

The Prophet Jonah Play

Script by Shawn Cunningham

Cast

Jonah	Boss (leader of Ninevah)
Gabby (from Gath-Hepher)	Mobster1 (Ninevite)
Garth (from Gath-Hepher)	Mobster2 (Ninevite)
News Reporter	Ninnie 1 (can be group)
Map vendor	Ninnie 2 (can be group)
Captain	Ninnie 3 (can be group)
Gilligan	Plant
Julie	
First mate (pirate)	

Props, Sets, Costumes and Other Things Needed:

- 1 For the *News Reporter*, a badge reading "Press" and large enough for audience to see, flash camera on string around neck; notepad and pencil; if desired a fedora hat with "Press" badge tucked in band
- 2 For *Jonah*, dress in a robe like those used for Biblical figures. (Will carry Hawaiian shirt, straw hat, bundle of clothes tied on a stick for one scene)
- 3 For *Boss* and *Mobsters*, modern dress entirely in black
- 4 Other characters dressed in whatever way group decides
- 5 Large map (See Scene I for description)

- 6 Pointer (for map vendor to point out places on map)
- 7 Ship, plus strip of blue cloth to suggest the sea (see beginning of Scene II for description; can make it simpler if necessary)
- 8 Costumes for ship's crew (see beginning of Scene II for descriptions)
- 9 Small suitcases or boxes (to be thrown overboard) Could also add other items such as old shoes, clothing, etc.
- 10 Inflatable inner tube for reporter to wear around waist in Scene II (or can carry inflatable beach-toy tube over arm)
- 11 Bag of Money
- 12 Thunder and lightning: For **thunder**, a large plastic garbage can, turned upside down, can be pounded with drumsticks or pieces of dowel rod to create the sound. Old pots and pans (you might get a few cheaply at a second-hand store) can be used in the same way to add louder sounds. Don't use good pots and pans, as they may get too beat up to use for cooking. For **lightning**, a flash camera will create a visual effect, or large zigzag shapes cut from cardboard can be waved around the "sky" onstage to create a different kind of visual—rather like a cartoon
- 13 Whale or Great Fish (see end of Scene II for description; can make it as simple as necessary)
- 14 Plant costume to be worn by cast member representing plant in Scene V. (Could be large green cut out paper leaves which cast member will wear taped on chest and arms, over green clothing. Could also wear "crown" of green leaves)
- 15 Sock or something to represent a "worm" that will make Jonah's shade plant wither and die. This will be stretched over a cast member's hand and arm, and cast member will come onstage and "bite" the plant several times so that it "dies"
- 16 The following 7 signs which a cast member will carry across stage at various points in play to tell audience where/when action on stage is taking place. Signs should be large enough for all in audience to see, and carried slowly enough so all can read

Gath Hopher in ancient Israel c. 780 BC

Joppa, a few days later

3 days and 3 nights later. The shores of Phoenicia

The city of Ninevah

Outside the city of Ninevah

Night

The next morning

SCENE I Gath Hepher

Jonah is pacing the stage. He stops, cups his ear toward the sky, and listens. He is very agitated.

News Reporter enters. Reporter will make notes and flash lots of pictures throughout the play.

GARTH and GABBY are onstage to one side. Sign is walked across stage: Gath Hepher in ancient Israel c.780 BC. News Reporter and Jonah speak quietly. We do not hear them. Jonah often looks up at the heavens and looks back down to the ground in frustration and anger.

GABBY: Hey look, it's the prophet Jonah.

GARTH: Right, and it looks like he's getting another prophecy. I don't think that he is too happy about this one.

NEWS REPORTER: *(to audience)* Wow, this is the biggest scoop ever. God might destroy Nineveh, an enemy to the Israelites. But He might spare them, too. This is going to be great. I can see the headline now: City of Nineveh in grave danger. Bailout plan is expected. By: Yours Truly.

GABBY: Hey Dianne Sawyer, what's new? *(Can change name of reporter to any known or popular news reporter)*

NEWS REPORTER: Get a load of this *(reads from notepad.)* The whole massive city of Nineveh is going to be destroyed because the cry of her wickedness has reached up to heaven.

GARTH: You don't say!

NEWS REPORTER: Well, if you ask me, it's about time God destroyed Nineveh. That is a nasty city. Nineveh is the capital of the Assyrian Empire and those nasty Assyrians have been sacking and looting our people for generations.

