



You Can't Run From God!

A Bible Study on the Book of Jonah to encourage teenage girls to focus on the Grace and Mercy of God.

Listening Guide

Introduction



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life John 3:16



The book of Jonah is like an action drama. It will take us on a journey to high seas, to the belly of a great fish to a violent city. The main character, Jonah, is going to frustrate us, and we will judge him with critical eyes until we see that our hearts are just like his heart.

Most important, the book of Jonah will show us the sovereign, compassionate and merciful God.

THE BOOK OF JONAH:

(i) Reveals God's heart [Jonah 2:9,3:10,4:2,11]

(ii) Reveals Jonah's heart [Jonah 1:3,9 / 2:2,7,9 / 4:1,3,6,9]

(iii) Reveals World's heart [Jonah 1:5,14 / 3:5-9]

(iv) Reveals Our hearts [Jeremiah 17:9]

There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is death [Proverbs 14:12]

THE BOOK OF JONAH:

(i)	Reveals God's	sovereignty
(ii)	Reveals God's	judgement

(iii) Reveals God's deliverance

(iv) Reveals God's Salvation

(iv) Reveals God's COMPassion

(iv) Reveals God's rebuke



Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the LORD and turn from evil [Proverbs 3:7]

THE BOOK OF JONAH:

Shows us that God has th	e first	word and the	last	. word
n our lives and that is poi	ntless trying to	run from Him o	r do things our	own
way.				

When we do, it brings Pain and consequences



Background

- Have you ever been angry with God?
- Do you sometimes not like the way God acts?
- Have you ever refused to obey God?
- Have you ever tried to run away from God?
- Have you ever thought that you know better than God?
- Have you ever sulked because God doesn't do things your way?

If you answered **yes** to any of the above questions, then you have a lot in common with **Jonah**, the **main character** in the book of Jonah.

Jonah lived during the reign of King Jeroboam II. (793-753 B.C.) and ministered as a prophet of Jehovah for fifty years from 800 - 750 B.C. in the northern kingdom of Israel. Jonah was the only prophet that was required to go and preach a message of God to a Gentile nation. Normally God's prophets brought God's message to God's people, the Israelites. Jonah's mission was to go to Nineveh and rebuke the Assyrians for their wickedness and threaten them with destruction if they did not repent.

The book of Jonah is an **historical book** that took place over a period of time. It is also a **didactic book** (to teach the reader key lessons). It is only 4 chapters long and only has 48 verses. Go ahead and read the entire book in one sitting and then we will work through it chapter by chapter, event by event.

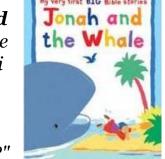
Jonah is also the only "minor prophet" to be mentioned by Jesus.

JUIIA	in is also the only inition prophet to be inelitioned by Jesus.
<u>?</u>	Summarise what Jesus says in Matthew 12:39-41 / Luke 11:29-32.
• • • • • •	
?	What did Jesus says in Matthew 16:4?
?	What does 2 Kings 14:25 record about Jonah's biography?



So... Jonah was real person preaching to real people!

A little girl was reading on an airplane when the man beside her noticed her storybook, entitled "Jonah and the Whale." The man thought he would see if the little girl believed the story about Jonah. So, after saying Hi to the girl he asked her to tell him about the book she was holding. The girl said the book was about Jonah, and how he was swallowed by a whale.



The man asked: "Do you believe that really happened?"

The little girl replied, "Yes, I believe the story of Jonah is true."

You mean you really believe that a man can be swallowed up by a big whale, stay inside him all that time, and come out of there still alive and okay?

She said, "Absolutely -- this story is in the Bible and we studied it in Sunday school today!"

Then the man asked, "How can you prove that the story about Jonah is true?"

She thought for a moment, and then said, "When I get to Heaven I'll ask Jonah."

The man then asked, "What if Jonah's NOT in Heaven?" She put her hands on her little waist, and sternly said: "Then I guess YOU can ask him!"

Reasons to study the Book of Jonah:

- It is the one book of the Old Testament that sets forth the resurrection of Christ. (Matthew 12:39-41)
- It teaches that salvation is not by works, but it is faith that leads to repentance (Jonah 2:9)
- It shows that God's purposes of grace and mercy cannot be frustrated.
- It shows that God will not cast us aside for faithlessness (He may not use us, but He will not cast us aside.)
- It shows us that God is good and gracious (Jonah 4:2). It is one of the most wonderful pictures of God in the entire Bible.
- It shows that God is the God of the Gentiles too.

Author:

The book's author is anonymous, and there are no clues elsewhere in Scripture to identify the author. The foundational source for the book was likely Jonah's own telling of the story after his return from Nineveh, or another prophet of his time.

