

**CPR—Children's Prayer Revival
Service 1**

**Kids Power Up With Prayer
Jonah Repents**

Scripture Text: Jonah 1-2
Memory Verse: "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (I Peter 3:9).
Lesson Objective: To lead the children to repent.
Power Line: Repent—the sooner the better.

Schedule:

- I. Power of Worship** (30-40 minutes)
- A. Welcome to KPUR (5-6 minutes)
Melody's Music Show (8-10 minutes)
 - B. Praise Generator (8-10 minutes)
Commercial Break (1-2 minutes)
Breaking News (3-4 minutes)
 - C. Money Market Report (3-4 minutes)
Ask Pete (5-6 minutes)
- II. Power of the Word** (30-40 minutes)
- A. Quiz Kids (8-10 minutes)
An Inspirational Moment (2-3 minutes)
 - B. Kids Power Up (15-20 minutes)
Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

Supply List:

- Prayer cards
- Basket
- Dishpan of water
- Cake pan
- Empty soda bottle (8- or 12-oz size) with screw-on lid
- Pitcher of water
- Wide-mouthed gallon jar of water
- Sandwich bag of dirt
- Funnel
- Telephone
- B.R.E.A.D. flashcard
- 6 balloons
- 2 cell phones
- Biblical robe with a pocket
- Spray bottle of water
- Wet dead vines
- Clipboard
- 3 copies of "God Gets Jonah's Number"
- Copies of breaking news and Money Market Report
- Index cards

Preparation

Read the Children's Prayer Revival Introduction file. Decide which activities you want to use.

Set up the platform to resemble a radio station.

Open the Art file and print the prayer card master. Make copies on cardstock. Cut these apart. Place a basket along with the prayer request cards and pencils on a table near the door. Arrange for a helper or two to stand at the table and greet the children as they arrive.

For the Truth Conductor bring a dishpan filled with water, an empty 8- or 12-oz soda bottle with a screw-on cap, a pitcher of water, a wide-mouthed gallon jar filled with water, a sandwich bag of dirt, a cake pan, and a funnel. Set these on a table on one side of the platform.

Give a copy of the newscast to an older boy and practice with him.

Give a copy of the Money Market Report to the child chosen to receive the offering and practice with him. Tell him to come to the front and get ready while Mike is giving the breaking news.

Make a flashcard for Ben to hold up for audience participation: B-R-E-A-D, B-R-E-A-D, bread!

Pete decides on the format of the talk show. The subject for this service is repentance. (Each service this program covers a different subject.) Pete gives three or four children questions to call in to get the program started. "Why do people cry when they repent?" "Can I repent somewhere besides at the altar?" "How many times can I repent?" "How old do I have to be to repent?" Allow other children to call in with their questions. For the Quiz Kids, on a whiteboard print, "The _____ is . . . not _____ing that any should _____ish, but that _____ should come to _____ance" (I _____ 3:9). Place the board on an easel beside the table turned so the audience cannot see the words. Blow up the balloons and attach them to the whiteboard.

Ben plays the role of Jonah. He needs a copy of the script on a clipboard and a cell phone. He should be familiar enough with the script that he can read it dramatically while acting out his part. He wears a biblical robe (with a pocket). A staff member should be ready to spray him with water. Have wet dead vines nearby for Jonah to wrap around himself. A man with a cell phone and a copy of the script reads God's part from behind the screen. He presets the number of Jonah's cell phone in his phone so he can speed dial Jonah. He turns his speaker phone on. Jonah also presets "God's" cell phone number in his phone so he can call while in the whale's belly. This skit needs to be practiced to get the timing right. Another man (unseen) reads the captain's lines and the Bible verse.

Power of Worship

Welcome to KPUR (5-6 minutes)

As the children enter, the members of the Kids Prayer Up Radio staff greet them and allow them to write their prayer requests on cards. Ask an older child to fill out the cards for the preschoolers. The teacher/leader takes charge as the program director (P.D.).

P.D.: Welcome, kids, to KPUR, Kids Power Up Radio. We are going to have a great time in this revival as we broadcast our prayers around the world and experience the power of prayer. I am (*name*), the program director. Let me introduce you to the staff of our station. You can help by giving a drumroll after each introduction. Introducing Mike the Microphone! (*drumroll*)

MIKE: (*taps the microphone*) Hello. Am I on? One-two-three testing. Can you hear me?

P.D.: We read you loud and clear, Mike.

MIKE: When I'm powered up, I'm a pretty important guy here at Kids Power Up Radio. Even when I pop, crackle, and squeeeel, the program director needs me. Right?

P.D.: Right, Mike. Kids, let's give Mike a round of applause.

