

The Call Of Jonah

Key words

Sleep: snore

Voice: err hem

God: Sing Hallelujah

scary: I'm frightened

Run: Pat knees

Ship: All aboard!

Captain: Aye Aye Capt'n!

Jonah was asleep (snore). He liked his sleep (snore). In fact sleeping (snore) was his hobby. You can maybe imagine how annoyed Jonah was then when something woke him up. It sounded like a voice (err hem), a voice (err hem) that called his name, Jonah, Jonah!

Jonah listened but heard nothing. "I must be dreaming!" he said. So he went back to sleep (snore). But in no time at all there it was again, the voice (err hem), the voice (err hem) that called his name, Jonah, Jonah!

"Who... who ... who's there?" called Jonah, and then the voice (err hem) spoke again: "Jonah, this is God (Hallelujah)!"

"What!?" said Jonah.

"Don't you mean pardon?" said the voice (err hem). "That's more polite."

"Pardon," said Jonah.

"I said," said the voice (err hem), "this is God (Hallelujah)".

"G... g... god! (Hallelujah)!" spluttered Jonah.

"Yes that's right," said the voice (err hem). "Now I've got something very important to tell you so listen carefully, if you can manage to stay awake long enough that is! Now I've been watching you asleep (snore) all day, so I've decided to give you a job to do. After all you've been asleep (snore) so much over the past ten years, you should be wide awake by now! Its a very simple job. I just want you to nip over to Nineveh and tell the people there that if they don't buck up their ideas and start behaving then I'll be forced to do something about them. Something that they won't like, OK?"

"Nineveh!" shouted Jonah. "but that's a really scary (I'm frightened) It's full of scary (I'm frightened) people who do scary, (I'm frightened) things, especially to strangers!"

"I know," said God (Hallelujah), "that's why they've got to buck their ideas up. I need you to get going first thing tomorrow. I'll have another chat with you when you get there, all right?"

"But!" shouted Jonah.

"Nineveh! In the morning! said the voice (er hem) and then everything went quiet.

Jonah was scared (I'm frightened), very scared (I'm frightened). So scared (I'm frightened) that he began to run (pat knees) around the house. He packed his case and then ran (pat knees) as fast as he could. He ran (pat knees) all the way to the town. He ran (pat knees) all the way to the harbour. Jonah was looking for a ship (all aboard) to take him away. To take him as far as possible away from Nineveh!

Jonah spoke to an old sea captain (aye aye Capt'n) who was standing by his ship (all aboard).

“Which way is Nineveh? “he asked.

“Nineveh is that way,” said the captain (aye aye Capt'n but I'd think twice about going there sonny Jim. It's a scary (I'm frightened) place.”

“What's err ... that way?” Said Jonah, pointing away from Nineveh.

“That way is Tarshish,” said the old captain (Aye aye Capt'n) and that's where my ship (all aboard) be going first thing in the morning sonny Jim.”

“Can I come with you?” asked Jonah.

“Sure you can lad,” said the captain (aye aye Capt'n). “If you pays me enough money and works your fingers to the bone, you can come with us.”

So having paid lots of money and spent all night scrubbing the deck, the next morning Jonah stood on the deck as the ship (all aboard) set sail for Tarshish, in the opposite direction to Nineveh.

But what about God (Hallelujah)? Well he was watching everything.

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