GARTH: This is great!

GABBY: Way to go, God!

NEWS REPORTER: But here is the catch: the Prophet Jonah has been ordered by God to go preach to the Ninevites and tell them to shape up or be killed.

GABBY: *(getting angry)* What? God wants to SAVE the Ninevites? But why? They don't worship the Lord. They are a bunch of pagans. They have a huge temple to the goddess Ishtar.

NEWS REPORTER: I don't know why God wants to save the Ninevites, but God has a plan. We must not question God.

JONAH: *(Becomes very happy and shouts)* I have a great idea! *(He runs off stage R and quickly comes*

back on carrying a stick with a bundle on it and a straw hat and a Hawaiian shirt.)

GARTH: Hi Jonah, where are you going?

JONAH: I'm going on vacation. I'm off to Tarshish.

GABBY: That should be fun. I hear that they have wonderful beaches there. But you be careful, Jonah. You know that they worship pagan gods over there.

JONAH: That is why I picked Tarshish. You know the work I do. God tells me things and I have to spread the word. As long as there are people around who fear the Lord, it's just work, work, work. I really need to get away from it all, so I'm off to party with the pagans.

GABBY: Have a good time!

JONAH: *(Aside to audience)* And the best part is, God won't find me over there. I'm going to get out of this prophecy. Who wants to save Nineveh? *(To GABBY)* Do you know where I can find a ship to Tarshish?

GABBY: You need to head south to Joppa. That is a major port city. They have plenty of ships heading all over the world.

JONAH: Thank you! Bye bye. Aloha. Adios. Zaidjian. *(Exits stage left.)*

GARTH: Wait a second. Where is Nineveh? And where is Tarshish?

STREET VENDOR: *(Enters carrying a large scroll about 4 feet tall)* Calls out: Maps of the known world! Get your maps of the known world right here from me! Maps of the known world!

GABBY: I'll take a map.

STREET VENDOR: Thank you.

NEWS REPORTER: Let me give you a hand. *(Garth and News Reporter hold up the map which is big enough for the audience to see and understand. Map is centered on Israel, and has the Eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea and reaches east to modern Iran. Nineveh is marked in the place of modern Mosul, Iraq. Tarshish is marked on the seacoast near Tarsus, Turkey. Place Gath Hepher near Nazareth and Joppa near modern Tel Aviv. Map Vendor has a pointer and will point to cities during the next conversation.)*

GABBY: OK where are we?

MAP VENDOR: We are right here in Gath Hepher.

GARTH: And where is Nineveh?

STREET VENDOR: Nineveh is a major city way over here. It is a city so large that it takes 3 days to walk from one side to the other.

GABBY: Where is Tarshish?

STREET VENDOR: Tarshish is right up here.

NEWS REPORTER: And now Jonah is heading for Joppa to get a ship to Tarshish, and that is nowhere close to Nineveh. You can't take a ship to Nineveh. You have to go by land. By land? Of course, by LAND! (*thunder roll*) This could only mean that....

GABBY: (*very dramatically*) Jonah needs a map!

MAP VENDOR: I have one, chap!

NEWS REPORTER: No this is bigger than a map. Jonah is ignoring God's word.

GABBY: The message that just occurred?

NEWS REPORTER: It seems to be deferred. (*Scribbles in pad*)

GABBY: Let's follow him to Joppa.

MAP VENDOR: I could visit my Poppa!

GARTH: And maybe see an Opera.

NEWS REPORTER: There will be no time for fun while Jonah is on the run. It looks like I have to chase this story down to Joppa. I'll do a little investigating and find out what I can get Jonah to admit.

All exit

SCENE II Joppa and the cruise

Stage needs a small platform about 18 inches high. A sturdy pre-school table could work for this. Stage hands bring on ship made from cardboard that goes in front of this platform. The wall of the ship is about 4 feet high and goes down to the floor of the room. The side of the ship says, "Pagan Adventure Cruise Lines". The ship is attached to a frame made from thin but sturdy wood (1x4). The frame is attached to a post that rests on the ground. There is a pivot where the frame is attached to the post so the boat can rock on the post like a teeter totter. A simpler method: The ship could be a piece of cardboard that is simply held by the crew. The side of the ship can have a port hole that is big enough to show Jonah's head and hands folded under his head as he sleeps. If possible a blue cloth strip is stretched across the stage to look like water.