KIDS: (*applaud and cheer*)

P.D.: Now let me introduce our music director, Melody the Keyboard. (*drumroll*)

MELODY: (*speaks in a sing-song voice*) La-la-lalala! Take note, kids. My job is to keep everyone at Kids Power Up Radio in tune.

P.D.: That's right. Melody is the one who brings harmony to our team. Let's hear it for Melody.

KIDS: (*applaud and cheer*)

P.D.: And standing right here in his place is Pete the Pulpit, our storyteller. (*drumroll*)

PETE: I am full of exciting stories that have been told over me—missionary stories, Bible stories, and stories about kids just like you. In this children's prayer revival I will tell you some fascinating stories. Stay tuned.

P.D.: Okay, kids, let Pete know you're glad he's here.

KIDS: (*applaud and cheer*)

P.D.: **And now I want to introduce you to the star of Kids Power Up, Ben the Bible.** (*drumroll*)
BEN: **No matter what your problem, kids, I have the answer. If you will listen to my words, I'll help you get out of trouble . . . or better yet, stay out of trouble.**
P.D.: **Let's hear it for Ben the Bible.**
KIDS: (*applaud and cheer*)
P.D.: **Now that you are acquainted with the staff, it's time to go on the air at the Kids Power Up Radio. Mike, please sign us on and give our station identification.**
Mike squeals and pops, then goes dead. (This will take a little practice and coordination with the sound man.)
MIKE: (*speaks softly so the kids can barely hear him*) **One-two-three, can you hear me?** (*shakes the microphone and taps it*) **What's wrong? What's happened to the power?**
P.D.: **Well, I don't know. Everything was working yesterday.**
MIKE: (*panics*) **It's time to start the program, and I don't have any power! No one can hear me. I'm the announcer. I gotta have power. Without power I might as well be one of those toy blow-up microphones. Oh, I'm so em . . . em . . . embar-bar . . . I'm so . . . Oh, what am I?**
P.D.: **Embarrassed?**
MIKE: **Yeah, I am so embar—well, whatever. Here we are in front of all these kids and** (*cries*) **I'm powerless.** (*sobs hysterically*)
P.D.: **Mike! Mike, calm yourself. Listen to me. I think I know why you're powerless.**
MIKE: (*instantly stops crying*) **You do?**
P.D.: **I think I do. Have you prayed today?**
MIKE: **Pr-prayed? To-today?** (*wails*) **Oh, why did you have to embar—whatever me like this in front of all these kids?**
P.D.: **Why did that question embarrass you?**
MIKE: (*hangs his head*) **Be-because I haven't pr-prayed today.**
P.D.: **And that is why you are powerless. We power up by plugging into God's Spirit through prayer. Let's pray right now, Mike, not only for you but for all of our staff and for all these kids that this children's revival service will be powered by the Holy Ghost.**

The program director leads the children in prayer.

MIKE: (*taps the microphone which is now working; smiles*) **This is KPUR, Kids Power Up Radio, signing on. Welcome, boys and girls, to the most exciting radio station in the world or is that "in the church"? Anyway, we are chilled, I mean trilled, I mean thrilled that you tuned in. Our first program of the day is Melody's Music Show. And here is the host, or is it hostess? Melody the Keyboard.**

Melody's Music Show (8-10 minutes)

Melody plays a few bars to introduce the program.

This part of the service is the responsibility of Melody, the music director. It could be a mix of congregational songs led by a praise team, special songs by various children, instrumentals by the children, or even stick drama or signing. Some suggested praise choruses are listed here.

"*Draw Me into Your Presence*" by Teresa Muller (1991 Maranatha! Praise, Inc.)

"*Whisper a Prayer*"

At the end of the praise time, Melody reminds the listeners to tune in again at the same time, same station, on (*day of next service*).

MIKE: **Melody's Music Show was brought to you by our sponsor the General Sunday School Division. Everybody oughtta go to Sunday school every Thursday . . . I mean every Tues . . . oh, whatever. If you were in Sunday school last Friday, let's hear from you. Silence. Didn't anybody go to Sunday school? Response. Oh, you went on Sunday? Well, that makes sense. If you went to Sunday school last Sunday, let's hear from you.**

KIDS: (*yell and cheer*)

Prayer Hour (8-10 minutes)

(*The program director leads this segment.*) As Melody softly plays a worship chorus, welcome the listeners to the Prayer Hour program, "where we plug into the power of God through prayer." A good song to lead into this segment of the program is "I'll Take This Time" by Geoff Bullock (1990 Word Music, LLC).

One by one read the prayer request cards. As each is read, ask a volunteer to take that request as his prayer project. Give the card to the child who agrees to pray for this need every day during this children's prayer revival. Have the children with cards gather around the front. Lead them in corporate prayer.

