



BIBLE DRAMAS

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Day 1 Jonah 1:1-16

PROPS NEEDED

Signpost, one way towards Nineveh, other towards Tarshish • Scroll • Captain's hat
Waterproofs x2 • Money • 3 Straws (one short) • Storm sound effect

PARTS

Narrator (Captain Cee) • Jonah • Captain • Sailor

SCRIPT

Bill and Ted are sitting around Captain Cee, listening to him telling the following story. Action takes place as Captain Cee narrates.

Narr: 2,800 years ago God's people, the Hebrews, were feeling scared. They were scared of the city of Nineveh. You see, the people of Nineveh wanted to rule the world. They had a huge, strong army who walked into one country after another and challenged them to battle. They didn't just fight; they tortured people and they were cruel. Nineveh was a wicked city. Everyone was scared of them.

God's people, the Hebrews had even more reason than others to be scared. They knew that Nineveh was about to attack them, and they knew they didn't stand a chance. So the Hebrews were waiting, waiting in fear; you can imagine how much they hated Nineveh.

One day the LORD God spoke to the prophet Jonah.

Jonah walks on looking at a scroll, looking towards Nineveh.

God said, "Go to the great city of Nineveh and speak out against it, because I know how wicked its people are."

Jonah: Looking at scroll. To Nineveh? *Laughing to himself.* I'm not going there. No way.

Look left and right, and head towards Tarshish.

Narr: But Jonah ran away from the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship that was going to the city of Tarshish.

Captain enters, wearing hat, takes money and shakes Jonah's hand, helping him aboard. Exits.

Jonah paid for the trip and went aboard. He wanted to go to Tarshish to run away from the Lord. Jonah went below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. Jonah lies down to sleep.

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea. This was a huge storm.

Storm sound effect starts quietly. Captain and sailor come on in waterproofs, dripping wet. Staggering. Looking scared.

Capt: *To sailor.* This storm is too strong. We're not going to make it out alive. Tell the crew to prepare the ship for the worst. Tie down anything that we need to survive. Throw everything else over the side.

Sailor: *Incredulous.* But not the cargo. It's worth a fortune!

Capt: *Firm.* I said everything. Sailor, we're going to die. If you're religious, you should start praying that we get out of this alive.

Sailor: *Sailor shouts off stage, as he exits.* Lads. Chuck it all over the side. And start praying to any god you can think of for a miracle.

Capt: *Finding Jonah asleep.* Why are you sleeping? Get up! Pray to your god! Perhaps your god will pay attention to us. Perhaps he will save us!

Sailor: *Enters holding straws.* Captain, me and the lads got desperate and came up with a plan. We're going to draw lots to find out whose fault this is. Whoever gets the short straw is to blame.

Capt: Fine. *Captain takes one, Sailor takes one, Jonah takes one. Hold up straws - Jonah's is short.*

Capt: Tell me the truth, are you to blame for this? What are you doing here? Where do you come from? What is your country? What people are you from?

Jonah: I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.

Sailor: *Looking terrified,* What have you done?

Jonah: I'm running away from the LORD God. *Pause.* Or at least, I was trying to.
Storm sound effect increases in volume or intensity.

Capt: This is getting worse. The sea is getting rougher. The ship can't take this pounding much longer.

Sailor: *To Jonah in desperation.* What should we do to you to make the sea calm down?

Jonah: Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then it will calm down. I know it is my fault that this great storm has come on you.
Captain and Sailor can't believe what they've just heard.

Capt: You are joking? To sailor. Tell the lads to get the oars out. Let's try to row to the nearest land.
Sailor runs off shouting instructions as he goes.

Jonah: It won't work. You can't out row God.

Capt: Just wait, would you.

Sailor: *Off stage.* Captain, it's getting worse. We're getting nowhere.
Runs on. We're stuffed.

Capt: *Prays desperately.* O God, please don't punish us for what we're about to do. Do not blame us for killing him. You've done all this, and we're just doing what Jonah says we should do.
Captain and Sailor pick up Jonah and throw him off stage. Storm sound abruptly stops.
Captain and Sailor look around silently, stunned. Speech now in stunned disbelief.

Sailor: I don't believe it. It's completely calm.

Capt: I've never seen anything like it. Jonah's God is God. The living God.

Sailor: The true God who rules over storms.

Capt: Let's thank him. We'll pray, and make sacrifices.

Sailor: What?

Capt: Pray - talk to God - thank him. And offer sacrifices. I've heard that's what the Hebrews do. They burn valuable stuff in their temple, to show God is more important than anything else to them.