Theme:

The main theme is that the Lord is a God of boundless compassion not just for "us" (Jonah and the Israelites) but also for "them" (the pagan sailors and Ninevites – the Gentiles).

Several other major themes in the book include:

- 1. God's sovereign control over events on the earth
- 2. God's determination to get his message to the nations.
- 3. The need for repentance from sin in general
- 4. The need for repentance from self-centeredness and hypocrisy In particular
- 5. The full assurance that God will relent when people repent.

Literary Features:

[For those of you who love English!]

The book of Jonah is a literary masterpiece.

While the story line is so simple that children can easily follow it, the story is marked by as high a degree of literary sophistication as any book in the Hebrew Bible.

The author uses **structure**, **humour**, **hyperbole** (**exaggeration**) and **irony** (among others), to communicate his message.

The main category for the book is satire:

witty language used to convey insults or scorn

The exposure of human vice or folly. Jonah emerges as a slightly laughable, pathetic, and prejudiced man.

Three stylistic techniques are especially important.

(1) The gigantesque motif:

The motif of the unexpectedly large

- The magnitude of the task assigned to Jonah,
- The magnitude and fierceness of the wind and storm
- The magnitude of the fish that swallows him,
- The magnitude of the repentance that Jonah's eight-word sermon accomplishes.
- (2) Irony incongruity between what might be expected and what actually occurs;
- The ironic discrepancy between Jonah's prophetic job description and his humiliating, disgraceful behaviour, and the ironic impossibility of fleeing from the presence of God.
- (3) **Humour**, as Jonah's behaviour is not only disgraceful, but also ridiculous. [Adapted from the ESV study Bible notes]

Chapter 1 - The Prodigal Prophet

• Read through **chapter 1 of Jonah** printed below.

Take your coloured markers and mark the following:



- Highlight any references to Jonah in blue
- Mark any references to time with a



- Double underline any geographical locations
- Block phrases referring to the storm in orange
- ullet Mark any reference to God with a red $oldsymbol{\Delta}$
- Circle any verbs referring to God's actions in pink
- Highlight "wickedness, calamity, evil" in green

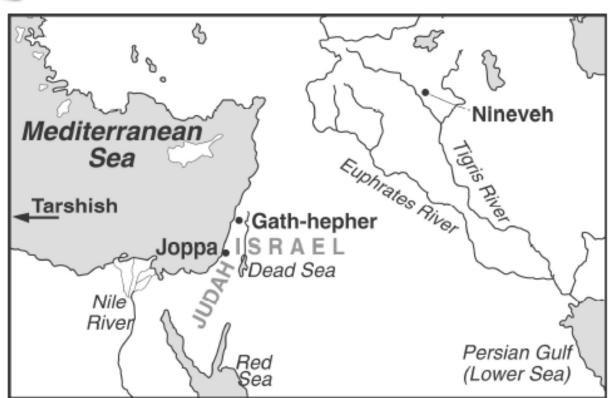
Jonah 1 - The Great Wind

- The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, 1
- "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their 2 wickedness (evil) has come up before Me."
- **But Jonah** rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. 3 So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.
- The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great 4 storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.
- Then the sailors became <u>afraid</u> and every man cried to his god, and 5 they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. **But Jonah** had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.
- So the captain approached him and said, "How is it that you are 6 sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish."
- Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on 7 whose account this calamity (evil) has struck us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.
- Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this 8 calamity (evil) struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"
- He said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven 9 who made the sea and the dry land."
- 10 Then the men became extremely <u>frightened</u> and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

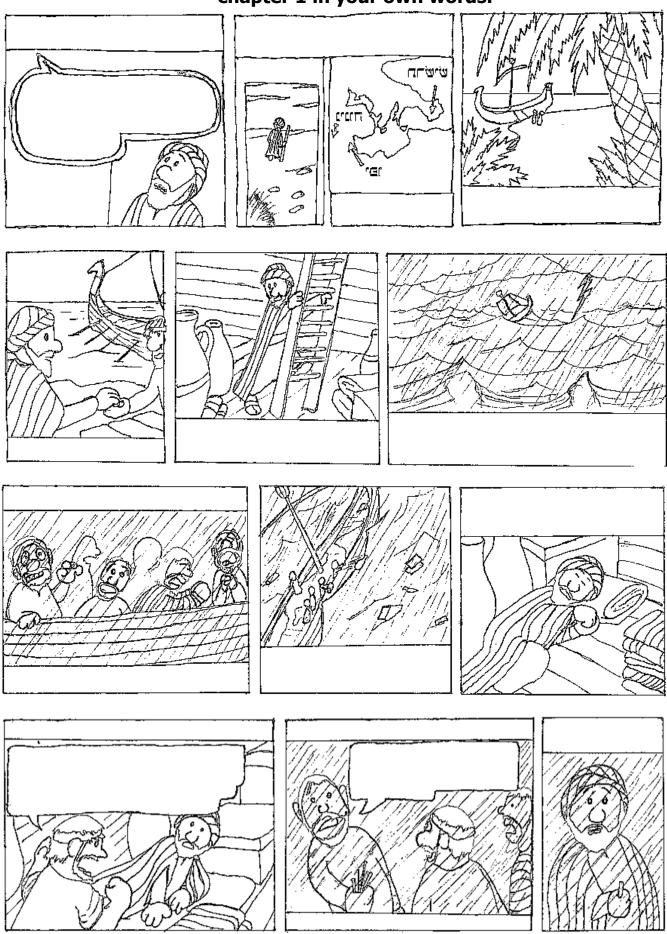
- **11** So they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?"--for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.
- **12** He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this **great** storm *has come* upon you."
- **13** However, the men rowed *desperately* to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming *even* stormier against them.
- 14 Then they called on the LORD and said, "We earnestly pray, O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man's life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O LORD, have done as You have pleased."
- **15** So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.
- **16** Then the men <u>feared</u> the LORD **greatly,** and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made yows.
- 17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