Truth Conductor

The subject for this program is *repentance*. Bring out the dishpan of water, cake pan, empty soda bottle (8- or 12-oz size) with screw-on lid, pitcher of water, wide-mouthed gallon jar of water, sandwich bag of dirt, and funnel.

Show the open bottle. **When you were born, your mind was like this bottle, empty. You only knew how to nurse and cry. As you grew you began to put things into your mind. You learned to coo and smile.** Set the bottle in the cake pan. As you mention each good thing, pour water from the pitcher into the bottle. When you mention something bad, put a bit of dirt in the bottle. **You learned to crawl and then walk. You learned to talk. You even learned a few bad words. You learned that you loved some people and that you did not like others. As you grew older, you learned that you could sometimes get out of trouble by telling a lie. You even took things that did not belong to you.** Shake the bottle so the dirt darkens the water. **What happened to you?** Response. **You felt heavy and ugly and dirty because you had sinned. One day someone told you about the Holy Ghost—how that God wanted to fill you with His joy and love. They told you that the Holy Spirit would make you clean and happy. But you have a problem. You are filled with sin. God cannot pour His Holy Spirit into you as long as you are filled with dirty, ugly sin. How do you get rid of the sin?** Response.

You have to pour it out. How do you do that? Through your mouth—by confessing your sins. You repent—the sooner the better. Shake the bottle so that the dirt is dissolved in the water, and then empty the water into the cake pan. **After you repent of your sins and pour out the heavy, dirty feelings inside you, you still are not totally clean. What do you need to do now? Be baptized in water in the name of Jesus.** Dunk the bottle in the dishpan of water; swish it around to get any remaining dirt out, and then show it to the children. **Now you are clean! But you are empty. What do you need?** To receive the Holy Ghost. **God wants to pour His Spirit into you, but He is a big God and you are a little person.** Hold up the wide-mouthed gallon jar of water and compare it to the little bottle. **What do I need to pour water from this big jar into this little bottle? A funnel.** Show the funnel. **What does God need to pour His Spirit into you? A funnel. How do you make a funnel so God can pour His Spirit into you?** Hold up your arms to form a funnel shape. **You raise your arms in worship so God can pour His Spirit into you. It's easy and it's wonderful!**

While Melody plays worship music in the background, the program director invites the children to tune in for Prayer Time at this same time (*next service*.)
Melody plays sign-off music.

A Commercial Break (1-2 minutes)

Energy Outlet

Ben takes a microphone. Melody plays, "*Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day*" in the background. Ben motions for the children to stand. Each time he holds up the "B-R-E-A-D" flashcard, the children shout it.

BEN & KIDS: (*chant*) **B-R-E-A-D, B-R-E-A-D, bread!**

BEN: **Hey, kids, have you had your bread today?**

BEN & KIDS: (*chant*) **B-R-E-A-D, B-R-E-A-D, bread!**

BEN: **Have you read your Bible today?**

BEN & KIDS: (*chant*) **B-R-E-A-D, B-R-E-A-D, bread!**

BEN: **Read God's Word and obey!**

BEN & KIDS: (*chant*) **B-R-E-A-D, B-R-E-A-D, bread!**

BEN: **Bible Reading Every Day!**

BEN & KIDS: (*chant*) **B-R-E-A-D, B-R-E-A-D, bread!**

BEN: **If you want grow up to be a strong (*all flex their muscles*) Christian, read your Bible and pray every day.**

Melody and the praise singers lead the children in singing, "*Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day*."

Breaking News (3-4 minutes)

Melody gives a musical lead-in to the program. As Mike introduces the program, the boy chosen to be interviewed comes to a microphone.

This "news" is taken from a true account on the World Network of Prayer. For reports on other children's prayers that God has answered, check out www.wnop.org.

MIKE: **Now for the latest news from KPUR. This breaking news comes to us from Madisonville, Kentucky, where a tornado struck on Tuesday, November 15. "Alex, Emilee, Allison, their parents and cousin Katie took shelter in their bathroom, and then they began to pray. Just before their dad joined them in their makeshift shelter, he saw the tornado heading straight for their subdivision, right toward their house. He said he knew the funnel cloud would have to split or their house would be taken out, so he instructed the children to pray that the tornado would split. We switch now to Madisonville, where we will interview Alex, one of the children. Tell us, Alex, were you scared?"**

BOY: **Yes, sir, I was until we started praying.**

MIKE: **Tell us what happened to the tornado?**

BOY: **It hooked a right at our subdivision and wiped out a convenience store down the street. Trees were uprooted, and there was some minor damage in our neighborhood. But the brunt of the storm did not hit us.**