The ship's crew is an eclectic bunch. The captain is wearing a captain's hat. The first mate is dressed like a pirate. At least one sailor is wearing a Pop-eye style sailor's cap. Julie is dressed in pink. Sign is walked across stage: Joppa. A few days later. Jonah enters from stage left.

JONAH: Hello.

PIRATE: Ahoy! Every day is a party on Pagan Adventure Cruise Lines. Arrrrrrrr. What can I do for a land lubber like yerself? HmMMM?

JONAH: I would like to go Tarshish.

PIRATE: Avast! Tarshish is a pagan beach paradise resort. We plan to set sail for Tarshish today, matey. Arrrrrrrr. We would be most honored to have ye aboard the ship. That is, if ye can pay the fare.

JONAH: *(holds up bag of money)* Yes, I can pay.

PIRATE: Captain, we have a passenger.

CAPTAIN: That will cost you one small bag of money.

JONAH: Here you go *(hands over bag of money.)*

CAPTAIN: Welcome aboard. Gilligan, get his bags. Julie, we have a guest.

JULIE: Hi I'm Julie and I am your cruise director *(giggle)*. Welcome aboard.

JONAH: Thank you. *(Climbs up on table-in the ship. Enter the News Reporter. He or she is wearing an inflatable inner tube around his or her waist, or carries beach-toy tube over arm.)*

NEWS REPORTER: Hi Jonah. So now one more time... Where are you going? *(Flashes a picture.)*

JONAH: Hello, paparazzo. I'm headed for Tarshish.

NEWS REPORTER: Tarshish. Why Tarshish? That is not even close to Nineveh.

JONAH: Wellllll, I'm after some rest and relaxation.

NEWS REPORTER: Rest and relaxation. Just R&R? You tell me this is just R&R? Come on, Jonah, level with me. I've been on the prophet beat since Elijah went up in the flaming chariot. I know there's more going on here.

JONAH: Ok Barbara Walters, here is the level. God wants me to go save the Ninevites. *(Can change News Reporter's name to any known or popular news reporter name.)*

NEWS REPORTER: So what? God saves lots of people.

JONAH: But why does God want to save our enemies? For the good of Israel, I am NOT going to deliver this prophecy. I am going in to pagan lands, where God won't find me, and then God will destroy Nineveh.

CAPTAIN: Weigh Anchor, maties.

NEWS REPORTER: Well, OK Jonah, just remember who your friends are when you get to the top, OK?
Bye bye now.

JONAH: Bye!

JULIE: Welcome aboard Pagan Adventures cruise lines. We know you have a choice of cruise lines and we thank you for your patronage. Please note the life boats toward the front and the back of the vessel. In the unlikely event of an emergency please go the life boat nearest you. Your seat cushion will also detach and can be used as a personal floatation device. Now sit back and enjoy the cruise.

CAPTAIN: To Tarshish!

EVERYONE: To Tarshish!

(Boat begins to rock gently. The crew could sing a short little song.)

JONAH: *(Very happy and very proud)* It looks like I did it. I am so smart. I have even outsmarted God. *(Thunder crack and thunder roll. Jonah shudders for a moment and then recomposes.)* Well, I think I will go take a nap now. *(Jonah ducks down and folds hands under head as if asleep. Quiet thunder. Dim lights in room if possible. Jonah snores.)*

GILLIGAN: Golly, Skipper, it looks like we're headed into a storm.

CAPTAIN: Shorten the sails! Batten down the hatches!

JULIE: Please return to your seats and fasten your seat belts securely. Store any personal items under the seat in front of you or in the overhead bins.

PIRATE: Arrrrrrrr, what's an overhead bin?

(More thunder rumbles and ship begins to rock. Camera flash is used to make lightning from off stage.)

GILLIGAN: The storm is bad one, Captain.

(More thunder and more flashes. The ship rocks harder and now bounces if possible.)

PIRATE: Arrrrrrrr, Captain, this is the worse I have ever seen. I'm afraid we might turn over.

CAPTAIN: Lighten the load, throw the luggage overboard.

(Small suitcases/boxes and other items get thrown overboard. Thunder and lightning persist. Ship rocking persists)

GILLIGAN: Captain, it is getting worse.

PIRATE: Arrrrrrrr, It seems like a curse.

CAPTAIN: With the gods we must converse.

