Story: **Jonah**
Background Scripture: **Jonah**
YOU WILL NEED: *No items needed*

Jonah

(1) Divide the class into two parts.
(2) To one side give the following sound effects: Wind, splash,
(3) To the other side give the following effects: Waves, swallow
(4) To all: Rain (hands on lap), thunder, lightning (no sound, but blinks eyes), and the sound of something sinking—i.e., gulp, gulp, gulp…
(5) Tell the kids: Every time I say "Jonah" I want you to say, "Go Jonah!"
Practice these a few times.

Tell the story of Jonah *(Do NOT read the story—Tell it and show it)*

Once there was a man named **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) and **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) was a godly man who wanted to follow God, but one day God told **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) to do something really had. He said, "**Jonah** (Go Jonah!) Go to Nineveh." Now the people of Nineveh were his worst enemies. But God said, **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) Tell the people that if they don't stop doing the wrong things they are doing that I will destroy them all. Now **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) kind of liked the idea of his worst enemies getting wiped off the face of the earth, so **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) decided to disobey God. Instead of going to Nineveh **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) went the opposite direction and went down to Joppa to hoppa on a boat. And **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) went down into the bottom of the boat and they set sail for a place called Tarshish—not Tarzan.

But at sea the sailors looked up and saw some clouds. Then there was some gentle wind (kids begin making effects) and gentle waves and gentle rain. But the rain got louded and wind and waves got louder too. Suddenly there was thunder and lightning and the boat was going back and forth, back and forth. But **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) *(This cuts off the effects because "Jonah" is your "control tool")*—Does anyone know what he was doing? He was asleep.

Now do you see what Jonah was doing—He was trying to run away from God. Can you run away from God? No. If you go to the top of the highest mountain in the world, God is there. If you go to the deepest part of the sea, God is there. And that's why God had sent the storm—to stop **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) from going the wrong way.

And the wind was blowing (kids begin making effects again) and the waves were coming and there was rain and thunder and lightning and the boat was going back and forth, back and forth. And the captain came down and said **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) "Wake up. We're going to die." And **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) went up and looked at the storm.

And the wind was blowing (kids begin making effects again) and the waves were coming and there was rain and thunder and lightning and the boat was going back and forth, back and forth. And then **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) said "If you throw me overboard it will stop." And even though they didn't want to, the sailors finally took **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) and threw him over.

And there was a splash (splash sound) and he sank down (gulp, gulp, gulp) and then God appointed a big fish to swallow (sound effect) **Jonah** (Go Jonah!). And for three days and three nights **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) was in the belly of a fish.

Now what would you do if you were in the belly of a fish? (Let kids answer) **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) prayed and told God that he didn't want to go the wrong way anymore and that he was willing to do what God wanted him to do.

So the big fish got a stomach ache, pulled up to the shore, and what kind of sound do you think it made. And out came **Jonah** (Go Jonah!). And **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) did what God wanted him to do and the people of Nineveh repented (stopped doing the wrong things) and God didn't destroy them. They were saved because **Jonah** (Go Jonah!) took them God's message.

*SAY***: Jonah** (Go Jonah!) decided to do what God wanted him to do. Giving your life to Jesus and following Him is the best choice you'll ever make.