MIKE: **Why do you think the tornado turned?**

BOY: **Because God answered our prayers.**

MIKE: **Was there any damage to your house?**

BOY: **Well, when it was over, our trampoline was on the roof! That was funny!**

MIKE: **I'm sure this was an exciting experience, not one you would want to live through again. We are thankful that God answered your prayers. Is there anything you want to tell the kids in our listening audience?**

BOY: **Sure. Kids, when you are scared, pray! There's power in prayer!**

MIKE: **And there you have it. The latest news straight from the Web site of the World Network of Prayer. To read this and other exciting stories about kids' prayers that God has answered, go to www.wnop.org. Meanwhile, this is Mike the Microphone, your KPUR news reporter, signing off until next time.**

Melody plays the sign-off music.

Money Market Report (2-3 minutes)

Melody plays a march song for the theme music. While the child chosen to receive the offering takes the microphone, and someone places the offering plates on a table in front of the sanctuary.

CHILD: **Welcome to the Money Market Report. This is (name), your financial advisor. Today I bring to you one of the economic world's best kept secrets. Are you listening? With both ears? Put a hand over one ear because you definitely do not want this information to go in one ear and out the other. Are you ready? If you follow the advice I am about to give you, you will be so blessed! Are you listening? One hand over your ear? OK, then here it is, the most well-kept secret in the world. (Stops and scratches head) Oh, dear, what is it? I . . . I . . . I forgot. It is . . . Ahhh . . . Oh, now I remember. It comes from the Bible. Give and God will bless you. Say that with me, so you won't forget it. Give and God will bless you. Let's say it one more time. Give and God will bless you. If you want God to bless you, give. That's the money market secret for today. Until next time this is (name), KPUR's financial advisor, signing off.**

The program director gives instructions on how the children are to march to give. Melody leads them in a marching chorus.

Ask Pete (5-6 minutes)

This is a talk show format where the children call in and ask questions. See Before the Service for instructions.

Melody provides the theme music.

MIKE: **Boys and girls, welcome to Ask Pete, the most dynamic talk show on radio. This is your opportunity to be heard on radio around the world . . . well, at least in this church. Pete the Pulpit has stood in this sanctuary for (*number*) years. He has heard hundreds, yea thousands, of sermons. He knows the Bible from Genelutions to Revelalasis . . . I mean from Genesis to Exodus . . . or is that Revelation? Whatever. Now to get this talk show off to a rip-rooting, I mean rip-tooting, I mean rip-roaring start, welcome your host . . . Pete the Pulpit!**

Pete could introduce repentance by telling about a time when he repented, stressing how clean and good he felt after he repented. Or he might simply introduce the subject and ask for callers to call in with questions. He concludes by reminding the children that if they need to **repent—the sooner the better** and thanks listeners for their calls.

Melody plays the sign-off music.

MIKE: **You are listening to KPUR, Kids Power Up Radio.**

Power of the Word

Quiz Kids (8-10 minutes)

MIKE: **And now, boys and girls, KPUR is pleased to bring to you the program that you have been waiting for all evening—Save the Balloons. Here is the quiz master, the host of our show, Ben the Bible. Let's hear it for Ben! (*applause*)**

Melody plays sign-in music as Ben takes the microphone and hosts this program.

Choose four school age children to be the quiz kids. They are seated at the table on the platform. Choose another child to be the balloon popper. He stands by the whiteboard. The goal is to figure out the missing words of the mystery Bible verse. Give the quiz kids a clue and thirty seconds to consult together and decide on their answer. They only have one guess. If they miss, a balloon is popped, and the audience is allowed to guess until someone gets the answer.

Turn the whiteboard so all can see it. The balloon popper fills in the blanks as the correct words are guessed and pops a balloon if the quiz kids give the wrong answer. Here are the clues.

A four-letter word for God. (Lord)

This word is a verb, but it is also the document that a person makes out with orders to be read and carried out when he dies. (will)

This is a hard one. This word means to “destroy.” The first syllable if spelled a different way is also a fruit or another word for a couple. (pear/pair—perish)

This is a short three-letter word that means “everyone.” (all)

This word means to tell God you are sorry for your sins and stop doing them. (repent)

This book of the Bible is named after Jesus' disciple who preached on the Day of Pentecost. (Peter)
answers: “The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (I Peter 3:9).

Make a big deal of announcing how many balloons the quiz kids have saved. Encourage the audience to hoop and holler. Briefly explain the verse. Help the children to find it in their Bibles and read it together. Then they close their Bibles and the balloon popper erases two or three words of his choosing. Lead the children in reading the verse filling in the missing words. Continue until all the words have been erased and the children can quote the verse. Lead the audience in giving the quiz kids a loud round of applause.

