(OPENING MUSIC)

BOOK: (SLIGHT ECHO) Today’s story: “Big Fish, Little Fish”. At the house just down the street and around the corner there lives a little boy, a little dog, and a little fish.

CHRIS: Stay on, Ruffles.

JOY: She’s doing it!

CHRIS: Yay! Now, lift your front feet. That’s the way. Good dog.

JOY: Ruffles could be a circus dog.


JOY: Now, don’t lose your nerve. Kick the ball, Chris.

(BARKS)

CHRIS: Ready? I’m gonna kick.

JOY: Haha. Look at her go!

CHRIS: You’re slowing down. I’ll give you another kick. Whoops!

JOY: Look out, Ruffles! She’s headed for the pool!

CHRIS: Oh, no!

JOY: Can she swim?

CHRIS: I don’t know. Help! Help! Father! Mother! Help!

PROF: Christopher! What’s going on?

CHRIS: Here.

PROF: What happened?

CHRIS: Poor Ruffles fell in the pool and almost drowned.

JOY: She’s unconscious.

CHRIS: Maybe she’s dying.
PROF: Playing tricks on Ruffles again? I’ll have to apply lifesaving techniques. Oh, she’s swallowed too much water.

CHRIS: I’m sorry, it was an accident.

PROF: It always is.

JOY: Oh, Look!

CHRIS: Ruffles -- You swallowed a fish!

JOY: It’s a fish out of water. I’ll put it back. There you go. Have a nice swim.

PROF: Mm. I think Ruffles needs some hot milk to warm her up, all right? And give her a piece of cake to restore her energy, Phoebee.

PHOEBEE: Um-mm.

CHRIS: Why don’t we all have a piece of cake?

PHOEBEE: No cake for you. You don’t deserve any. Not today. You can have some, Joy. Come along.

JOY: Thanks.

PROF: You have to learn to stay out of trouble, son.

CHRIS: Why am I always in trouble, Gizmo? There.

JOY: Chris, can you open the door?

CHRIS Sure. Coming. Yay, you’re a real friend. Thanks a lot. By the way is Ruffles all right?

JOY: Don’t worry, she’s fine now.

CHRIS: Good -- I knew mother’s cake would fix her up.

(EATING SOUNDS) It’s the best medicine. Mm? Ohh SuperBook!

JOY: SuperBook!

(Music)

CHRIS: Ooo -- Looks like the fish is gonna swallow that man!
BOOK: (SLIGHT ECHO) The man’s name is Jonah and perhaps the fish will swallow him, Chris. Would you like to meet Jonah and find out what happens?

CHRIS: Yes, but -- I’m afraid of that fish.

BOOK: Don’t worry, it won’t swallow you. Let’s go!

(Music)

BOOK: You’ll find Jonah on this boat in the Mediterranean Sea. Uh sorry about the stormy weather.

C AND J: (YELLS)

CHRIS: Getting seasick?

GIZMO: Not seasick, but I may, be getting, rusty.

JOY: Oh, come and see what the sailors are doing there.

CHRIS: What?

CAPTAIN: Heave ho, my mates.

SAILOR 1: Heave ho my foot, we’re gonna sink if this keeps on.

CAPTAIN: Yi! What’s the best way to lighten the ship, mates? Think we should throw the cargo overboard?


JOY: What if they find us and throw us into the sea with the cargo?

CHRIS: Gizmo can’t swim.

GIZMO: Let me suggest, that we hide.

CHRIS: Yeahh --

JOY: Shh.

CHRIS: Hurry!

C AND J: (REACTIONS)

GIZMO: Oh; my transistors. Wake up.

C and J: Mm?
JONAH: (SNORES)

CHRIS: Hey, I think I hear somebody.

JONAH: (SNORES)

JOY: He’s snoring.

C AND J: (REACTIONS)

JONAH: (REACTS)

JONAH: Huh?

CHRIS: Hello.

JONAH: Huh?

JOY: Hi.

JONAH: Huh, huh. Oh. Pardon me, but have I ever met you?

GIZMO: We’ve never, bumped into you, before.

JONAH: Tell me.

CHRIS: What?

JONAH: If I’m not mistaken you’re stowaways, aren’t you?

CHRIS: Not exactly stowaways ---

JONAH: Hahahahaha. Don’t worry, I won’t give you away. My name is Jonah.