Sailor: Oh right. Well I'm in. I'd do anything. *Pause.* God has saved us. *Both walk off.*



Day 2 Jonah 1:17–2:10

PROPS NEEDED

None

PARTS

Narrator (Captain Cee) • Jonah

SCRIPT

Bill and Ted are sitting around Captain Cee, listening to him telling the following story. Action takes place as Captain Cee narrates.

Narr: Jonah had been thrown into the sea by the sailors. As soon as he was in the sea, the huge storm completely stopped. It became completely calm.

Jonah comes on, floating, flailing, sinking.

But that didn't help Jonah, he was sinking fast.

The water was swirling around him. There was no way out.

He was falling to the deepest, bottom of the sea. He knew that he would die very soon. That made him scared.

Nothing could prepare Jonah for what happened next. Out of the darkness, came a huge fish. It had been sent by God to Jonah. It swallowed Jonah whole. Jonah stayed inside that fish for three days and three nights.

Jonah sits down.

While Jonah was there, he prayed to the living Lord, his God.

Jonah: I was in danger so I called to the Lord,
and he answered my prayer.

I thought I was close to death

but you heard my prayer.

You threw me into the sea,
into the very heart of the sea.

All your waves swept over me.

I thought to myself, "you God have sent me away from yourself".

Seaweed was wrapped around my head.

I sank to the very bottom of the sea.

It felt like I was locked in a prison, with no way out
but you rescued me.

When I was in trouble, I prayed.

You heard me.

Those people who walk away from you, God,
miss out on the chance to be loved freely.

I will sing great songs to thank you.

Rescue only comes from you, O God.

Narr: God heard Jonah's prayer, and told the great fish to spit out Jonah.

The fish chucked Jonah out onto dry land.

Jonah picked himself up. He was safe.

God had saved him from what he deserved.





Day 3 Jonah 3:1–10

PROPS NEEDED

Hessian/brown fabric • Crown • Royal robe • Message • Stool • Party kit

PARTS

Narrator (Captain Cee) • Jonah • 3 Ninevites • King

SCRIPT

Bill and Ted are sitting around Captain Cee, listening to him telling the following story. Action takes place as Captain Cee narrates.

Narr: So Jonah found himself on dry land again. What a relief!

Jonah walks on, dusting himself down.

Then God told Jonah to do the same thing he had told him to do before.

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and give his message to them.

This time Jonah did exactly what God told him to. So off he went to Nineveh.

Now Nineveh was a very important city, it was huge. *Ninevites walk on.*

Normally it would take three days just to walk through it.

But Jonah walked straight to the middle of the city and started to speak.

He must have been terrified. Such a large city, and so evil, so violent.

Jonah: *Nervously. Standing on stool.* Now can I start by saying that this message isn't from me. This is a message from God. It's his message, not mine, so if you don't like it, take it up with him, not me. Clear? Right. Here it is...

Reading "After forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed."

That's it. See? *Shows them the message.*

Nervously. I'll just be going. *Gets down from stool and goes to edge away.*

Nin #1: Is this for real? We're in real trouble.

Nin #2: Forty days? Crumbs

Nin #3: We need to do something.

Jonah: *Can't believe what he's hearing.* Really?

Nin#1: *Stands on the stool.* Right, here's the plan.

Everybody stop eating now! That will show God how sorry we are. For 40 days, not one person in this city can eat anything.

Jonah: You're not being serious, are you?

Nin#2: *Stands on the stool.* We need to do more than that.

Jonah: *Under his breath* You do?

Nin#2: Every single person should wear horrible itchy sackcloth. It will be so uncomfortable that God will know how serious we are. Every time you itch, remember how sorry you are for all the terrible things we've done. Clear? All of you have to do this.

Jonah: *Under his breath.* I can't believe what I'm hearing.

King enters, wearing crown and royal robe, and sits down.

Narr: News about Jonah's message got to the King of Nineveh. He took off his expensive clothes and he put on the horrible sackcloth as well. *King takes off robe and wraps himself in brown fabric.* Even the King is sorry! He then made an announcement.

King: Right. It is clear that God means business. We have to do all we can. Everyone must do as I say. I've got a four point plan. *Counting with fingers...*

Firstly, don't let any person or animal, or bird eat a single bit of food. Or drink anything. Nothing. We've got to take this seriously, or we're stuffed. We need God to see how sorry we are.

Secondly I want all of you in sackcloth. I don't care if it itches. Get it on. And the cows as well. Put sackcloth on anything that moves.

Thirdly, pray. Pray hard. Call on God and tell him how sorry you are. You've got to mean it. He will know if you mean it. Pray. Because your life depends on it.

Fourthly, change. Change the way you live. Stop your evil. Stop your violence. Stop your bullying. Stop it all. Live how God would want you to. Nineveh is no longer going to be famous for how bad we are. We're going to be good *pause* for God.