MIKE: **And now let's hear it for our host, Ben the Bible.**

KIDS: (*applause and cheer*)

MIKE: **Thank you for tuning in to Save the Balloon. Be sure to join us (*next service*).**

Melody plays sign-off music as Mike announces the call letters of the station.

An Inspirational Moment (2-3 minutes)

Melody leads the children in a quiet worship chorus to prepare them for the Bible story.

Illustrated Sermon

Kids Power Up (15-20 minutes)

God Gets Jonah's Number

While the children are singing, Ben dresses for his role as Jonah. He puts cell phone in his pocket with the speaker phone turned on, so the audience can hear "God." He carries a clipboard with the script on it. Other cast members get in place.

Melody plays sign-in music and transitions, as needed.

MIKE: **And now the program you have been waiting for all evening—the story that will scare you good, the mystery drama of the air, Kids Power Up, and our host, Pete the Pulpit!**

PETE: *(spooky voice)* **Tonight's story will clot your blood in your veins. It will make the goose bumps on your arms quack. It comes straight, well almost straight, from the innards of Ben the Bible—the Book of Jonah chapters 1 and 2. Our dramatized story is "God Gets Jonah's Number," and playing the leading role is none other than Ben the Bible *(applause)*.**

MUSIC: TRANSITION

Ben enters, dressed as Jonah. He sits on the floor, leans against the wall, and dozes. He needs a microphone and his clipboard.

SOUND: CELL PHONE rings

JONAH: *(stretches, yawns, groans, mutters sleepily, stands up)* **Uhhh-ohhhh . . . wh-what . . . what's that? The phone? Oh, the phone, the phone. *(yawns heavily)* Oh, yeah, the phone. Now where did I put that thing? I'm not used to hav . . . *(another oooooohhhh yawn)*, here it is. Who could be calling at this hour? Must be a wrong number. *(answers)* Hello. Whooo is it?**

GOD: **It's Me.**

JONAH: *(confused)* **Me? No, it's not me. I'm me. You must have the wrong . . . *(wakes up)* Who did you say is calling?**

God: **I AM!**

Jonah: **Duh! But who are you?**

God: **I AM that I am!**

JONAH: **I heard *that* the first time, but . . . *(wide awake now)* Oh! Wait a minute! God? You mean the Great I AM, like in G-O-D, the one true God?**

GOD: **You got it, Jonah.**

JONAH: *(surprised and pleased)* **Well, God, how are You? I didn't know You had my number. I haven't heard from You in awhile.**

GOD: **I could say the same thing about you. Ever since you started getting all those fancy toys, you don't seem to have time for Me.**

JONAH: *(argues)* **Oh, I wouldn't say that. I always have time for You.**

GOD: **Well, Jonah, I'm glad to hear you say that, because I have a little job for you.**

JONAH: **Oh, great. Working for You always excites me.**

GOD: *(dryly)* **I'm sure. I want you to deliver a message for Me.**

JONAH: **At Your command. I am Your willing servant. *(holds phone away from ear and frowns at it)* Oh, pardon me, God, but someone is trying to call me. *(to self)* Now how did they tell me to use "call waiting"? Do I push this button or this one? *(pretends to push buttons)* No, not this one, how about that one? Maybe it was. . . Oops, they hung up. *(back to God)* Are You still there, God? Can You hear me now . . . *(still no answer)* Oh . . . maybe it's this button. God, can You hear me now?**

GOD: **Yes.**

JONAH: **Sorry about that. Now You were saying that You want me to deliver a message to somebody. If You'll just give me their number, I'll call—**

GOD: **Jonah, I want you to deliver this message in person.**

JONAH: **Oh. It would be faster to call, but You're the Boss. Where am I going?**

GOD: **Nineveh.**

JONAH: *(chokes)* **Pardon me, God, but I'm not hearing very well. The signal's kinda weak here. I thought I heard You say N-N-Nineveh?**

GOD: *(slowly and distinctly)* **That's correct.**

JONAH: **N-n-nnineveh? As in, rhymes with Skin-ev-ah, but starts with an N.**

GOD: **Yes. Nineveh.**

JONAH: *(fear building)* **As in N-i-n-e—**

GOD: *(stronger, to end this debate)* **Yes, that Nineveh.**

JONAH: *(stammers; voice quivers)* **But, God, I . . . I . . . have You been to Nineveh lately? I mean the people of Nineveh are *(sharply)* mean? Really mean! As in poke-a-puppy-in-the-eye mean!**

(really gets into it) **M-E-A-N!** Look up a definition of mean in the dictionary and You'll find a picture of—

