

JONAH—Slide Visual



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**Jonah** is an inventive musical story that can be presented in worship, chapel, or Sunday school throughout the year. The story and dialog are inspired by the book of Jonah, chapters 1-4. Additional insights may be found in Exodus 34: 6 and 1 Kings 19: 3b-9.

Flexibly conceived, **Jonah** may be presented by unison or 2-part voices as a mini-musical drama, with dialog for 3 characters: God, Jonah and Narrator. Reproducible dialog appears on pages 2-3. Important themes in this story include feeling sorry for yourself, trying to run away from God and responsibility, turning to God in times of distress, and repenting and receiving God's grace. These themes are as applicable today as they were in biblical times!

### © 5 JONAH DIALOG

**NARRATOR:** *(spoken in rhyming cadence)* Once upon a time, in the belly of a whale sat poor old Jonah—what a sad, sad tale!  
Jonah was frightened and running away  
from God and life. What a pitiful display!  
Sitting down there with seaweed on his head,  
with all of his terrible problems to dread,  
poor old Jonah had a change of heart,  
and this is where our story starts!

**GOD:** Jonah!

**JONAH:** Yes, Lord?

**GOD:** Why are you running away from me?

**JONAH:** Lord, I have always tried to serve You faithfully. But now You tell me I must go to the terrible city of Nineveh and make those Ninnies give up their evil ways! Why have You chosen ME to go, Lord? WHY ME?

**GOD:** Jonah, have faith, and the plan will be revealed.

**JONAH:** What kind of an answer is that? WHY ME? *(sighs)*

Okay, Lord, I'd rather be alive than dead. Please forgive me! If You'll get me out of this smelly fish, I'll go to Nineveh.

**NARRATOR:** *(spoken in rhyming cadence)* The whale swam to a nearby beach  
and spit Jonah out! He began to preach  
and spread God’s word in Nineveh city,  
“Believe in God, or He’ll have no pity.  
He’ll punish you and destroy your town.”  
Then Jonah found some shade and sat right down.

**GOD:** Jonah, the people of Nineveh have listened to you. They have given up  
their evil ways. I am very pleased, and I have decided not to punish  
them.

**JONAH:** What?! How can you let them off the hook so easily? I’ve been your  
faithful servant for years, but I had to sit in the belly of a whale before  
you would forgive me! WHY ME!?

**GOD:** What right do you have to be angry? Was I angry with you when you  
sailed away from me on a sinking ship? No, I saved you because you  
asked me to forgive you.

So it is with the people of Nineveh. They have repented of their sinful  
ways, just as you did. Now they also are my faithful children. Jonah,  
let go of your anger. Grow in faith and wisdom, and you will know  
my grace.

**NARRATOR:** *(spoken in rhyming cadence)* Jonah was a lot like you and me,  
when he heard God call, he ran to the sea!  
Confused and frightened, he tried to hide,  
until, at last, deep down inside,  
he knew the truth. He found God’s grace.  
All of life’s troubles he could face.  
So here’s the moral of this little tale:  
When YOU land in the belly of a whale,  
remember this—let God be your guide.  
You can’t go wrong with God by your side!

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# JONAH

## (Quit Your Belly-Achin'!)

for unison or 2-part voices and keyboard,  
with opt. narration\*

Words and Music by  
ANNA LAURA PAGE and  
JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

© 1/6  
Swing! (♩ = ca. 108) (♩♩ =  $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$ )

FINGER SNAPS  
(optional)

KEYBOARD  
*mf*

4 PART I (optional) 5 *mp* (2nd time only)  
\*\*

Why me? Why me?

PART II (melody)  
*mf* (both times)

Jo - nah was a might-y good man, — a  
In the bel - ly of — the whale — with

x (tacet)

7

Why me? Lord? Why, O

might-y good man was he. — But when God called him to  
sea - weed on his head, — poor Jo - nah had a —

\* A full performance/accompaniment compact disc, No. 26430, is available separately.

\*\* Slide.

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10 *mf*

why? He'd rath - er be a - live than dead. — Jo - nah cried,  
 Nin - e - veh, — he ran — a - way to the sea. — Jo - nah cried,  
 change of heart: — he'd rath - er be a - live — than dead. — Jo - nah cried,

13

"Save me! — Save me! — Save me,  
 "Why me? — Why me? — Why Save me,  
 "Save me! — Save me! — Save me,

16

Lord! I'll preach Your word in Nin - e - veh — and  
 Lord? Just put me on a sink - ing ship — and  
 Lord! I'll preach Your word in Nin - e - veh — and

\* Slide.

19

20 1. FINGER SNAPS:

serve You ev - er - more." —  
 throw me o - ver - board." —  
 serve You ev - er - more." —

© 2/7

22

(tacet) 2. FINGER SNAPS:

© 3/8

25

(tacet)



28

*mf*

Look on the bright side, give it your best\_ when the Lord puts you

*mf*

Look on the bright side, give it your best\_ when the Lord puts you

31

to the test!\_ Trust in God to see you through\_ when

to the test!\_ Trust in God to see you through\_ when

© 4/9

34

36

God calls out to you.\_ Re-mem - ber Jo - nah,\_

God calls out to you.\_ Re-mem - ber Jo - nah,\_

37

Jo - nah — ran a - way. Just

Jo - nah — ran a - way. Just

40

trust in God, His will o - bey, — and your

trust in God, His will o - bey, — and your

43

*cresc.* faith will save the day!

*cresc.* faith will save the day!

*cresc.* faith will save the day!

FINGER SNAPS: *f* x x x x x x x