I can't promise anything, but maybe, just maybe God will see how sorry we are and decide to be kind to us. We wouldn't deserve it, but perhaps his anger will die down and he will forgive us. Maybe we won't all die.

Jonah: This is doing my head in.

Narr: When God saw what they did and how sorry they were and how they stopped being evil he was kind to them and did not destroy them as he said he would. He forgave them.

Ninevites party.



Day 4 Jonah 4:1–10

PROPS NEEDED

Sleeping bag • 2 large cardboard 'vine leaves'

PARTS

Narrator (Captain Cee) • Jonah • Worm (person in sleeping bag) • Vine (person holding vine leaves)

SCRIPT

Person holding the two vine leaves is crouched down at one side of the stage from the start. Vine leaves are not visible. Bill and Ted are sitting around Captain Cee, listening to him telling the following story. Action takes place as Captain Cee narrates.

Narr: The party in Nineveh lasted a very long time. Hours. Days. They were overjoyed that God had rescued them.
Jonah walks on.

But Jonah was not at all happy. He was fed up and very angry.

When he couldn't hold it in any longer, he prayed.

Jonah: Look God, didn't I say this would happen when I was still at home?

Didn't I say you'd forgive them? This is why I ran off to Tarshish.

I knew that you always forgive,

you're always kind,

you're always loving,

you're always slow to get angry,

you don't punish until you absolutely have to.

But why these people? These people are horrible.

There is nothing nice about them.

Why have you loved them? Why have you forgiven them?

Why aren't you angry with them? Why didn't you punish them?

That's why I ran off. And that's why I'm angry now.

Well I'm sick of it. I want to die. Now. Amen.

Narr: God answered Jonah, "What is it to you, if I choose to forgive them? You can't be angry!"

Jonah walked out of Nineveh and sat down nearby. *Jonah sits down near the person holding the vine leaves.* From where he sat, he could see the city of Nineveh. He waited to see whether God would destroy Nineveh. He wanted him to. It was a hot day. *Jonah wipes brow and stretches collar.* The sun was burning Jonah. Just like God had sent a fish, God now sent a vine, a type of plant. *Person holding the vine leaves gradually rises until the leaves are above Jonah.* God sent it to shade Jonah from the sun.

Jonah: That is great. What a brilliant vine. Just what I needed. Ace.

Narr: Jonah went to sleep, comfortable under the shade of his vine. But the next day, God sent something else. He sent a worm. *Worm wriggles across the floor towards Jonah.* God sent the worm to chew the vine to kill it. *Worm nibbles the base. The vine slowly falls.* And as the vine fell, God sent a very hot wind and the sun blazed on Jonah.

Jonah prayed.

Jonah: *Weak.* Oh this is too much. I can't bear this. This wind and the sun.

Now I want to die. It would be easier to die than to slowly burn. Amen.

Narr: God answered him, "So now you care about the vine? You loved a little vine that grows one day and dies the next?"

Jonah: Yes I did. I loved that vine. It helped me.

Narr: God said to him, "You cared about this vine because it helped you. *Vine rises and falls.* You only seem to care about things and people that you like and that help you.

But you didn't care about Nineveh, a city full of people, who before you arrived didn't know anything about me. Shouldn't I care more about that city? Who else will rescue them?"





Sunday Luke 11:29–30, 32

PROPS NEEDED

None

PARTS

Narrator • Jesus • Person 1 • Person 2

SCRIPT

Narr: Wherever Jesus went, huge crowds followed him to hear what he said. One day, when Jesus stood up to speak he had something angry to say.

Jesus speaks to the audience.

Jesus: This is a wicked generation. The people of this age are wicked.

You say you want to see miracles so that you'll know that I really am God's promised King. But I'm not going to give you any sign, except the sign of Jonah.

Man 1: What? What are you talking about? What's the sign of Jonah? What will that sign look like?

Jesus: Jonah was the sign. When he turned up, the people of Nineveh knew they were in really deep trouble. As soon as Jonah spoke God's word, the whole town knew they had to change or God would judge them.

Man 2: So if Jonah turning up meant that Nineveh was facing punishment, then you turning up means that... um...

Man 1: That we're in deep trouble? God is going to judge us? Is that what you're telling us?

Jesus: When God one day judges, the people of Nineveh will stand up and say that they repented when Jonah came to them. But they will ask you, "What did you do when Jesus came to you?"

Man 2: You're joking aren't you? If we had Jonah teaching us we'd all repent.

Jesus: I'm much greater than Jonah. You're not repenting when I teach you.

Jesus leaves.

Man 1 and 2 look at each other. Shrug their shoulders and walk off.



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