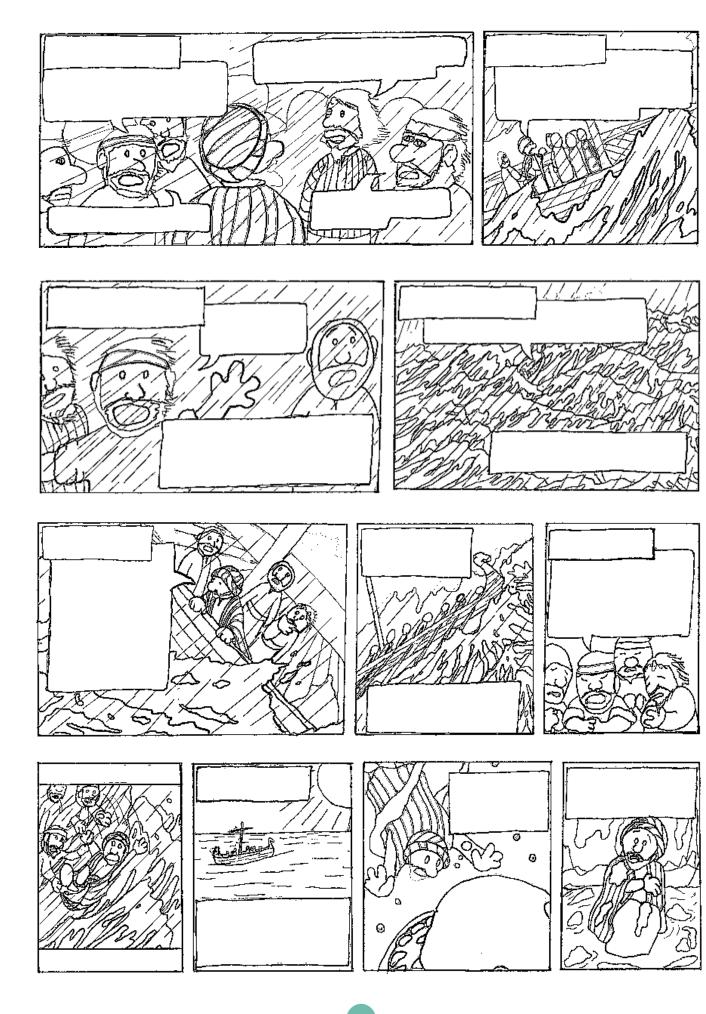
Personal observations	
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	

Mark Jonah's journey on the map below.



Jonah 1 Complete the cartoon by summarising the events of chapter 1 in your own words.





Read Jonah 1:1-3



What are the first 5 words of this book?



"But Jonah ran away from the Lord..."

Jonah 1:3

When a book starts with such a powerful phrase, we should immediately know that something important is going to happen.

Consider Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God..."

"The word of the LORD..." (Jonah 1;1)

Did you notice that LORD is spelt with all capital letters?

This refers to YHWH, the "I AM" God, the Sovereign Creator God.

This is the God who spoke to Jonah!



Who is Jonah according to verse 1?

Jonah's name means **"dove,"** a symbol for Israel as silly and senseless. (Hosea 7:11) "There is nothing more simple than a dove." (Eastern Proverb) His father's name, Amittai, means **"son of my faithfulness."**Jonah will remain the object of God's faithful love.

- What was God's commission to Jonah?

 What was **Jonah's** response to this word from the LORD?
- What was his intention? (Last phrase of verse 3)
- Consider **Abram** in Genesis 12:1,4 and Genesis 22:1-3 What were his responses to the word of the LORD?

(Note the significance of the first word of verse 3.)

