do!

Mom: But God told him that he cared about our great city of Nineveh because of the people and animals too. You see what Jonah did not get was that God loves us all. Not just some of us.

Dad: That’s right dear.

Aleah: Dad! Did you ever meet Jonah?

Dad: Actually I was a little boy when Jonah came but my parents heard him and they repented.

Mom: Mine too. It is because Jonah listened to God and came then we believe in the one true God too.

Dad: You’ll have to excuse me. I am preaching today.

Aleah: Wow, that is the best kind of story. Jonah was a real man and he saved our family.

Mom: God saved our family.

Aleah: God saved our family.