

Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie



What is the STORY about?

Jonah conveys God's will to the people of his time, but he hesitates when he is sent to preach to the inhabitants of Nineveh, an unpleasant crowd who slap each other around with fish. Rather than carry out God's instructions, this prophetic messenger heads in the opposite direction and ends up on a very stormy sea. When the crew discovers that he is the cause of the tempest, he must walk the plank and ends up being fish food! There, in the belly of a whale, he learns that one of the best gifts you can give—or get—is a second chance.

- *A Lesson in Second Chances*
- *Key Passage: Jonah 1-4*
- *Running time: 78 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Because of two flat tires, Bob and the gang visit the Seafood Restaurant. Who relays the story of Jonah to them? (The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything)*
- *What city did God call the prophet Jonah to visit and why didn't he want to go? (Nineveh... these people were very mean—especially to the Israelites)*
- *Jonah received a message from the Lord, but did not do as he was told. Instead, Jonah traveled in the opposite direction to Tarshish. When a great storm threatened the ship, the pirates realized that Jonah was the reason. What did they do? (They made him walk the plank... and he was swallowed by a giant whale)*
- *Jonah asked God to forgive him while he was in the belly of the whale. What did God do to give Jonah a second chance? (He caused the whale to cough up Jonah)*
- *What happened when Jonah spoke to the king and the people of Nineveh? (They quit slapping people with fish and started being nice to everyone)*
- *When Jonah is upset because God did not destroy Nineveh, of what does Khalil remind him? (God gave Nineveh a second chance just as he gave Jonah a second chance)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The biblical account of Jonah is found in the book of Jonah. Read the story in a translation that is easy for children to understand OR tell it in the condensed version below.

The people of Nineveh were doing very bad things. God spoke to Jonah the prophet and told him to go to the city of Nineveh to preach against the evil things they were doing. Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh so he ran away from God on a ship to Tarshish. When a terrible storm threatened to break apart the ship, the sailors realized that Jonah was the cause of their trouble and they reluctantly threw him into the sea where he was swallowed by a very large fish. Jonah remained in the stomach of the big fish for three days and three nights. While inside the fish, Jonah prayed to God and promised that he would do what God asked of him. So God caused the fish to spit out Jonah onto dry land. This time Jonah obeyed the Lord and traveled to Nineveh. He preached to the people and told them their city would be destroyed in forty days if they did not change their ways. The people of Nineveh listened to Jonah and believed in God... they stopped doing wicked things. God did not wipe out their city as he had earlier promised. Jonah was angry because God did not destroy the city, but God reminded him that he was showing mercy to Nineveh just as he had shown mercy to Jonah.

The Story of Jonah



ACTIVITY

Give each child a 3" x 5" note card on which to write the words **SECOND CHANCE** on one side and their name on the opposite side. They may decorate the cards as time allows. Instruct them to show this card to their family and share with them the story of Jonah's second chance. Encourage each family member to make a card. When a friend or family member offends another (forgetting a chore, breaking something, losing something, or being disobedient), hand the offended person a **SECOND CHANCE** card and give them another chance to do better.



What can we DO?

God showed compassion and mercy to Jonah when he was disobedient by giving him a second chance. We need to show the same compassion and mercy to our family and others when they ask forgiveness from us, and perhaps they will also extend a second chance to us.

Practice giving others a second chance. Ask for volunteers to name a time when they could/should have offered someone a second chance:

- At school
- To a family member
- When playing a game or participating in sports

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **PSALM 103:8** "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."
- **LUKE 6:36** "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."
- **MATTHEW 5:7** "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

3 Things to remember about Jonah

1. Jonah **DISOBEYED** God by not going to Nineveh
2. A **LARGE FISH** swallowed Jonah
3. God showed mercy to Jonah by giving him a **SECOND CHANCE**

KEY VERSE

(Micah 6:8) "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

KEY NUGGET

We need to give others a second chance—even if they don't deserve it.