CHRIS: Hi, my name is Christopher.

JOY: Hello, my name is Joy.

GIZMO: And you can call me, Gizmo.

JONAH: Glad to make your acquaintance.

GIZMO: Likewise, I’m sure. Are you, a stowaway, also?

(REACTIONS)

JONAH: (MUFFLED) It’s getting rough.

MATE: Hold ‘er steady.

CAPTAIN: I can’t hold her steady.

MATE: Don’t give up the ship.
SAILORS: Heave .. ho .. heave ho .. heave

JONAH: Gnn - gnn - Uh -

C AND J: (WHIMPERS)

JONAH: Now, don’t be afraid of the storm, children. I think the worst of it’s almost over.

JOY: Golly, I think it’s getting worse.

JONAH: Hmm. This terrible weather started the minute I set out for Tarshish, so I wonder if the storm was sent here by God so He could punish me for disobeying Him and running away.

CHRIS: Do you mean that God didn’t want you to come on this boat? Why not?

JONAH: Because he wanted me to go to the city of Nineveh and deliver a message to the people.

JOY: Why didn’t you want to go to that city and do what He said?

JONAH: Oh, you just don’t know what the city of Nineveh’s like. Why the people are so full of wickedness there it’s like walking into a snakepit full of vipers. God asked me to go warn them to change their ways or He’s going to destroy the city. But I didn’t wanna deliver that message from God.

CHRIS: Were you afraid they might get mad and take it out on you?

JONAH: No. I was afraid I might frighten them so much that they’d all be convinced to change their ways. Then God would forgive them and I don’t want that to happen. I think the wicked should be punished so I disobeyed God and ran away.

MATE: Aha Jonah! I heard what you said. So you think God should punish the wicked? I think God is punishing you. Captain, did you hear Jonah? He disobeyed God’s command.
CAPTAIN: Um-bm. God is punishing you because you disobeyed Him, Jonah.

MATE: We’re caught in this storm because of you so you’ve gotta go, Jonah!

JONAH: Oh, no --

MATE: I’m throwing you overboard. And what are these three stowaways doing on the boat? Let’s get rid of them also.

JONAH: You can’t. These children have nothing to do with the storm. You’ve got no right to hurt innocent bystanders.

MATE: Oh, yeah, you’re all going overboard to lighten the ship all we can. Now then, who’s going first?

JONAH C & J: Aahhhhh--

CAPTAIN: Isn’t it better if we let them stay ’cause we can use their help, mate.

CHRIS: Look out!

CAPTAIN: Don’t give up the ship! Hear this, all hands on deck, all hands on deck. Oh, dear, I hope you children know how to swim.

MATE: Captain, let me throw this Jonah overboard!

CHILDREN: (YELLS)

JONAH: Ohhhh, Captain, the mate is right, this terrible storm is all my fault. Please, throw me into the sea and save yourselves.

MATE: Right away!

CAPTAIN: Now hold on. I couldn’t throw my worst enemy into those waves.

MATE: Aw.

CAPTAIN: If you can help out -- and you; We’ll try again and see if we can’t reach land.

SAILORS: Heave ... ho.

CAPTAIN: Heave ... ho.
JONAH: Heave ho heave ho heave ho.
GIZMO: Heave, ho, heave, ho.
EVERYONE: (YELLS)
JONAH: The ship is doomed because of me. Well, I have to throw myself into the sea. Here I gooooo...
CHRIS: Jonah. No!
JONAH: I can’t risk your lives any longer so let me go!
CAPTAIN: Jonah, you’re gonna drown!
JOY: Oh, Jonah, please come back!
GIZMO: Don’t do it, Jonah.
JONAH: Goodbye, everybody! Pray for me.
CHRIS: Where is he?
JONAH: Glub glub.
C & J: Jo – nah!
CAPTAIN: Hey, look. Ahh – the sun is coming out.
CHRIS: The storm is over.
JOY: Jonah just disappeared.
GIZMO: Look, look, look.
C & J: (GASP)
CAPTAIN: What do you see?
MATE: What’s out there?
CHRIS: It’s a fish! A monster fish!
MATE: Holy mackerel!
JONAH: Phew! Glug.
CHRIS: It’s Jonah!
CHRIS: (YELLS) It swallowed him. The fish swallowed Jonah.
CAPTAIN: And it’s taking him away.
JOY: Poor Jonah. We’ll never see him again.