GOD: **I know all that.**

JONAH: **and they're cruel! Cruel and mean; the meanest folks I've ever seen.**

GOD: **And they're nasty too, huh?**

JONAH: **Oh yes, nastiest! So You have been to Nineveh. Those Ninevites are stinky, nasty people! Nasty, cruel, and mean; the nastiest folks I've ever seen.**

GOD: **Is that all? Are you done?**

JONAH: **No! (wails) They're also our enemies! If You send me to Nineveh, they'll chew me up and spit me out. They hate Israelites.**

GOD: **Perhaps.**

JONAH: **Well, that being the case, (takes a deep breath and exhales loudly) I don't think it's a very good idea for me to go there.**

GOD: **(firmly) Jonah, I am asking you to go to Nineveh and deliver a message for Me.**

JONAH: **(stutters) A-a-and the message is?**

GOD: **Forty days and I am going to destroy their city.**

JONAH: **(comes to life) Whoopee! Wonderful! Awesome! Great!**

GOD: **(attempting to interrupt) Jonah. . . .**

JONAH: **(pretends not to hear God) The best idea yet! One million volts of Jehovah-power. . . .**

GOD: **(attempting to interrupt) Jonah!**

JONAH: **(pretends not to hear God) Pzzzt . . . and they're fried! Just forty more days and counting, then ZAP! Z-A-P! Zappety-doo-dah, Zap 'em all day.**

GOD: **So you are ready to deliver My message?**

JONAH: **(hesitantly) Well, now . . . uhhh . . . seeing as You are about to zap them, what's the point in giving them forty days' notice?**

GOD: **I never bring judgment on anyone without giving him a chance to repent.**

JONAH: **(raises voice) Re-pent? Repent? You mean You might change Your mind?**

GOD: **If they repent.**

JONAH: **(to self) I should have known it. (to God) So I go tell them that You are going to destroy them in forty days, and they repent, and You don't destroy them. So they eat me for breakfast.**

GOD: **Not if they repent.**

JONAH: **But God, do You know how far it is to Nineveh from here? Either I walk or ride a bumpy, grumpy old camel. The last time I rode a bumpy, grumpy old camel, I couldn't walk for three days.**

GOD: **So . . . what about this assignment?**

JONAH: **Well . . . uhhh . . . You did give humans the right to choose, didn't You?**

GOD: **Yes, I did.**

JONAH: **You don't force anyone to do anything, do You?**

GOD: **No. I don't.**

JONAH: **(quickly) Then I think I'll just pass . . . Uhhh . . . what's that, God? I can't hear I . . . hope—bad reception. Have to call back . . . later. (hangs up; mutters) Ohhh. I don't know if getting a cell phone was such a good idea after all. It's too easy for God to call me. I wonder how He got my number. Now to get as far from Nineveh as possible as fast as possible. (runs in place; huffing and puffing)**

MUSIC: **TRANSITION**

PETE: **So Jonah ran and ran until he reached the sea where sailors were loading a ship. As he stood there wondering who to ask about buying a ticket. . . .**

SOUND: **PHONE rings**

JONAH: **Who's calling now? I didn't tell anyone where I was going. That's the problem with these cell phones; they can track a person to the end of the earth. (answers bluntly) Hello.**

GOD: **I see you are headed the wrong direction, Jonah. Nineveh is east, not west.**

JONAH: **You see? You see? This isn't a video phone . . . Oh, that's right. You're God. You see.**

GOD: **Yes, I'm glad you remembered that. Now about Nineveh. . . .**

JONAH: **Well . . . you see. Oh yes, You see . . . Well, I'm not goin' to Nineveh. I'm goin' to Tarshish.**

GOD: **I'm sorry to hear that, Jonah.**

JONAH: I'm sure You can find someone else to deliver that message. After all, I'm not the only prophet in Israel.

GOD: You're right. You're not the only prophet in Israel. But this assignment has your name on it.

JONAH: Then just take my name off of it. *(pleads)* OK, God? *(all business)* Now I hate to rush, but I've got to go. Call me when You have a job more fitting to my personality. OK? Good-bye. *(hangs up)*

MUSIC: TRANSITION

PETE: So Jonah bought a ticket and got on a ship headed west to Tarshish. He went down into the belly of the ship, found a dark corner, and went to sleep . . . well, he tried to sleep.

JONAH: *(lies on floor; yawns; twists and turns)* Boy, running from God is hard work. I'm worn out. I'll catch me a nap and forget all about Nineveh.