JULIE: Eeeeeeeee! This ship is a hearse!

GILLIGAN: The Captain is right.

PIRATE: Arrrrrrr, this is a sorry sight!

CAPTAIN: With the gods we must fight!

JULIE: Everyone pray in their own rite.

GILLIGAN: Poseidon of the deeps, save us!

PIRATE: Arrrrrrrr, Calypso, save us!

CAPTAIN: Adonis, save us!

JULIE: Time Warner and TV Guide, save us!

(More thunder and flashing)

EVERYONE: AHHHHHHHHHHHHH

GILLIGAN: We're going to sink

PIRATE: Arrrrrrr, to Davy Jone's locker, I think!

CAPTAIN: We are on death's brink.

JULIE: Eeeeeeee! I will die wearing pink!

GILLIGAN: I haven't seen Jonah since morning.

PIRATE: Arrrrrrrr, to him this be boring.

CAPTAIN: But he will die without warning!

JULIE: He is down below snoring!

GILLIGAN: Snoring in the hold? That is odd.

PIRATE: Arrrrrrr, he's dumb as a cod.

CAPTAIN: He has not bowed to his god.

JULIE: Not even a nod!

CAPTAIN: Jonah! Get up here and pray to your god. Don't you realize we are about to sink?

(Jonah wakes and comes up)

JONAH: Why did you wake me? I was dreaming of the beaches of Tarshish.

CAPTAIN: We won't survive this storm unless a god saves us. Who is your god? Where are you from? What kind of man are you?

JONAH: I am a servant of the true God. I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. And actually, I was just running away from my God.

GILLIGAN: Well I think He found you.

PIRATE: Avast, maties! He's an Israelite. His God defends him in battles and destroys his enemies.

CAPTAIN: Well, do you have any ideas on how to stop this storm and save us all?

JONAH: The danger we have is because of me.
I think that you must throw me into the sea.
When I am gone, the sea will be calm.
And then you will sing, to my God a psalm.
At least in the sea, I will be dead
And then I can't save the Ninevites heads.

PIRATE: Arrrrr, off to the plank and then he will sink.
His God we will thank, and then we will drink!

CAPTAIN: But that wouldn't be fair, for he paid his fare.
Turn back I say, to Joppa we sail.

(More big thunder and bouncing of the ship.)

GILLIGAN: Captain, the storm is even worse

PIRATE: Arrrrrrrr, the same song but a new verse.

CAPTAIN: But our route is reversed

JULIE: And the waves don't disperse.

(News Reporter comes bouncing out with tube on waist or over arm, dances around stage and then exits.)

GILLIGAN: He said we should throw him over.

PIRATE: Arrrrrr, he won't be discovered

CAPTAIN: And our safety we can recover.

JULIE: I'll be the shover!

GILLIGAN: The thought of killing him fills me with woe.

PIRATE: Arrrrrrr, I've got no mercy to show.

CAPTAIN: To the sea you must go.

JULIE: Overboard do we throw.

(Great thunder and lightning. They push Jonah off side. Thunder stops. The lights come on. The boat stops rocking. Gentle flute music or whistling is heard.)

GILLIGAN: That Jonah spoke truly!

CAPTAIN: His God we must honor duly.

PIRATE: Hey, let's sacrifice Julie

JULIE: (screams and ducks below)

GILLIGAN: No, that God does not want human blood.

PIRATE: Arrrrr, come back, Julie, that threat was a dud.

CAPTAIN: We will always honor the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

(Cardboard whale enters. It can look more like a fish, or a whale, or sea beast at the director's discretion. Jonah jumps around in the water. Sea beast overtakes him and upstages Jonah. The sea beast can have a hole or translucent panel so Jonah can be seen. Jonah could also poke his head out the mouth or a blow hole to speak lines in next scene.)

JONAH: Ahhhhhh! I'm being eaten!

(Boat crew exits. Stage hands remove boat and Jonah gets up on the platform so the sea beast is held high enough to be seen.)

SCENE III The belly of the fish

Jonah and sea beast are still on stage. News Reporter enters and goes upstage of sea beast, still wearing tube. News Reporter faces audience and does not see the fish and Jonah behind him.

NEWS REPORTER: *(To audience)* You may think that Jonah is dead, but I have been on this beat for a long time and I don't think this is over yet.