Consider **Isaiah** in Isaiah 6:1,8. What was his response to the word of the LORD?



What was the big deal? Why was this MISSION IMPOSSIBLE for Jonah? Why was Jonah so set on not going to preach to the Ninevites? Running away from God never works. It only exposes a that is opposed to God's sovereign plan!

We may judge Jonah and the futility of his runaway plan, but how often have we not done the same thing? It has been happening since creation, when Adam and Eve tried to hide from God. We "run" from God when we want to hide from His presence, when we want to do our own thing or when we want to escape His judgement.

Even though there is no escaping God (He is OMNIPRESENT), in our desperation and panic, our first impulse is to RUN, FLEE and ESCAPE!

Jonah plans to run 3200km away from God in the opposite direction!

Nineveh is just north of modern day Baghdad in Iraq and Jonah want to flee across the Mediterranean Sea to Tarshish, (modern day southern Spain). He was DESPERATE to not obey God!



Record what Psalm 139:7-10 says about God and His omnipresence.



What should we conclude from these verses in Psalm 139?



Tarshish was known for its wealth. See Jeremiah 10:9 / Ezekiel 27:12.

Let's take a brief look at some facts about Nineveh to perhaps understand Jonah's reaction about going there:

Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian empire. The Assyrians were a fierce, warlike people. They were idol worshippers and were known for their physical and psychological cruelty to the people they attacked and defeated. Historical accounts tell us the following:



- They would skin their victims alive and then impale their bodies on sharpened stakes and leave them there to die.
- They forced parents to watch their children being burned alive, then kill the parents.
- They would bury their victims up to their necks in sand and leave them to die of hunger and thirst or a wild animal attack.
- Whole cities were known to commit suicide rather than fall into the hands of the Ninevites!



Perhaps we can begin to understand Jonah's hesitancy to go to Nineveh and why he probably didn't think such a city deserved God's mercy. Jonah also realised that God may show compassion on the Ninevites and then God might use the repentant Ninevites to judge the unrepentant Jews who had not heeded Jonah's message in 2 Kings 14:34ff.

Just the name Nineveh would strike bitterness, dread and fear in the heart of an Israelite. God was calling Jonah to leave His people and go and preach to his enemies. Jonah placed no value on Nineveh or on the Ninevite people. And in his heart, he believed he was justified in that.



Define the tem **PREJUDICE**





Prejudice and racism have been rife in most countries throughout history. Prejudice takes on many forms and has its outworking in many different ways - some subtle, some overt. In South Africa, prejudice and discrimination have played and continue to play a significant role in our actions and attitudes, in the sphere of religion, education, sport, politics, business etc. These attitudes are entrenched and rationalized. The outworking of prejudice has been seen in xenophobic attacks and aggression.



What prejudicial attitudes have you been exposed to or witnessed? Have you grown up with a hatred or fear of any group of people?



In our journeys with God, we are likely to come across our own "Ninevehs." These might be an actual place or a task or a relationship.

We'd rather not go there and would prefer God not to ask us to go there either! We will find many reasons to stay home or run away.



Summarise Jesus' words in Matthew 5:43-45.

What will happen to the Ninevites? What will happen to Jonah? It's always easy to excuse our disobedience with theological reasons. I can imagine Jonah thinking, "The Lord didn't stop me from getting a ticket to Tarshish. This must be His will."

Or, "The people of Nineveh couldn't be open to God. They'll laugh me out of town. Besides, there are so many unreached in

Israel. Why go to Nineveh?"

[Steven J. Cole]

We've looked at Jonah and why he **did not want to go** to Nineveh.

Let's look at God and why He **did want Jonah to go** to Nineveh. In verse 1 God says he has seen their wickedness. Wickedness and sin cannot be hidden from God and He doesn't ignore it. But God is not only a God who judges sin, He is also a God who shows mercy and grace.





Look up the following references and note the aspects Of God's character that would explain His commission to Jonah.

Exodus 34:6	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Nehemiah 9:31	
Psalm 78:38	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Psalm 103:8	
Psalm 111:4	
Joel 2:13	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Jonah 4:2	
John 3:16-17	•••••



Jonah knew this about God. He knew God might show grace and mercy to the Ninevites and he wanted no part of it! "So he paid the fare..." It seemed easy enough and Jonah must have seen this as an "open door." A ship sailing to Tarshish probably only came across every 6 months. The timing could have been seen as an act of God's

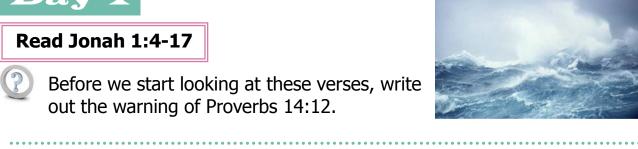
providence for Jonah, a "sign!"

