

Jonah's Journey

About 5 minutes, from the Book of Jonah

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Jonah

Ninevite

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Jonah *(Walk, limping and groaning, toward Ninevite)*
Hello, friend. Tell me, please, which way is Nineveh?

Ninevite
Nineveh! Hey, man, you don't want to go there!
They're really wicked!
I know, because I'm also a Ninevite.
What's your name?

Jonah
I'm Jonah.
You're right; I don't want to go to Nineveh,
but the alternative is a bit worse.

Ninevite
Well, if you must go, there are the Ninevites!
(Point at the group)

Jonah
Yeah, they do look really bad!
I see why the Almighty sent me to scold them.

Ninevite
Just hear them clamor!

Prompter & Echoes More whiskey!

Ninevite
Oooo! *(Hold your nose.)*
You are reeking of fish, Jonah! Ugh!
You stink! Where have you been?

Jonah
If I told you, you'd not believe me.

Ninevite
Well, of course I would believe you;
it's obvious that you've been somewhere weird!
You smell as if you swallowed a live fish!

Jonah
Well, it was sort of the other way around. I...
No, you'd never believe me!

Ninevite
Of course I will believe you, Jonah.

Jonah
Okay. I was sailing to Tarshish,
fleeing from where God had told me to go,
to avoid declaring God's punishment to Nineveh.
Halfway across the sea, the Almighty sent a storm.
The boat was about to sink and I told the crew
it was my fault. They threw me overboard!

Prompter & Echoes He'll drown!

Ninevite
So how did you survive?

Jonah God prepared a very big fish.
It swallowed me, and God kept me alive.
On the third day it puked me up on a beach.

Ninevite You were right. I don't believe you!
Get out of here! (*Raise your fist.*)

Jonah Goodbye, sir.
Well, here is the city of Nineveh.
Hear me, all you Ninevites!
In forty days Almighty God will destroy you
and your wicked city!

Prompter & Echoes God's judgment is fearful!

Jonah Now I am sitting on a hill,
waiting to watch the fire fall from heaven.

Ninevite `But us Ninevites repent!
We turn from sin to God, and cry out to him.

Prompter & Echoes Mercy!

Jonah There is more to my story, but that's enough.

Prompter & Echoes He's ashamed to finish it!

Ninevite I'll tell the rest of your story, Jonah.
You sit on a hill overlooking Nineveh,
waiting to see the fire fall on us.
But we repent; even our King puts on sackcloth.
God does not destroy us as you had predicted,
so you pout!

Jonah And why not? I ask God to take my life.

Ninevite However, God has a plant grow
and shield you from the hot sun.

Jonah Yes, but a worm attacks it,
and I lose my shade.

Prompter & Echoes Now Jonah's really sore!

Ninevite What's wrong with you, Jonah?
You care more for a plant
than for the lives of thousands of people!

Jonah That is true.
God shows me my folly. He asks me,
"Should I not have compassion on Nineveh,
with its more than 120,000 persons
who do not know the difference
between their right and left hand?"

Prompter & Echoes Thank you, God, for mercy!