JONAH: I am alive! I am still alive. I am under water and swallowed by a fish, but I am alive! And now I must give praise and thanks to God.

NEWS REPORTER: Did you hear that? You see what I mean? He is under water which means he is

dead, but he can't be dead because we hear him. So he is only symbolically dead.

(News Reporter exits)

JONAH: Oh, thank You God. I was being choked with seaweed, But You have spared my life! I was as good as dead, but You pitied me and saved me. So now I'll do whatever You want of me, that is of course if You get me out of this fish first! *(Puts hand to ear.)* Three days and three nights? I will be in this stinky fish belly for three days and three nights? OK, whatever You say. And I mean that. Whatever You say I will do. But I don't have to like it.

(Sign is walked across the stage: 3 days and 3 nights later. The shores of Phoenicia. Then Jonah jumps out from front of fish.)

JONAH: Ahhh, dry land. Bye bye, fish. Watch out for hooks now. Don't eat anything I wouldn't eat. It is off to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, the home of my enemies. That will be quite a journey. I am off. *(Jonah exits. Fish exits.)*

SCENE IV Nineveh

Sign is walked across the stage: Nineveh. Jonah enters from one side, Ninevites enter from the other side. Ninevites (Mobsters) are all wearing black. News Reporter enters also but stays aside, taking notes the whole time.

JONAH: *(to audience)* So now I am here. And... pardon me one minute. *(Holds hand to his ear. Then speaks up to the sky.)* Just like You said before. Preach to the Ninevites and give them Your message. OK. *(To audience)* And I know what is going to happen. I am going to give God's message to these Ninevites and they are going to change their ways, and then God is going to spare their lives. This is just weird, and I don't get it. But it is not my job to completely understand God, but to hear things, and then spread the word.

MOBSTER1: Hey, look. It's a stranger

MOBSTER2: Wonder what size he wears? I can make him some nice cement shoes.

MOBSTER1: Wait. Wait. First we find out why he's here. Boss, we have a guest.

BOSS: Well, don't just stand there. Invite him in. Invite him in.

(MOBSTER2 goes to meet him.)

JONAH: Hello, Ninevite.

MOBSTER2: What? You talking to me?

JONAH: *(grimacing)* Yes I was. *(Speaks with authority)* Thou must cease thy detestable and

abominable ways and repent or the Lord God almighty will smite this city in 3 days.

MOBSTER2: *(blank stare)* Yaaaaaaaah, OK. I am not really sure what you just said, but the boss says you must come in.

Jonah looks to audience and shakes his head and follows MOBSTER2 to the other side of the stage and meets the group.

MOBSTER1: Who are you?

JONAH: I am Jonah and I have a message for you. Thou must... *(cut off by Boss)*

BOSS: Jonah, Jonah, that's a nice-ah name-ah.

JONAH: THOU MUST...

BOSS: *(Boss raises his/her hands)* Hush! *(Everyone is hushed and crouches down a little.)*
Jonah. So where are you from?

JONAH: I am an Israelite from the city of Gath Hopher.

MOBSTER2: What? You're an Israelite? Boss, what should we do with him?

BOSS: Stop interrupting our guest. Have you no manners? So Jonah, why did you come here?

JONAH: I have brought you a message. *(Speaks with authority)* Thou must cease thy detestable and abominable ways and repent or the Lord God almighty will smite this city in 3 days.

MOBSTER1: What'd he say?

MOBSTER2: I don't know. Jonah, what are you talking about? What you're saying makes no sense.

BOSS: Jonah, dumb it down a bit.

JONAH: OK, OK, OK. *(Jonah changes tone as if speaking to small children. He uses hand motions also.)* God will destroy Nineveh in 3 days unless you start being good.

MOBSTER2: OK, Boss, now what should we do with him?

MOBSTER1: Yah. Heh heh heh heh heh. What do we do with him, Boss?

BOSS: What do we do with him? Can't you see that he is a prophet of the God of Israel? What do we do with him? We listen to him. Fast and repent! I call a fast throughout all of Nineveh. Let no man, woman or child, nor any of the animals in your barns eat or drink anything for the next 3 days. We will all fast and pray that God will spare our city and our lives. We must tell this to the whole city. I need the Ninnies. *(Ninnies enter)*

NINNIES 1,2,3: Here we are, Boss.

BOSS: You (*point to Ninnie 1*) Go tell to the Ninevites, "Repent!"