"Providence or no providence, the Word of the Lord is to be our guide, and we must not depart from it under pretext of necessity or circumstances. It is very easy to make up a providence when you want to do so. If you sit down and try to find in the ways of God to you an excuse for the wrong which you mean to commit, the crafty devil and your deceitful heart together will soon conjure up a plea for providence."

[David Guzik]

BEWARE THE DANGER OF BEING GUIDED BY CIRCUMSTANCES!





?	Verse 1 started with "the word of the LORD." How does verse 4 start?
?	Describe, in detail, what God did as a consequence to Jonah's fleeing from Him. (Don't forget the adjectives!)
	•••••••••••••••••••••••••
3	What 3 reactions/responses did the sailors have to this storm?
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••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
?	Where is Jonah while all this is going on? (Note the "BUT" in v.5b)

We have noted that God caused this calamity. "The Lord sent."
Let's look at some other passages that deal with calamity.
As you look up each reference, note what you learn about the calamity and what a person should do when it happens.
Also, if the reference tells you, note who causes the calamity.

Reference	Reason for calamity	What should you do?	Who/what caused it?
Is. 45:5-7			
Jer. 18:7-11			
Dan. 9:11-14			
Amos 3:6-7			

All the while the ship sailed smoothly over the sea, Jonah forgot his God. You could not have distinguished him from the veriest heathen on board. He was just as bad as they were." [Spurgeon]



Read the captain's words in verse 6 very carefully. What is the irony of his words?

It must have seemed ironic to Jonah that the sailors demanded that he call on his God. His only reason for being on that ship was to escape his God.

What a curious and tragic scene!

All the sailors were religious men, devout in their prayers to their gods. Yet their gods were really nothing, and could do nothing. There was one man on board who had a relationship with the true God, knew His Word, and worshipped Him - yet he was asleep! [David Guzik]



Forms of the word FEAR are keywords in this chapter:

Then the sailors became	(v.5)
"I am a Hebrew and I	the LORD" (v.9)
Then the men became increasingly	(v.10)
The men th	e LORD greatly. (v.16)

The men fear the storm and end up fearing the LORD of the storm!

- Let's contrast Jonah's fear of the LORD with the sailors' fear of the LORD.
 - What was **Jonah's response** to the fear of the LORD? (v,3,10b)
 - What was **sailors' response** to the fear of the LORD? (v16)
- What happens in verses 7-8?
- The casting of lots was a common way for making decisions in OT times. But what did Jonah know about the casting of lots? See Proverbs 16:33.

Write out Jonah's answers to their questions. (v.9)
In verse 10, the sailors ask, "How could you do this?" In effect, they are saying, "Are you mad, have you lost your mind?" Even though they were pagans, they knew you don't mess with the gods, let alone the creator God (v.9), the true sovereign God who "does as He pleases" (v.14). Jonah was counted responsible for the mess and disaster that had come upon them. Rightly so! Does your confession about God match up with your actions. Does your "walk match your talk?"
What is Jonah's solution in verse 12?
What was the sailors' response in verse 13?
Do you note another example of irony? The sailors' don't want 1 man to die, but Jonah is quite happy for an entire nation to die!
What happened as soon as Jonah was thrown into the sea? (v.15b)
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
This was immediate proof that Jonah's God was the real God!
In verse 6 and verses 14, the captain and sailors ask that Jonah's God would not let them perish. What wonderful evidence of God's grace do we see in verse 16? [Physically]
[Spiritually]
In every chapter of Jonah, we see the LORD performing miracles. Note the first 4 miracles in chapter 1
Reference: Miracle:
Jonah 1:4
Jonah 1:7
Jonah 1:15
Jonah 1:17

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Jonah had sunk to the deepest depths.

In God's economy, the only way up
is down [Proverbs 29:23]. We cannot
run from Him and we cannot hide from
Him. If we are His children, he will
pursue us, draw us back and humble us.

This is God's discipline. If we refuse to obey His Word, He will discipline us in love, to bring us back. That is what a loving Father does. This will often be painful and God humbling us might be humiliating. But that is the price of arrogant disobedience in the face of a Holy, Sovereign God.

[Hebrews 12:6,11]



Disobedience





Disaster

Jonah had it all planned out. – but nothing worked out like Jonah had planned it! It all could have been avoided!

If the Lord has been calling you to follow a certain pathway and you choose to disobey and go in another direction – DO NOT BE SURPRISED when troubles and disappointments and even disaster come your way! One thing after another went wrong until Jonah found himself in a place of utter helplessness.



God knows how to bring us to our knees!
God knows how to take the "BUT" out of us!

