



Primary Assembly Autumn 09

Jonah – following rules

A 20 minute assembly for 2 people to perform for children aged 4-11 years

Equipment needed:

- Puppet screen
- Grandma puppet
- Soft ball that bounces
- Giant wrapped sweet (made from rugby ball and wrapped in wrapping paper)
- Old pair of glasses
- Large cardboard boat
- Large cardboard waves
- 3 costumes
- Echo microphone
- Inflatable whale boat (with centre cut out)
- Cd/dvd
- Projector (optional)
- Laptop (optional)
- Speakers

Aim: To encourage children that following rules and doing as we are asked is for our own good.

Sketch:

Person 1 (walks in a sulk) Oh hi (very unenthusiastically) how are you? Have a good summer? I'm not feeling great today; I had a bit of a ding dong with my grandparents yesterday.

Grandma You need to go talk to her we can't have her breaking our rules

Grandpa I can't talk to her, not when she's in one of her stroppy moods.

Person 1 I think they're talking about me, I guess they don't realise I can hear them.

Grandma But you're much better at these kinds of things than me, i'm too soft!

Grandpa No dear...you do it, take her her favourite sweets, maybe that'll soften her up

Grandma Oh ok then I think I've got them somewhere - ahhh here they are. (appears from behind puppet stage producing giant wrapped sweet)

Person 1 (tries to ignore the puppet by playing with ball and looking away)

Grandma *****(name of person 1), I've bought you your favourite sweet.

Person 1 They aren't my favourite anymore (takes sweets anyway) but thanks.

Grandma We need to talk about what happened yesterday.

Person 1 Why?? I was just trying to show you my new ball and the new basketball skills I have. (tries to show some skills, throws ball at grandma who gets hit on head)

Grandma AW OW! (drops back, comes back on glasses wonky, Emma adjusts them saying sorry) I know you wanted to show us your new skills, we would have loved to have seen them but just not in the house, you know the rules.

Person 1 you just make up those RULES to stop me from having fun?

Grandma No, you know why it's a rule, you remember last year your cousin Geoff was playing with his ball inside and it hit our 72 inch plasma tv screen and it smashed all over the floor?

Person 1 OH yeah and Grandpa stood on some of the glass and had to go to hospital. But it's so unfair, that wasn't my fault.

Grandma It's not unfair ***** it's the same rule for everyone and keeps us all safe, including you.

Person 1 Yeah I know but....

Grandma No buts ***** that's the rule and I've explained why. Now I think I need to lie down that bump on the head has given me a headache.

Person 1 (left on stage irritated and mumbling)

Person 2 (comes on stage chanting) B I B L E S T O R Y!

Person 1 What are you doing ***** (name of person 2)?

Person 2 OH just a new bible story chant I made up

Person 1 OH cool can you teach it to us.

Person 2 Yeah of course. (teaches the bible story chant)

Person 1 SO have you got a bible story for us?

Person 2 Yes you know it *****(name of person 1), it's about a man named Jonah, I thought you could be Jonah.

Person 1 Oh yeah I know that story I could tell it. (accepts costume for Jonah) But hang on a minute I'm gonna need some help - four people I think.

Person 2 Ok I'll find you some helpers while you get yourself ready.

Bible story:(narrated and acted by person 2 and helped by children to act it out. Where phrases and sentences are highlighted in yellow person 1 leads audience in appropriate actions- this is to be explained to audience before; and a child volunteer runs across stage with waves. Where directions are highlighted in green a child volunteer is to say something)

So this story I'm about to tell you happened to me, Jonah, a long, long time ago and it's all completely true. Just imagine this, a gorgeous sunny day, the birds tweeting and the trees swaying with the gentle breeze. When out of the blue God said *(child says - using echo microphone "Jonah, go to Nineveh")* Go to Nineveh? I knew Nineveh was a horrible place with really horrible people. PWFF I wasn't going to go there. So I did the opposite; I decided to go to a place far, far AWAY from Nineveh. I ran and ran and finally found myself at the 'Ole Jolly Joppa ship yard' There was a ship getting ready to set sail *(Have 2 children volunteers standing behind boat and prepare them to copy person 1)*, so I jumped on board in a flash. We had been sailing for a few hours when suddenly the wind began to blow hard and the waves began to get bigger and bigger and rain began to fall harder and harder. It was an almighty storm. We were swaying all over the place - going from this side to that side and back again. We truly thought the boat might sink and that we would die so we began to tip out all the things that we didn't think we needed. Heave Ho, heave ho. That didn't work, the storm continued, the wind blowing the waves crashing and the rain falling even harder nothing was getting better. I knew it was my fault and I had to do something about it so I asked the rest of the men to throw me over board. The men were pretty shocked and shook their heads; I asked them again and again until they finally said "ok!" and so it was done I was thrown overboard into the crazy waves. The boat soon drifted out of sight and the storm completely stopped just like that, no rain, the wind went back to the soft gentle breeze and the waves became small ripples. Once again I heard God say *(child says "Jonah, Go to Nineveh")* I began to try and swim towards home but I just had no energy, *(have child using waves to put inflatable whale over head of person 1)* when

suddenly a giant fish sent by God swallowed me whole. I sat in the belly of the fish for three whole days, saying sorry to God and thanking him for keeping me safe and guess what he said *(child says "Jonah, go to Nineveh")* I realised that God wanted me to go to help him save the people of Nineveh not to put me in danger so I said "yes I will do as you say." On the third day God made the fish spit me out on to dry land. *(Person 1 removes the inflatable whale)* From there I stood up, smelling really bad, and made my way to Nineveh. Ready to do what God asked me knowing he would keep me safe. *(applaud and send children back to their seats)*

Person 2 I've got a song that talks about Jonah

SONG: Rainbow - Hillsong, Super Strong God CD

Person 1 So why did you choose that bible story Liz?

Person 2 Well I thought it was good for us to try and understand that when we don't do some of the things we are told it can have a bad effect on us or others. Jonah disobeyed what God asked him to do and it got him AND the men on the boat in to a whole heap of trouble, the great big storm and Jonah being thrown in the sea and swallowed by a whale all of which could have been avoided if he had just done what he was told.

Person 1 Has my Grandma been talking to you?

Person 2 Oh well she did mention your new ball skills and that you got a bit upset when she told you to stop.

Person 1 Yeah perhaps I should obey Grandma's rules, she would have avoided that bump on her head if I had just done as I was told and it does keep me safe.

Person 2 *(to audience)* Maybe you have had times when you have found it difficult to follow, or obey, the rules. Perhaps at school when you've been told to walk, not run or at home when you've been told to brush your teeth and you've not done it. It's good to always remember that they are there for our own good!

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, thank you that you love us and care for us. Please help us to follow the rules that protect us and help us. Amen!