



Prophet Stories

Prophet

Yunus

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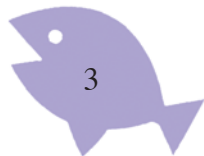
Prophet Yunus



Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire. It was a large and grand city. It was filled with many people.

Life was easy in Nineveh because it had great riches. There were many opportunities for work there.

The people of Nineveh should have thanked Allah for all of their blessings. But they didn't. Rather, they were arrogant and ungrateful. Their **power** and **money** had spoiled them.







When the people became comfortable they forgot their Creator. The ones who forgot their Creator also forgot good manners and good deeds. They closed their hearts to Allah. Instead, they began to carve idols of wood and stone to which to pray.

If they just would have thought about it for a moment they might have said:

“What use is it for us to pray to these things we have made with our own hands?”

But they didn't use their brains. They did, however, use their **brains** to think up ways to do **bad** deeds. They had become a heartless people.





Among the people of Nineveh was a man who was **very different**. He was a fine man who feared Allah. His name was Yunus.

Allah had made Yunus one of his prophets. At that time he was still in his **thirties**.





Yunus began to give good advice to his people in the name of Allah. The people were shocked, as if they had been slapped.

“What is this fellow talking about?” They said to one another in surprise.

However, the words did not belong to Yunus. He was only communicating Allah’s commands.



“Do you believe in a god other than the ones we pray to?”

the people asked Yunus.

“Can these idols of wood and stone be gods?” Yunus replied calmly. “You are certainly misguided. Give up praying to these things. Turn to the One God who made and blessed you.”





The people of Nineveh grew angry.

“Who do you think you are telling us that we’re wrong?” they shouted.

“I am a prophet who has been sent by the Creator of the universe,” **Yunus** replied.



The people were thoroughly aggravated. It was too much for them to handle. A man was telling them to leave their gods and he was claiming to be a prophet! They threw insults at Yunus.

Yunus did not expect the people to believe in him so easily. But at least he thought they would think about what he had to say. Allah gave each one of us a **brain** so we can think and tell the difference between good and bad.



Some from among the people
did think. They said:

"Why are we going against Yunus? He isn't asking for money. We have never known him to tell lies. We know he's not crazy. Let's give him a chance. Let's listen to him. Maybe we truly are wrong in our ways."

They began to take **Yunus seriously** and as they listened to his words their hearts were filled with light. The words that he spoke opened stunning and amazing doors to the world, doors that they had never imagined. They were at peace. They felt sorry for having wasted the time that Allah had given them.



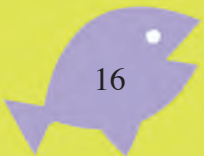


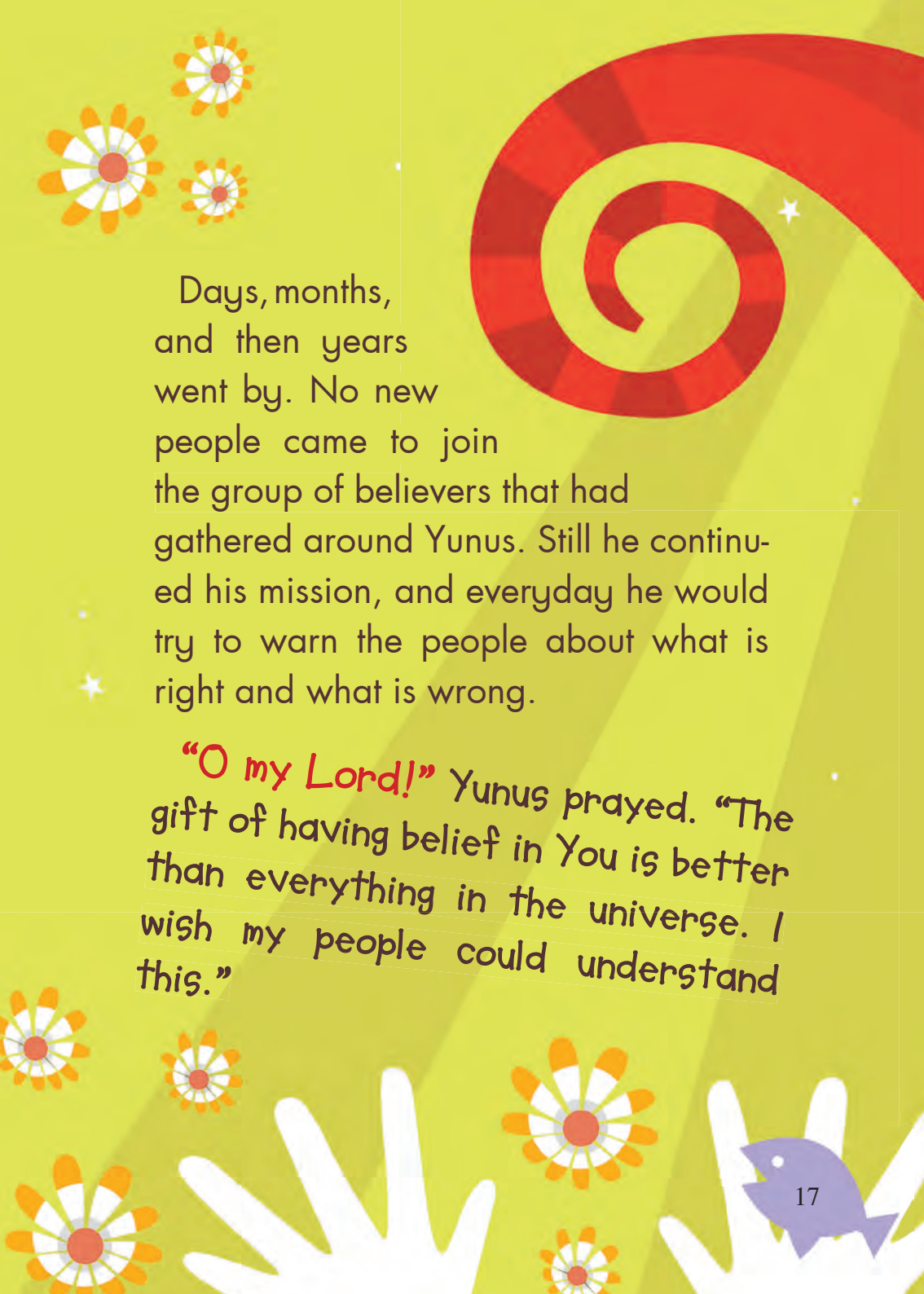


“O Yunus!” they said. “We believe in your mission. We ruined ourselves by praying to idols. We hope our Lord can forgive us!”

Yunus was happy to hear such words. There were now people who believed in him, even if they were small in number. He tried his best to comfort them.

“I am **sure** our Lord will not hold you responsible for the things you didn’t know.” He said to the people. “Allah is the Most Forgiving.”





Days, months,
and then years
went by. No new
people came to join
the group of believers that had
gathered around Yunus. Still he continu-
ed his mission, and everyday he would
try to warn the people about what is
right and what is wrong.

“O my Lord!” Yunus prayed. “The
gift of having belief in You is better
than everything in the universe. I
wish my people could understand
this.”