God can only use you when you stop **REBELLING** and are in a position of **SUBMISSION**



Take a brief look at Moses' objections and "buts" and what God's answers were:

Verse	Moses' Objection	God's Answer
Ex. 3:11-12		
Ex. 3:13-14		
Ex. 4:1-5		

Meditate on Psalm 95 and Psalm 96.

Highlight the characteristics of God found in these 2 Psalms and <u>underline the phrases</u> that tell us what our responses should be to this God. Then write out a prayer of praise and worship to God, based on these 2 Psalms.

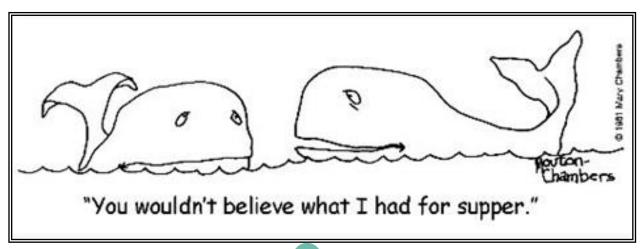


Characteristics of God	Our Responses
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Memorise Psalm 95:3-7a

To memorise a passage of Scripture, read it aloud 3x in a row and 3x during the day.

Soon it will be memorised!





Jim Elliot: No Fool

January 2, 1956, was the day that 29-year-old Jim Elliot had waited for most of his life. He jumped out of bed, dressed as quickly as he could, and got ready for the short flight over the thick Ecuador jungle. Almost three years of jungle ministry and many hours of planning and praying had led Jim to this day. Within hours, he and four other missionaries would be setting up camp in the *territory of a dangerous and uncivilized Indian tribe known then as the Aucas*



(Ow-cuz), known now as the Waodani (Wah-o-dah-nee). The Aucas had killed all outsiders ever caught in their area. Even though it was dangerous, Jim Elliot had no doubt God wanted him to tell the Aucas about Jesus.

Growing Up

As a little boy growing up in Portland, Oregon, Jim Elliot listened carefully as visiting missionaries told about life on faraway missions fields. He asked them questions and dreamed about being a missionary himself some day. *It made him sad that so many people in other countries died without knowing about God.*

The Long Boat Trip

On February 2, 1952, Jim Elliot waved goodbye to his parents and $boarded\ a$ ship for the 18-day trip from San Pedro, California to Quito (Kee-toe), Ecuador, South America.

He and his missionary partner, Pete Fleming, first spent a year in Quito learning to speak Spanish. Then they moved to Shandia (Shan-dee-ah), a small Quichua (Kee-chew-wah) Indian village to take the place of the retiring missionary. Jim and Pete studied hard to learn the language and fit in. Their hard work paid off; in six months, both were speaking Spanish well enough to move to Shandia. When they arrived in Shandia, they also had to learn the speech of the Quichuas.

Planning to reach the Aucas

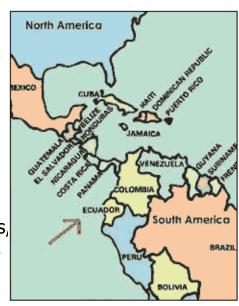
Three years later many Quichuas had become faithful Christians. Jim now began to feel it was time to tell the Aucas about Jesus.

The Aucas had killed many Quichuas. They had also killed several workers at an oil company-drilling site near their territory. The oil company closed the site because everyone was afraid to work there. Jim knew the only way to stop the Aucas from killing was to tell them about Jesus. Jim and the four other Ecuador missionaries began to plan a way to show the Aucas they were friendly.

Nate Saint, a missionary supply pilot, came up with a way to lower a bucket filled with supplies to people on the ground while flying above them. He thought this would be a perfect way to win the trust of the Aucas without putting anyone in danger. They began dropping gifts to the Aucas. They also used an amplifier to speak out friendly Auca phrases. After many months, the Aucas even sent a gift back up in the bucket to the plane. *Jim and the other missionaries felt the time had come to meet the Aucas face-to-face*.

Operation Auca

One day while flying over Auca territory, Nate Saint spotted a beach that looked long enough to land the plane on. He planned to land there and the men would build a tree house to stay safe in until friendly contact could be made. The missionaries were flown in one-by-one and dropped off on the Auca beach. Nate Saint then flew over the Auca village and called for the Aucas to come to the beach. After four days, an Auca man and two women appeared. It was not easy for them to understand each other since the missionaries only knew a few Auca



phrases. They shared a meal with them, and Nate took the man up for a flight in the plane. The missionaries tried to show sincere friendship and asked them to bring others next time.

For the next two days, the missionaries waited for other Aucas to return. Finally, on day six, two Auca women walked out of the jungle. Jim and Pete excitedly jumped in the river and waded over to them. As they got closer, these women did not appear friendly. Jim and Pete almost immediately heard a terrifying cry behind them. As they turned they saw a group of Auca warriors with their spears raised, ready to throw. Jim Elliot reached for the gun in his pocket. He had to decide instantly if he should use it. But he knew he couldn't. Each of the missionaries had promised they would not kill an Auca who did not know Jesus to save himself from being killed. Within seconds, the Auca warriors threw their spears, killing all the missionaries: Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Nate Saint, Pete Fleming and Jim Elliot.

