

Game: **Big Fish**

Discussion: **Running to and away from things**

Scripture: **Story of Jonah** (See Bible Stories for *Jonah*)

YOU WILL NEED: *No items needed.*

Big Fish

Mark out a large area (20 ft. x 20 ft.). The center area is the sea. Choose one volunteer to be the big fish. Have kids line up on one side of the shore. When the leader yells, "Cross the ocean" all players run from one side to the other and then stop when they are safe. The big fish tries to tag players as they run. Anyone who is caught before reaching the other side becomes a big fish as well and joins the big fish in tagging the runners the next time they "cross the ocean." Play continues until only one player remains. This player become the big fish for the next round.

Play the game a couple of times.

Spiritual Application:

- (1) In this game you are running from something. What do you think God wants you to run away from in life? (Answer: Sin. God wants us to keep away from sin.)
- (2) In this game you are also running after something—either a person or the other side of the sea. You have a goal. Our goal in life should be to follow Jesus, because only when we follow Jesus will we ever truly find everything we've ever wanted in life: Peace, joy, love...*real life.*

Extra Time

Jellyfish

This game plays the same as Big Fish except when someone is tagged, they freeze. They can still tag others, but they can't run or even move their feet. They are now the "jellyfish." Only the original big fish can run and tag.

If you have extra time, try other variations to the game—i.e., hopping on one foot, with locked elbows with a partner, etc.