God’s Message

“Jonah” said God “I want you to go to Ninevah.”

“Ninevah!?” said Jonah “Why? Ninevah is full of the nastiest, meanest, cruellest, evilest people you can find. Why do want me to go there?”

“I want to **rescue** them” said God “I want to **rescue** them from being nasty, mean, cruel, evil people and I want them to love me as much as I love them.”

So Jonah packed his stuff and got on a boat – a boat going as far away from Ninevah as he could get!

God sent a storm, a really big storm, to where Jonah was.

“What do we do?” cried the terrified sailors.

“Throw me off the boat” said Jonah “God is cross with me.”

The sailors threw Jonah of the boat and the storm stopped.

Jonah was right:

God was cross with him for running away.

But God was going to **rescue** him.

God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah whole.

Jonah spent three days and three nights in the fish’s smelly belly.

Then God told the fish to spit up Jonah – phew-wee!

“Now” said God “Get up Jonah and go to Ninevah.”

This time Jonah did.

Jonah told all the people in Ninevah that they needed to say sorry to God for all the nasty, mean, cruel, evil things they had done.

Otherwise God would finish their city for good.

Do you know what those nasty, mean, cruel, evil people did?

When they saw how much they’d hurt God they said “Sorry” and they stopped being nasty, mean, cruel and evil.

You’d think Jonah would be happy, but he was grumpy that God had **rescued** Ninevah.

But the people of Ninevah were very happy that God had **rescued** them.

And God…

God was the happiest of all.