C AND J: (CRY)

COMMERCIAL BREAK

JONAH: (ECHO) Dear Lord, thank you for sending this great fish to save me from the sea. Forgive me for running away from you. I’ve learned my lesson. I’ll never disobey you again. I swear I’ll fulfill your commandments if you’ll get me out of this fish’s belly.

CAPTAIN: Come and take a trip with us again some day.

MATE: Stow away!

CHRIS: If you ever run into Jonah on your travels please give him our regards.

GIZMO: Thank him for saving our lives.

MATE: How could we see Jonah again when the fish has swallowed him up?

CAPTAIN: I wouldn’t have the heart to tell the children it’s hopeless.

Sure, we’ll give Jonah your regards.

CHRIS: Mm. (THANKS) Watch out for whales!

CAPTAIN: You bet. Anchors aweigh!

MATE: We’re off!

Chris: Have a good trip. Thanks for everything.

JOY: Hope you have fair weather.

SAILOR: Goodbye! Goodbye!

CAPTAIN: Goodbye, children.

CHRIS: Bye, Captain.

JOY: Goodbye. The captain isn’t good-looking but he’s so good hearted it doesn’t matter.

GIZMO: Pretty is as pretty does.
CHRIS: Say is that why you’re so pretty, Gizmo?
C AND J: (LAUGHS)
GREEN F: Right out that way. I saw some kind of monster!
RED VEST: Oh boy, he’s had too much sun I think.
TOPLESS: Perhaps. Perhaps he’s had too many glasses of wine. Wine, get it?
GREEN F: All right, come and see the monster for yourselves if you’re not afraid.
RED V: Who’s afraid?
GREEN F: Well, are you coming?
RED V: Yeah. I’m not afraid of monsters.
TOPLESS: What monsters?
CHRIS: Maybe he saw the big fish that swallowed Jonah.
JOY: Well, I hope so.
GIZMO: Ten four! Ten five! TEN SIX!
CHRIS: Look!
GIZMO: Ten ten: Ten eleven;
CHRIS: Gizmo! What’s the matter?
GIZMO: Monster fish, is coming, to eat, me up.
C AND J: It is?
GIZMO: Look there!
CHRIS: That’s just a rock, Gizmo.
GIZMO: Rocks, do not move. Help!
C AND J: (YELLS)
C AND J: (MORE YELLS)
JONAH: (REACTION)
CHRIS: Look!!! It’s Jonah!
CHRIS: Jonah!
JOY: Is he alive?
CHRIS: He’s breathing! Wake up, Jonah!
JONAH: (WAKING UP STRETCHES)
CHRIS: Hi!
JONAH: Huh, huh?
CHRIS: Welcome back, Jonah.
JONAH: I’m alive!
CHRIS: Because the fish that swallowed you up brought you safely into shore.
JONAH: God answered my prayers.
CHRIS: Uh-huh.
JONAH: Thank you, Lord. Thanks for saving my life and giving me another chance. I’ll go straight to Nineveh with your message and warn them of their doom as you told me to.
(PARTYING SOUNDS)
CHRIS: Wanna go to Nineveh with him?
JOY: Sure.
CROWD: (REVELRY)
JOY: I’ve never seen people drunk in the daytime.
JONAH: Huh? Hey!
CHRIS: (RUNNING) Stop thief!
JONAH: Halt!
CHRIS: Got him!
GIZMO: That bag is not, your property.
CHRIS: You give that back! (FALL)
THIEF: It’s mine now (VIOLENCE)
JONAH: Stop, thief! Stop him, somebody! Help!
GIZMO: A robbery, has been committed! Doesn’t, anyone care?

JOY: (GASP) The city of Nineveh’s a snakepit all right.

JONAH: Attention, citizens of Nineveh! You’d better listen to me. I am a messenger from God. I’m came to warn you your city’s gonna be destroyed.

2 DRUNKS: Huh? Mm?

JONAH: God’s sick and tired of your wickedness. You’ve got to repent and change your evil ways real quick.

VOICE: Listen to this clown.

JONAH: Repent before it’s too late.

JOY: Look, Jonah’s delivering God’s message.