SOUND: PHONE rings

JONAH: *(wails)* Oh no. How am I getting reception out here on the open sea? It has to be God. I'm not gonna answer it. *(disconnects)* There that's better. Now I'll just put this thing on vibrate. *(does so)* Boy, this is some gadget. I'll put it in my pocket and catch up on my sleep. *(yawns)* This ship sure wasn't made for comfort. *(tosses and turns; moans and groans)* Hardest floor I ever . . . tried . . . to sleep on. Maybe if I lay on my side . . . there . . . that's better. *(drowsily)* Now I'll go to sleep and forget all about Nineveh. . . .

SOUND: PHONE vibrating

JONAH: Hey! What's that . . . *(laughs)* What's that tickling . . . *(laughs harder)* Something is . . . tickling me. *(laughter grows; gasps out words)* Stop that, you hear. Stop ticklin' me. *(laughing so hard he can hardly get the words out)* Ooooh, I can't . . . get . . . my . . . breath . . . Wha . . .

SOUND: Vibration stops

JONAH: *(takes deep breath)* That's better . . . It stopped. What was that? Something in my pocke . . . oh, it's that phone. I had it on vibrate. The vibration was tickling me. It's strange, but it seems like every time I say *Nineveh*. . . .

SOUND: PHONE vibrating

JONAH: Oh, no, it's vibrating again. *(starts laughing; gasps between words)* I've got . . . to get . . . it out of my . . . pocket. There, got it! . . . Uh-oh, it looks like I have a text message from . . . guess who? God. *(reads slowly)* "Jonah, I never bring judgment on anyone without giving him a chance to repent. You still have time to repent—the sooner the better." *(shocked)* Repent? Me? It's those people in Ni . . . oops, I'm not about to say that word. It activates this phone. It's those other people who need to repent. Not me! I'm going to turn this phone off. If God has anything to say to me, He can just leave a voice message. *(pretends to turn phone off)*

SOUND: PHONE clicking off

JONAH: Now, to get some sleep. *(yawns; speech slows)* I am totally wiped out. I didn't know that running from God was *(yawns)* so tiring. Gotta get some re. . . *(snores; starts jerking like ship is being tossed around)* Hey! What's goin' on here? Is it? It must be a s-s-storm! *(tries to stand up; falls to his knees; crawls to the wall and uses it for support so he can stand)* Boy, tttthis is quite a sstorm! Maybe I'd better ggget up oon the ddeck! *(stumbles, pretending to climb stairs)*

CAPTAIN: *(unseen; calls)* Hey, you! Where you been?

JONAH: *(looks around; frightened)* Down bbelow, Captain Sssir, sssleepin'.

CAPTAIN: Asleep? In this storm? You'd better hold on to that rail and pray, man! We've been callin' on our gods, and it hasn't done one bit of good. Maybe your God will help us.

JONAH: Uhhh . . . pray? As in ppp-r-a-y?

CAPTAIN: Yes, pray!

JONAH: Uhhh . . . well, I . . . I . . . I'm not exactly on speaking terms with my God.

CAPTAIN: And why not?

JONAH: It's a long story and—

CAPTAIN: We ain't got time for long stories. You better get on speakin' terms with your God now! *(aside)* What? You did? . . . You're sure? *(back to Jonah)* Ah-ha! My mates tell me they cast lots, and the lot has fallen on you. You are the cause of this storm.

JONAH: *(spits and sputters)*

CAPTAIN: You have angered your God. What did you do?

JONAH: *(sorrowfully)* It's not what I did, but what I didn't do. But, like you said, Captain, we don't have time for long stories. *(voice quivers)* Just throw me overboard, and the storm will cease.

CAPTAIN: *(surprised)* Throw you overboard? Man, we don't wantta do that.

JONAH: Go ahead, Captain. It's okay. I'm a drowned man either way.

CAPTAIN: Well . . . I have no choice. *(shouts)* Overboard with this Jonah! Man overboard!

SPECIAL EFFECT: Helper sprays Jonah with water as he is thrown overboard.

JONAH: *(pretends to fly through the air; screams)* Oh, God, I hope You still have my num. . . .

SPECIAL EFFECT: If possible, dim the lights.

JONAH: *(flounders as if sinking; closes eyes tightly; falls to his knees; grabs wet vines and wraps them around himself)* Where am I? Oh, it's so dark in here . . . phew-eee! It stinks. Smells like dead fish. Wh. . . *(screams)* What's that wrapping around my head? Ouch! Something is burning my skin. Feels like acid. *(gags)* And all this tossing and turning is making me sick. I think I'm going to urp! *(gags)* Oh, God, where am I? *(fades)* Where am I?

MUSIC: SHORT TRANSITION

JONAH: How long have I been in here? Up and down, round and round, in this acid-filled bubble. Slip and slide . . . slick and sick. It's so black I can't see my hand in front of my face. But I can feel the slimy, grimy seaweeds wrapping around my neck and choking me. *(fades)* Could it be that I am dead? Is this my punishment for running from God? Could it be. . . .

