

JONAH:

A Fishy Tale



Kids: color the cover and draw your family in the mouth of the Big Fish!

Written by Amiah Frost Kelemer
Illustrations by Chava Evans

DEAR PARENT:

The book of Jonah is one of the 13 books of Minor Prophets. This short and powerful story is typically read on Yom Kippur because it is a story of accepting responsibility, being thoughtful, caring for your fellow human being, recognizing G-d caring for us, repentance and - generally doing the right thing! These are values we all want to help our children develop.

This version is designed to appeal to children with its silly rhythms and rhymes, but that does not mean the information is less potent. We included some tools for you to help apply these ideas. ONE tool is the “Catch of the Day”; informational tidbits designed to help deepen your own understanding of the story. The more you know,



the more you can help your child learn! Tool number TWO is “Hook, Line and Sinker”. These big ideas are meant to be conversation starters so you can apply the story to your life. If your child is very young, these are ideas for the future—have a conversation with a favorite adult in your life instead!

In addition to the story, there are recipes and recommended PJ Library books for you to enjoy. This book includes a sheet of paper with characters from the Jonah story which your family can cut out, color and make into popsicle stick puppets to dramatize the story. Find contact information on the back so you can connect with us and find out more about Jewish resources for you and your family.

Sincerely,

PJ Library, Macks Center for Jewish Education, B'nai Israel Congregation and
Downtown Baltimore JCC

Snickety - pickety were the folks of Ninveh-
And G-d wanted Jonah to tell them today
Not to be grudgery and grumpity and meanish,
But Jonah was feeling quite greenish and squeamish.



“No way, G-d, I am **NOT** the one for this job
Find another guy to tell ‘em- try Milly or Rob!”
Then Jonah skedaddled the opposite way;
he hopped on a boat to Tarshish- not Ninveh!

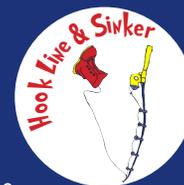


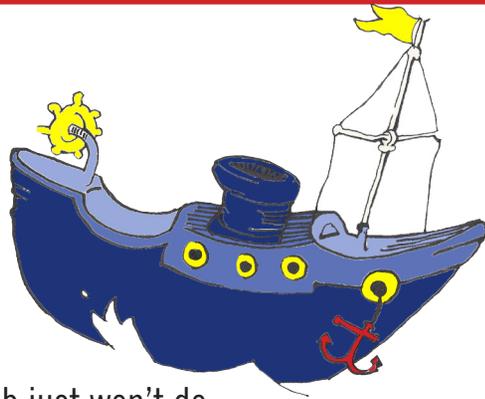
Is this just a story or did it really happen?

Scholars tell us that Ninveh is the city of Mosul, Iraq and Tarshish is somewhere near the South of Spain- maybe it is even the lost city Atlantis!

All people are created in G-d's image.

We should be treating each other with awe and respect. Ask your child: What happens if someone is not respectful? Should we be telling other people how to behave? What is the best way to encourage a friend to do the right thing?





But G-d said that Milly and Rob just won't do-
"To deliver this message, Jonah, I need you!"
The sailors overheard and said "a-one two a-three,"
And they tossed sneaky Jonah splat into the sea!



He landed in a great big fish mouth- kerplop!
where Jonah smelled ewey and fishy old glop.
But the dark and the goo did not get him down-
He thunk up brave thoughts about saving the town!



In the story of creation, G-d instructed Adam to take responsibility for the land so that it would blossom.

We are also taught that people are responsible for each other. Ask your child: did you ever try to avoid responsibility by hiding? How did it work out?

And when Jonah was sure he had prayed and prepared,
and was ready for "sorry" although he was scared,
with a **PHEW** and Ptooy the fish spit him out -
And Jonah marched off to Ninveh without a doubt.

Jonah brushed himself off and stood straight and stood tall.
He was ready to do his beck and his call.
With a wave to the fish and a misterly voice-
He taught Ninveh's people and he gave them a choice.



The Hebrew word for Jonah is Yonah, which means dove.

In the story of Noah and the Ark, the dove brings a fresh olive branch, letting Noah know that the flood was beginning to recede; and becoming a symbol of hope for all humans.

There are other interesting parallels between the Noah story and the Jonah story. Look it up!



“Say please and say thank you and do what you must-
Listen to your parents and in G-d you should trust!”

With a smile a nod to the big and the few-ish
Jonah taught them how nice it is to be Jewish!

So he watched and waited to see the folks get it right
He snoozed under a viney-vine grown for the night
The people did fine but G-d made the vine frippy-fray
And G-d said “work hard for your stuff- cuz’ that’s the right way!”



Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon, known as Maimonides, was a great Jewish philosopher who lived in the 12th Century.

He wrote a treatise on giving and identified 8 levels of Tzedakah. His number one highest level of tzedakah is to give someone the tools they need to no longer require tzedakah.

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.

Ask your child: how do you feel when you achieve something on your own?



The Rebbetzin's Easy Weekday Tuna Quiche

- 1 unbaked pie crust
- 1 12 oz can tuna in water, drained
- 3 beaten eggs
- 1 c. sour cream or plain yogurt
- 1 can of Fried onions
- 1/2 c. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/4 tsp. dill weed

Flake tuna in bottom of pie crust. Mix together eggs, sour cream or yogurt, fried onions and cheese. Spoon filling on top of tuna and sprinkle with dill. Bake at 350°F for 35 minutes or until firm in center.

Makes 8 slices.

Bubby's Shabbat Gefilte Fish Pie

- 1 loaf of salmon gefilte fish
- 1 loaf of plain gefilte fish (these can be found in the kosher freezer section)

Defrost the loaves.

Mix dill into the plain loaf
Spread the plain loaf along the bottom of a square or round pan.
Spread the salmon loaf on top.
Bake at 350 until puffed and firm
Slice and serve with horseradish.

Did you know that Baltimore has a wonderful FREE library of Jewish children's books? Come to the Macks Center for Jewish Education (CJE) to check out our collection. You can curl up with your child on our cozy couches or bring your selections home!

Some favorite PJ Library stories with the Jewish value that complements the Jonah story:

- *Joseph and the Sabbath Fish* (Being a Mensch)
- *Mitzvah Magician* (Honoring Parents)
- *Nachshon Who Was Afraid to Swim* (Courage)
- *Baby Be Kind* (Compassion)
- *Red Blue and Yellow Yarn* (Forgiveness)
- *The Bedtime Shema* (Spirituality and Prayer)

For reviews and information about these stories, look through PJLibrary.org or contact our PJ Library staff at the Macks Center for Jewish Education.



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

www.pjlibrary.org

co-sponsored by

B'NAI ISRAEL
THE DOWNTOWN SYNAGOGUE



LOUISE D. AND MORTON J. MACKS
CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

Live and Learn • לחיות וללמוד



AN AGENCY OF
The Associated

Inspiring Jewish Community