JONAH: You’ve only got forty days and then Nineveh will be destroyed.

NOBLE: Hmm. Your majesty! Your majesty!

KING: Forty days and then Nineveh will be destroyed you say?

NOBLE: Yes, sire. Because we’re wicked. Jonah said he was asked to bring that message from God.

HKING: Then it’s got to be true.

NOBLE: Yes, majesty.

KING: Hmm. Come here and listen. (WHISPERS)

NOBLE: Um-hmm, um-hmm.

KING: Go, and hurry up now.

NOBLE: Yes, sire.

NOBLE: Call up the guard! Call up the guard!

JONAH: Yes, God punishes the wicked, and he’ll punish you. Repent before it’s too late.

SMALL CROWD: (MURMURS)

CHRIS: Think Jonah’s preaching’s gonna convince ‘em to change?
JOY: I don’t know but it would sure convince me.

GIZMO: Warning. Soldiers, approaching.

CHRIS: I’ll bet they’re coming to capture Jonah!

JOY: Maybe we should tell him he’s gotta run away.

CHRIS: I’ll go!

CHRIS: Jonah! (WHISPER WHISPER) soldiers (WHISPER WHISPER), hide.

JONAH: Mm! Thank you for listening but I can’t talk any longer because I have to run.

JOY: Hurry.

JONAH & C: (PANTING)

NOBLE: Jonah!!

CHRIS: Let’s hide in those bushes.

NOBLE: Wait! Jonah! They’ve disappeared! Well, we haven’t got time to look for them now. Come on. Let’s get back.

JONAH: (SIGH)

CHRIS: They’re gone.

JOY: We almost got captured.

JONAH: That would have been awful. If they don’t repent, and God destroys the whole city of Nineveh, we’d be destroyed as well.

CHRIS: What do you think? Will they change or won’t they?

JONAH: I wish I knew which.

JOY: I just wonder, what’s happ’ning right now.

GIZMO: I will go, and find out. Hup. two, three ...

CHRIS: Be careful, Gizmo.

GIZMO: Don’t worry. No one, will notice me.
Noble: Attention, citizens of Nineveh. The king decrees that everyone must fast. Please give up food and drink. Give up crime and sin. Pray to God. Pray for forgiveness. Pray for mercy. Pray that God will save us from destruction.

Crowd: We will!

Gizmo: Nineveh repents! I must hurry, back to Jonah, and tell him, the good news.

Gizmo: Hup two three four Hup two three four Hup twooo threeeee fourrrr Clunk. Who will...wind me...up?

Chris: Gizmo!

Joy: You were gone so long we thought that you might have gotten yourself into this kind of trouble.

Gizmo: Thank you, for coming, to my rescue. Good news, Jonah. The city, of Nineveh, repents.

Chris: Hooray!

Jonah: Well, praise be to God!

Noble: Jonah, at last I’ve caught up with you. Jonah(AFTER EMBRACE) I want to thank you for bringing the message from God and saving the city of Nineveh.

Chris: Isn’t he terrific?

Noble: His majesty has issued a royal decree. He will not allow any wickedness around here from now on.

Jonah: Wonderful news! Turn from your evil ways and I’m sure that God will forgive you.

Noble: Jonah his majesty wants so much to have a chance to meet you in person.

Jonah: Mm.
NOBLE: He said to invite you to come to the palace to see him. Will you please come, Jonah?

JONAH: Well -- well --

NOBLE: You’re invited too, children.

CHRIS: Thanks a lot.

JOY: To the palace, sure.


CHRIS: Glad you’re all right. Forgive me now, please?

JOY: She wants you to go with her.

CHRIS: All right, I’ll come with you. Hi. That’s the fish she swallowed. She wants me to see it.

JOY: I’d rather swallow a fish than be swallowed by one. Here. Would you like to give the fish some food?

CHRIS: Me first!

JOY: No, me!

CHRIS: I’ll give you a turn.

JOY: Ladies before gentlemen.

CHRIS: Uh-oh.

PROF: (REACTION)

C AND J: Ohhh ---- (Spill food)

MOTHER: Christopher! You could kill the goldfish like that! You’ll have to stay in your room ‘til you learn to behave!

CHRIS: Oh, not again.

BOOK: A big fish, a little fish. That’s our story for today.

(CLOSING MUSIC)