



Now get up and go

Jonah Part Three: Jonah Obeyes God
Jonah 3:1-10

"Haw! Let's run over to the garden and see if we can find Granny B," Delbert said, turning his head to look at Lello.

"Yeah. I'd love to see Granny B, but why are you in such a hurry?" Lello asked as they started to walk toward the garden.

"I can't wait to hear the rest of the story about Jonah!" Delbert yelled. He started to run. Lello smiled and ran after him.

As Granny B knelt in her garden to pull some weeds, she heard Delbert and Lello in the distance. Their running feet were not very quiet. Granny B stood up from the area she was weeding. She wiped her hands on her gardening apron and straightened her hat. Then, she walked toward the garden gate to await Delbert and Lello's arrival.

"Haw! Hi, Granny B!" Delbert called, running up to her. Lello called out a hello as she reached the garden gate.

"Hello, my little ones. Why in such a hurry?" Granny B asked.

"We want to hear more about Jonah," Lello said, smiling.

Granny B nodded her head then led them inside the garden. They all sat down and Granny B opened her Bible. "Do you remember when Jonah was swallowed by a great big fish?" Granny B asked.

"Haw! Yes, and then he prayed inside the fish's belly," Delbert added.

"Yeah, and then God forgave him for disobeying," Lello added.

"That's right. God forgave Jonah, then God told the fish to spit Jonah out onto dry land," Granny B said.

"I wonder what happened next," Lello said.

Delbert smiled widely and said, "I bet Jonah had to take a bath. He was probably stinky after being in the fish's belly. Shooooo-weeee!"

Lello laughed and echoed with a loud, "Shooooo-weeee!"

Granny B also laughed. "I'm not sure about the bath, but the Bible tells us God gave Jonah a second chance."

"When I disobeyed my mom, she gave me a second chance, too! What did God tell Jonah to do?" Delbert asked.

"God told Jonah to go to Nineveh," Granny B answered.

"Haw! I hope Jonah learned his lesson about obeying," Delbert said.

"Yes," Granny B said nodding, "this time when God said to get up and go to Nineveh, Jonah obeyed right away."

Lello tilted her head and said, "I thought Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh?"

"Sometimes obeying means doing things we do not want to do," Granny B replied.

"Baa, like going to bed when your Mom asks even if you're not sleepy?" Lello suggested.

Granny B nodded.

"Or, washing behind your ears when you're told even though you just want to splash in the tub?" Delbert offered.

Granny B nodded again. "God wants us to obey every time."

"Why?" Delbert and Lello asked.

"Because amazing things can happen when we obey God," Granny B said closing the Bible.

"Haw! I want to obey God. I'm going to get up and go just like Jonah did!" Delbert exclaimed, and with that he jumped up and ran out of the garden.

Lello stared after him in amazement calling, "Delbert! Delbert! He sure did get up and go. I can't even see him."

"Delbert has the right idea. When God says, 'Go,' it's time to get up and go," Granny B said, standing up.

Lello stood up and looked excited. "Can I do that, too?"

"Of course, my little one. Go!" Granny B shouted.

Lello took off running after Delbert. Granny B called goodbye and watched Lello disappear just as Delbert had done. Then, she walked back to her garden, knelt down, and started pulling weeds again.