

## The Story of Jonah (whole story in Jonah, Chapters 1-4)

One day, God told the prophet Jonah, "Jonah, go preach to the people of Nineveh. Tell them that they better start believing in Me and doing the right things I want them to do or else I'm going to send fire down from Heaven to destroy their city and burn them up."

But Jonah didn't want to go preach to the people of Nineveh. He didn't want them to believe in God and start doing the right things God wanted them to do because the people of Nineveh were Israel's enemies. Jonah wanted God to send fire down from Heaven to destroy their city and burn them up.

Jonah wanted the people of Nineveh to die, and he didn't want to preach to them. So, he got on a boat and went far away from Nineveh instead of going to Nineveh as God told him to. Jonah disobeyed God, so God sent a very bad storm to attack Jonah's boat. The wind blew hard and the waves went up and down.

Everyone on the boat was so afraid. They thought they were going to drown. Jonah knew that it was God who had sent the storm and he knew that it was because he was disobeying God. Jonah told the other sailors, "If you want the storm to stop, you have to throw me overboard into the sea."

The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah overboard because they thought he would drown, so they kept trying to row back to land. But God made the storm even stronger, so the men had to throw Jonah into the sea.

Jonah was almost going to drown, but God sent a huge fish to come and swallow him, and God kept Jonah safe inside the fish's belly for three days and three nights.

On the third day, God told the fish to spit Jonah out, and the fish spit Jonah out on the land. Then, God said, "Jonah, go preach to the people of Nineveh. Tell them that they better start believing in Me and doing the right things I want them to do or else I'm going to send fire down from Heaven to destroy their city and burn them up."

Jonah listened to God this time and went to Nineveh. Even though he still didn't like the people of Nineveh, Jonah went and preached to them and warned them to start believing in God and doing the right things or else God would destroy them. When Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh, they all believed in God and started doing the right things. They prayed to God and asked Him not to destroy them.

God was happy that the people started believing in Him and so He did not destroy them. But Jonah still didn't like the people of Nineveh. He was mad that they believed in God and that God didn't destroy them. God said, "Jonah, you should not be mad. I care about the people of Nineveh and their animals. I didn't want to destroy them. That's why I sent you to preach to them. Now, I'm happy that they believe in Me and I don't have to destroy them."

And that's the story of Jonah. Jonah wanted God to kill the people of Nineveh, but God wanted to forgive them. God always wants to forgive people instead of punishing them, and if people will believe in God and start doing the right things that He wants them to do, then God will forgive them.