NINNIES 1: (*Runs and says*) Repent! Repent! Repent!

BOSS: You (*point to Ninnie 2*) Go YELL to the Ninevites, "Repent!"

NINNIES 2: (*Runs and YELLS*) Repent! Repent! Repent!

BOSS: You (*point to Ninnie 3*) Go SPELL to the Ninevites, "Repent!"

NINNIES 3: (*like a cheerleader*) Give me an R

EVERYONE: R

NINNIES 3: Give me an E

EVERYONE: E

NINNIES 3: Give me an P

EVERYONE: P

NINNIES 3: Give me an E N T

EVERYONE: E N T

NINNIES 3: What's it spell?

EVERYONE: REPENT!

NINNIES 3: Again!

EVERYONE: REPENT!

NINNIES 3: LOUDER!

EVERYONE: REPENT! REPENT! REPENT! Yaaaaaahhhhhh!!!

(Boss begins to exit)

MOBSTER2: Boss, where are you going?

BOSS: I am going out to change my clothes to sackcloth and sit in the ash heap. (*Exits*)

MOBSTER1: We thank you, Mr. Jonah the Israelite, for delivering this prophecy. The city of Nineveh is truly grateful.

JONAH: Uhhhhh, yeah, right. Don't mention it. Hey, I gotta go. Bye.

MOBSTER2: What a kind and gentle soul.

MOBSTER1: I'm gonna miss that prophet.

(Everyone but Jonah and News Reporter exit.)

SCENE V The plant

Sign is walked across the stage: Outside the city of Nineveh.

Jonah is frustrated and angry and walks around kicking the ground and scowling.

NEWS REPORTER: So what you going to do now, Jonah?

JONAH: I am going to hang out here and watch the city. Maybe, just maybe someone down there will still mess up and God will smite them after all.

NEWS REPORTER: Sorry, Jonah. I have the scoop. I searched the whole city. There has never been a fast as strict as this. Even the livestock are fasting. *(Stays on stage, but sits off to side on a chair for next lines.)*

JONAH: *(Shakes fist at heaven.)* Do you see this, God? This is exactly what I knew would happen and exactly why I fled to Tarshish. Now all those Ninevites are going to be good little boys and girls and You are going to just call off the smiting, aren't You? Please, God, just kill me now. Come on, just do it. *(Pauses with hand to ear)* I what? I have no right to be angry? I saved the enemy and You say I have no right to be angry?

And now to make things worse, it is hot! Really hot. I am cooking under this sun. *(Sits and is angry and stewing. Enter tall actor in plant costume. Plant spreads arms to shade Jonah. Jonah changes completely and is very happy.)* Wow, this plant is great! I mean, this plant is awesome. I love this plant. God just gave it to me out of nowhere and I get to enjoy it. This is amazing. Sometimes it's good to be a prophet. Finally I get some gratitude and some respect. This is the good life. I am going to sleep now. *(Jonah lies down and snores. Sign is walked across stage: Night. Person enters with a sock puppet on hand: this "worm" bites the plant many times. The plant wilts and lies down. Sign is walked across stage: The next morning. Jonah wakes up and stretches.)* What a good sleep! I feel great. *(Notices plant is dead)* What? The plant is dead! Hey God, this plant never wronged You, not even once. Why did You kill it? It was just a poor plant. And now here I am with no shade and the sun is brutal. Please, God, just kill me now. *(Puts hand to ear and listens)*

NEWS REPORTER: OK, Jonah, for the good of everyone, tell me what you heard.

JONAH: *(Jonah speaks very matter-of-factly)* He said, "Jonah, you had pity on this plant which you did not grow. Why shouldn't I take pity on the Ninevites who are some of My children?"

NEWS REPORTER: Hey, Jonah, we're friends, right? I heard this once from a very reliable source: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. If

you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. You should love your enemies and do good, hoping for nothing in return, and your reward will be great.”
(Based on LK 6:27-36)

Ninevites enter. They are happy. They can be holding hands.

BOSS: It has been 3 days and we are still here. God has saved us!

EVERYONE: Yaaaaayyyyy!

BOSS: We are grateful to the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jonah, and we will all now worship the One True God. Thank you, God, for sending us Jonah! Three cheers for Jonah, Hip, hip,

EVERYONE: Hooray!!

BOSS: Hip hip

EVERYONE: Hooray!!

