



# Jonah

a VeggieTales Movie

**Rated:** G • **Running Time:** 82 minutes

**Themes:** Justice vs. compassion and mercy, friendship, forgiveness, obedience, avoiding self-pity and the blame game, repentance, listening to God, overcoming bitterness and resentment

**Cautions:** There's a little slapstick violence, as well as several scenes of mild peril. Although the film teaches a solid biblical point, some families may object to the artistic license it takes with the story of Jonah.

### Story Summary

In this musical comedy, a van full of talking vegetables zips along a country road on its way to a concert starring Twippo. But all is not well. One veggie child brags about having a backstage pass, which makes another mad. Pa asparagus supplies sing-along music, but his guitar keeps whacking Bob the Tomato while he's trying to drive. Additional chaos sends the vehicle careening down a hill and crashing into a stump. The veggies—pretty steamed at this point—seek refuge in a nearby seafood restaurant where they hear a fanciful retelling of the tale of Jonah from the Pirates Who Don't Do Anything.

Jonah is a prophet always ready with a message from the Lord. But when God tells him to travel to Nineveh, a land filled with unsavory veggies who slap each other with fish, Jonah balks and charts a boat (manned by our storytelling buccaneers) to take him to Tarshish. A storm springs up, nearly capsizing the ship. The pirates, Jonah and a worm named Khalil play a few hands of Go Fish to see who's at fault. Jonah loses, walks the plank, is swallowed by a huge whale, and gets visited by an angelic gospel choir. The angels lift Jonah's spirits with a song about second chances before the big fish jettisons the prophet onto dry land.

Resigned to preach, Jonah meets the friendly pirates again in Nineveh, where their motley crew is nearly done in by the city's slap-happy citizens. Fortunately, when Jonah tells the Ninevites to repent of their evil ways, he and his cohorts are freed by the king, who calls his people to act rightly. Hoping God will still smite Nineveh, Jonah watches from a nearby cliff, only to be sorely disappointed upon seeing that God has—gasp!—forgiven the Ninevites.

Back in the quiet seafood restaurant, the veggies realize the error of their ways and exchange apologies. Then they meet the Elvis-like Twippo, who offers them all a ride to the show

and back-stage passes!

### Family Activity

In the days following the movie, visit an aquarium, page through nature books or hunt online for large aquatic animals. Jonah may have been swallowed by a whale shark, a basking shark or a whale of some kind. The Bible isn't specific, so the "big fish" might even have been a unique creation. Invite your children to draw what *they* think the fish looked like. This will help them appreciate God's boundless creativity.

### Talking Points

1. Read Matthew 6:14 and Colossians 3:13-14, and talk with your children about forgiveness. Why is it sometimes hard for us to forgive one another? What example does God set for us within Jonah's story? Ask, "Are there people *you* need to forgive?"

2. Talk about what it means to *covet* (Exodus 20:17), and ask your child, "How did you feel when the kids in the van fought about the Twippo passes? Why?"

3. The VeggieTales gang tells us that Jonah "never really got it." Indeed, he resisted God's will throughout most of the movie. Why do you think he was so reluctant to do what God wanted him to do? Have you ever done something you knew God wouldn't have liked? What was the result?

4. Over the next few bedtimes, read from the book of Jonah together. Talk about the similarities—and differences—between the biblical story and the movie. Ask, "What do you think of the filmmakers' creative adjustments? What did you like best? If you were directing the movie, what would you have done differently?"

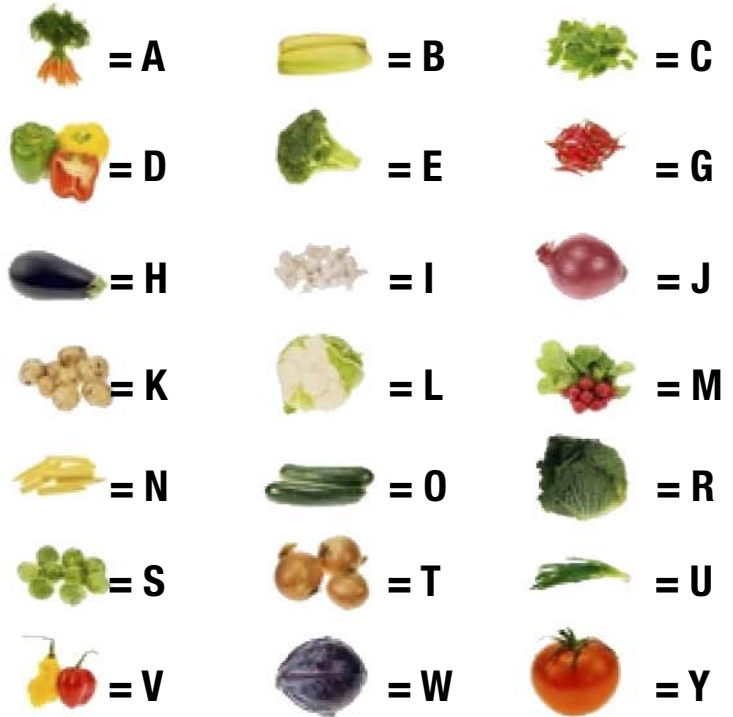
—by Paul Asay



Are you ready for a "garden-variety" challenge? Fill in the blanks by matching the letter with the correct veggie. The answer is, well, a message from the Lord!



## Produce-Aisle Puzzler



## Whale Tale

See if you can find the two whales that are exactly alike.