MUSIC: SHORT TRANSITION

JONAH: *(very weak)* Oh, God, where am I? Surely I have been in this slick, sick place . . . wherever this is . . . for days. Why didn't I obey God? Nineveh could not have been this bad.

MAN'S VOICE: *(same man who played captain can read this from the background)* "The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

JONAH: Wh-what's that? The Lord is not willing that I perish? He wants me to repent? Could it be that I could call on the Lord, even now? Why didn't I go to Nineveh? . . . Nineveh? My phone! Oh, how I wish God would call me. What if the battery is dead? I have to talk to God, but I don't have His number. He has my number, but I don't have His. I'll call that emergency number, 9-1-1. Let me see if I can do it in the dark. *(hits "God's" preset number)* Oh, God, please answer. Please . . . answer! Ans. . . .

GOD: Hello. . . .

JONAH: Oh, thank God, You answered.

GOD: I always answer those who call Me. I never turn My phone off.

JONAH: Oh, God. I'm sorry. So sorry. Please, get me out of here, and I'll go to Nineveh, even if I have to ride a bumpy, grumpy camel. I will. . . *(bounces around)* W-wh-what is happening? I'm being t-t-t-ossed around like I was on a tt-t-ilt-awhirl. Wooooo! This is worse than ever. God, help me!

GOD: I am helping you, Jonah.

JONAH: *(wailing; fading in and out as he is tossed about)* Sick and slick. Slip and slide. Up and down; round and round. Oooooohhh . . . what's h-h-happening?

GOD: You're giving this whale a tummy ache.

JONAH: Wh-whale? I'm in a wh-whale? Oooooohhh! He's giving me a Eeeekkkk! Turn lights back on. *(screams and pretends to fly through the air and land on the shore; calms; shields his eyes)* Uhhhooo . . . the light! . . . It's so bright! Where am I? Ahhh, I am on shore. *(voice grows stronger)* The shore! I am on dry ground! Oh, thank God. Let me see if I can stand up? *(grunts; struggled to his feet)* There! I'm on my feet. Now I have a job to do. *(panics)* Where's my phone? I need my phone. Ahhh . . . here it is . . . in my hand. What's that number? 4-1-1. *(pretends to dials)* Information? Is this you? Can you give me the number of the nearest Camel Taxi Service, please? That's c-a-m-e-l. Camel Taxi Service. *(to self)* A bumpy, grumpy camel is better than a slick, sick whale any day. *(fades)* Nineveh, N-i-n-e-v-e-h, here I come.

Jonah exits.

MIKE: Pete, I guess we missed it.

PETE: Missed what, Mike?

- MIKE: **We told these kids that this was a mystery drama. What was mysterious about that story?**
- PETE: **The mystery was why did God give Jonah a second chance.**
- MIKE: **But that's not a mystery.**
- PETE: **It's not?**
- MIKE: **No. God gave Jonah a second chance because God is merciful. And it's a good thing He is or we'd all be in big trouble.**
- PETE: **Good point, Mike. Now we are running out of time. Can you bring this program to a close?**
- MIKE: **Sure. This episode "God Gets Jonah's Number" is a condensed version of the one you can find at www.kidspowerup.com. Be sure to check out this Web site for other exciting Kids Power Up stories. Thank you for tuning in to Kids Power Up Radio. This is KPUR signing off the air. But don't go away kids, here's our program director.**

Melody plays sign-out music.

Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

The P.D. takes charge and stands beside the table with the bottle and water.

Jonah discovered that it is easier to obey God than to run from Him. Some of you are like this bottle when it was full of dirty water—kinda like Jonah when he was running from God. God was merciful to Jonah and gave him a chance to repent. God is giving you a chance to repent, too. You can pour out your sins by confessing with your mouth that you have sinned and need God. When you have poured out the dirty, ugly things inside you, God can fill you with the Holy Ghost. All you have to do is open your mouth, praise the Lord, and make a funnel—lift your hands.

Put the cap on the bottle. **Could I fill this bottle if the cap is on? No! Neither can God fill you with His Spirit if your mouth is closed. You have to open your mouth.** Remove the cap and use the funnel to fill the bottle with water. **God will pour His Spirit into you. How do I know when this bottle is full? The water flows out the mouth. How do you know when you are full of God's Spirit? The Holy Ghost flows out of your mouth and you speak in tongues.**

Plug in

Invite the children to the altar. Altar workers should be in place to pray with them.

After the altar service, remind the children to pray for the request on the cards that they took. Make announcements and dismiss with prayer.