Waiting to Hear

Late in the afternoon of Sunday, January 8, Elisabeth Elliot, Jim's wife, waited by the two-way radio to hear Nate Saint and his wife discuss how things had gone that day. But there was no call. As evening turned to night, the wives grew worried. They knew the news was not good.

The next morning another missionary pilot flew over the beach to look for the men. He saw only the badly damaged plane on the beach. News quickly spread around the world about the five missing missionaries. A United States search team went to the beach, found the missionaries' bodies, and buried them.

But don't think Operation Auca ended there, because it didn't.

In less than two years Elisabeth Elliot, her daughter Valerie, and Rachel Saint (Nate's sister) were able to move to the Auca village. *Many Aucas became Christians*. They are now a friendly tribe. Missionaries, including Nate Saint's son and his family, still live among the Aucas today. Elisabeth Elliot even helped make a movie about Operation Auca called *Through Gates of Splendour*. It showed real life scenes of the five missionaries on the beach with the friendly Aucas. It also included footage of the two years she and her daughter spent living in an Auca village.

Jim's Mission

During his life, Jim Elliot longed for more people to become missionaries. In his death, however, he probably inspired more people to go to other countries to share the love of Jesus than he ever could have in life.

[www.christianhistorytimeline.com]

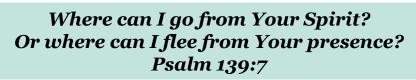
Personal Observations

What inspires you and what challenges you about this account of Jim Elliot's life? What contrasts do you see as you compare it with Jonah's life?				
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Listening Guide

Chapter 1 ~ Week 1







The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

Proverbs 1:7

 There are 2 very important phrases that are mentioned in Jonah 1 Fleeing (running) from the presence of the Lord (Jonah 1:3,10) The Fear of the LORD (Jonah 1:9,16)
FLEEING FROM THE LORD:
(i) Fleeing from the LORD exposes your heart not you destination
(ii) Fleeing from the LORD exposes a Proud , stubborn hear
(iii) Fleeing from the LORD affects the relationship not the
distance
(iv) Fleeing from the LORD will result in discipline and/or
humiliation [Hebrews 12:6]
You have placed our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your presence [Psalm 90:8]
FEARING THE LORD:
(i) Fearing the LORD makes you acknowledge God and His Word before you acknowledge Yourself and your wants
(ii) Fearing the LORD makes you run away from sin [Proverbs 8:13]
(iii) Fearing the LORD is evidence of a humble, submissive hea
(iv) Fearing the LORD will result in experiencing God's Presence and God's Blessing [Acts 3:19, James 4:10]
Now then let the fear of the LORD be upon you; be very careful what you

do, for the LORD our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality... [1 Chronicles 19:7]



Chapter 2 - The Praying Prophet

• Read through **chapter 2 of Jonah** printed below.

Take your coloured markers and mark the following:



- Highlight any references to Jonah in blue
- Block phrases referring to Jonah's distress in orange
- Circle any verbs referring to God's actions in pink
- Mark any reference to God with a red △
- Highlight "prayed, prayer, called" in green
- Underline the phrase "Your holy temple" in purple

