JONAH – SCENE 1: Jonah Runs from the LORD

The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Tell them I am going to judge them because of their wickedness.”

But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction. He wanted to escape from the Lord, so he bought a ticket to sail to Tarshish.

But the LORD caused a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart. The desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship.

All this time Jonah was sound asleep, so the captain went down after him. “How can you sleep at a time like this?” he shouted. “Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives.”

The sailors found out that he was running from God and blamed him for the storm. Jonah told them to throw him into the sea and when they did the storm stopped. The sailors were awestruck by the Lord’s power.

Now the LORD had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

JONAH – SCENE 2: Jonah goes to Ninevah

Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh and deliver the message I have given you.”

This time Jonah obeyed the Lord and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!”

When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in sackcloth and sat on a heap of ashes. Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city:

“No one - not you, nor your animals, may eat or drink anything at all. You must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.” The people obeyed Jonah and the king and God changed his mind and did not destroy them.