BOSS: Hip hip

EVERYONE: Hooray!! *(Everyone cheers)*

JONAH: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

THE END

A note on the author: Shawn Cunningham is a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Mentor, Ohio. He met his future wife Jenny at coffee hour on his first visit to St. Nicholas, which was also his first time in an Orthodox church. He and Jenny now have two wonderful daughters.

Shawn develops and teaches software training classes, and he is also active at St. Nicholas, teaching church school and offering a play every year for the parish feast day.

To see more of Shawn’s plays, go to BigCreekPress.com.

JONAH- ALL SCRAMLED UP

UNSCRAMBLE THE VARIOUS PEOPLE AND PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH
JONAH

1. ACIAS _____
2. OJHNA _____
3. BAJOC _____
4. RAISYANS PIERME _____
5. HARBAMA _____
6. VENHINE _____
7. TEASLIESRI _____
8. ODG _____
9. SHIRTHAS _____
10. SEIVETINE _____

JONAH- ALL SCRAMLED UP

UNSCRAMBLE THE VARIOUS PEOPLE AND PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH
JONAH

(ANSWER KEY)

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | ACIAS | ISAAC |
| 2. | OJHNA | JONAH |
| 3. | BAJOC | JACOB |
| 4. | RAISYANS PIERME | ASSYRIAN EMPIRE |
| 5. | HARBAMA | ABRAHAM |
| 6. | VENHINE | NINEVEH |
| 7. | TEASLIESRI | ISRAELITES |
| 8. | ODG | GOD |
| 9. | SHIRTHAS | TARSHISH |
| 10. | SEIVETINE | NINEVITES |

SCRAMBLED!

Here are some sentences about the Prophet Jonah, followed by some scrambled words. Unscramble the words, and put them in the blanks where they belong.

God told Jonah to _____ to the people of Ninevah.

Jonah was supposed to tell the people that they had _____ days to _____ and change their evil ways.

Jonah tried to _____ from God by sailing away on a ship. But a storm came and the sailors _____ Jonah into the water.

Jonah was _____ a whale or great fish. He prayed and said: "I _____ to the Lord out of my distress, and He _____ me."

Jonah gave the people of Ninevah God's message. They changed their evil ways. God was glad to see this. But Jonah was not glad that God was _____ to the people of Ninevah, because they were _____ of his country, Israel.

God said to Jonah, "Should I not forgive and pity Ninevah, with its _____ of people and many _____?"

WORDS: DEHI, MISEENE, TREPNE, AWDLSWOEL, SSANODUTH, LADLEC, TRYFO, WREHT, DWRAENSE, LATCET, LUMFICRE

Some Numbers with the Prophet Jonah

Look up the following numbers in the verses of the Book of Jonah, and do the operations called for. Can you come up with the right final number? Write each number on the left.

- a. Start with the number of questions the sailors ask Jonah in 1:8.
- b. Add the number of things Jonah says God made in 1:9.
- c. Add the number of nights (not days) Jonah was in the belly of the fish in 1:17.
- d. Subtract the number of days' journey mentioned in 3:3.
- e. Multiply by the number of days Ninevah has to repent or else be overthrown in 3:4.
- f. Add the number of things Jonah says about God in 4:2.
- g. Divide by the number of times the word "angry" appears in 4:9.
- h. Write your final number!

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- g.
- h.

Answers for **Scrambled!** and **Some Numbers with the Prophet Jonah**

Scrambled!

The words, in the order used, are:

PREACH (CHAREP)

MERCIFUL (LUMFICRE)

FORTY (TRYFO)

ENEMIES (MISEENE)

HIDE (DEHI)

THOUSANDS (SSANODUTH)

THREW (WREHT)

CATTLE (LATCET)

SWALLOWED (AWSDLWOEL)

CALLED (LADLEC)

ANSWERED (DWRAENSE)

Some Numbers with the Prophet Jonah

- a. Start with the number **5**.
- b. Add the number 2. **$5+2=7$** .
- c. Add the number 3. **$7+3=10$** .
- d. Subtract the number 3. **$10-3=7$** .
- e. Multiply by the number 40. **7 multiplied by 40=280**.
- f. Subtract the number 3. **$280-3=277$** .
- g. Add the number 5. **$277+5=282$** .
- h. Divide by the number 3. **282 divided by 3= 94. The final number is 94.**