



Jonah Part One: Jonah Disobeys God

Jonah 1:1-17

Suggested setting: The Prophets & Promises puppet scripts adapt to any setting such as a garden, forest, farm, or stable. Once or twice a year, a set change or addition to the set is recommended for added interest. Decorate with colorful flowers, butterflies, birds, and ladybugs. Puppets can pop out from behind a window, hedge, tree hollow, stonewall, etc. For a simple, portable puppet stage, puppets can pop up from behind a colorful blanket hung on a rod or from behind a card table turned on its side. Adjust setting and puppet names according to available puppeteers and resources.

Characters: Delbert the Donkey and Lello the Lamb are good friends who are always excited to learn more about Jesus and the Bible. The leader is the children's teacher or worship leader dressed in regular clothing or in costume consistent with the set (a gardener, a farmer, etc.) The leader helps children focus on the puppets and leads group interaction.

Leader (stands at puppet stage)
It's time to call for Delbert and Lello.
Repeat after me, "Dehhhhhl-bert Dehhhhhl-bert!" (Children repeat and Delbert the Donkey pops his head out of the window.) **Hellohhhhhhhhhhhh Lello!"** (Children repeat and Lello the Lamb pops her head out of the window.)

Delbert
Hee Haw! Hello everybody!

Lello (bleats)
Yeah. Hello every-bahhh-dy. Boys and girls, listen carefully because Delbert has some great news to tell you. It's about God!

Delbert
Haw! Lello, why don't you tell them?

Lello
But, Delbert it's *your* turn. You get to tell them that God is faithful. I would never take your turn from you!

Delbert
Well . . . um . . .

Leader
What's wrong, Delbert?

Delbert (hesitantly)
Well, um . . .

Lello
Don't worry, Delbert. You can do it! Tell them how God is faithful. Tell them what faithful means!

Delbert
Well . . . um . . .

Leader
Delbert, do you know what faithful means?

Delbert

Well . . . um . . . nope.

Lello

I think it means that God always keeps His promises.

Leader

That's exactly right, Lello. The Bible says God keeps all His promises and He is loving to all He has made.

Delbert

Always? Does God still love us even when we disobey?

Leader

Yes, He does, and I know a Bible story that shows that to us.

Delbert

Haw! You do?

Leader

Yes. It's about a man named Jonah.

Lello

Yeah. God told Jonah to go to the land of Nineveh to tell them about God, but Jonah didn't want to go tell them.

Delbert

Haw. I know how he felt. So, what did Jonah do?

Leader

Jonah went the other way. He disobeyed God!

Delbert

Haw! He disobeyed God? That's not good. Was God angry?

Leader

No, God is slow to get angry. God watched over Jonah, even though Jonah had disobeyed.

Lello

Yeah, and then when Jonah was in the stormy sea, God sent a big fish to swallow him. God kept Jonah safe inside the fish's belly.

Delbert

Haw! Wow! That must have been a very big fish with a very big belly!

Lello

Yeah. I love this story.

Delbert

What happened next?

Lello

Well . . . I forgot. Delbert, let's go get my Bible and find out!

Leader

Great idea, Lello! And, be sure to bring your Bible next time so you can tell us all about it!

Lello

We will. Bah-bye every-bahhh-dy! C'mon, Delbert!

Delbert

See you guys later.

Leader

We'll see you soon.

(All exit.)