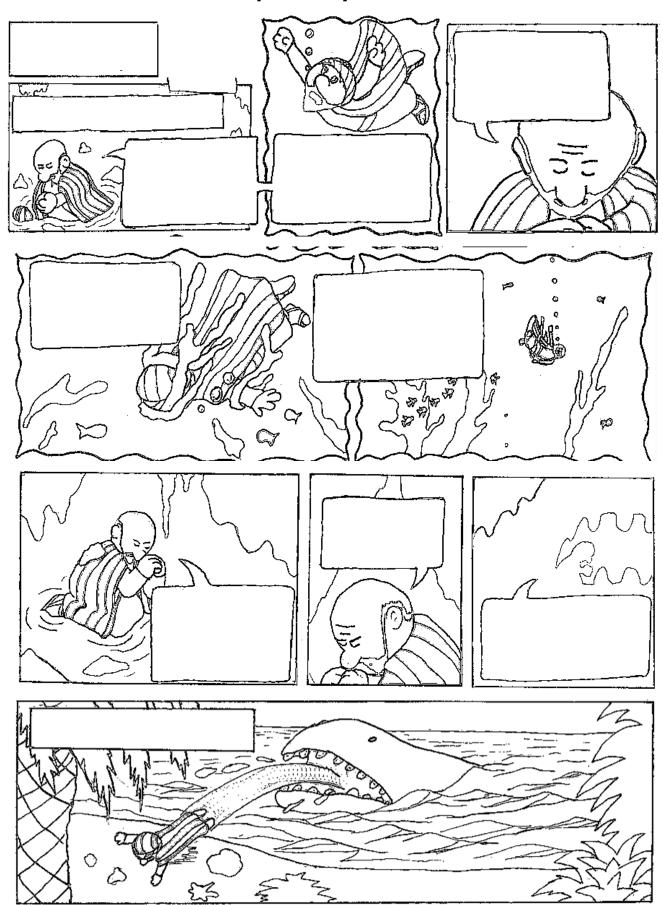
Jonah 2 - The Great Fish

- 1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish,
- and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol (grave); You heard my voice.
- **3** "For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.
- **4** "So I said, 'I have been expelled from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.'
- **5** "Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.
- **6** "I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars *was* around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.
- **7** "While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.
- 8 "Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,
- **9** But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. **Salvation is from the LORD**."
- **10** Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

Personal observations



Jonah 2 Complete the cartoon by summarising the events of chapter 2 in your own words.



Read Jonah 2:1-2

For years, infidels and skeptics have mocked the Bible for this account of a man being swallowed by a giant fish and living to tell the tale. They claim that it is an absolute impossibility. "In my
distress I called
to the LORD, and
He answered
me."
Jonah 2:2

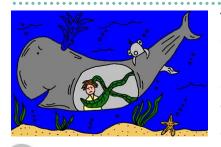
In 1891, off the coast of the Falkland Islands, a man on a whaling vessel named James Bartley fell overboard. As he bobbed in the ocean, he was swallowed whole by a huge whale.

A day and a half later, the crew on his boat caught a large whale and when they began the process of disembowelling the animal, they saw movement in the whale's stomach. They cut it open and found James Bartlett in there. His skin had been bleached white and his hair eaten off by the gastric juices of the whale, and he was unconscious, but he was alive.

He revived and was able to talk of his experience. What happened to that whaler proves that what the Bible says is accurate. [Alan Carr]



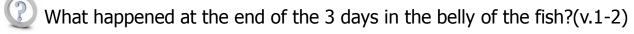
How long was Jonah inside the fish?



Psalm 34:15

Though Jonah was a rebellious, resistant believer, God was not finished with him yet - so the LORD preserved his life.

God could have rescued Jonah in any number of ways. He chose this specific way because of the effect it would have on Jonah's heart.



(2)	What 2 things do you notice in these first 2 verse?(v.1-2) What does Jonah do and what does God do?
•	What does Jonah do and what does God do?

?	What does David confirm in the following verses?
	Psalm 18:6

.....

What does God promise in Isaiah 66:2b?



Read Jonah 2:1-10

Jonah's prayer follows the standard form of a Psalm of Praise:

Summary statement of praise [v.1-2a]



What is Jonah praising God for?

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•	Summary	of his	<u>predicament</u>	[v.2b-6a]

(3)	What w	as his	predicar	ment?
-----	--------	--------	----------	-------

Put yourself in his position.	. What thoughts or feelings would he have had?

Jonah realizes that it was not the sailors that cast him into the sea, it was God Himself. Jonah sees that he has never been out of God's hands, though he tried to run from Him.

• Statement relating to his deliverance [v.6b]

- What was the means of his deliverance?
- Who does Jonah acknowledge "cast him down" and "brought him up?"

• Ends with a vow to offer sacrifice [v.7-9]

What is Jonah committing to and affirming in these verses?

Salvation is of the LORD

Jonah knows this in the <u>close-up picture</u>; he knows that his **salvation is of the LORD**. He also now knows it in the <u>big picture</u>; that salvation is not of a nation or a race or a language, or not of man at all.

No, salvation is of the LORD. It is GRACE!

This is where he could have been in Chapter 1:1



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What was the immediate result of Jonah's repentance? (v.10)





Throughout the book of Jonah we will see God's sovereignty and authority over nature and created things.

What evidences have there been in chapter 1 and 2?

Verse	God's authority over creation	Man's response
1:4		
1:15		
1:17		
2:10		

God did all of this - just to send a preacher to Nineveh!

Jonah's deliverance came after Jonah's repentance was complete. Jonah wasn't just *sorry* for what he did, he was now *trusting* God again.

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Write out 1 John 1:9 and memorise it

[John Piper comments on Jonah's experience in the fish:]

There is the simple statement that sums up what happened when Jonah sank in the water: he cried out to God, and God answered him by sending the fish. There is a lot of encouragement for us here that I want you to see. The general point I want to make is that God answers his children when they cry to him in distress. Then I think the text gives us some specific pointers to how and why God answers us when we call on him in distress. First, God answers us in spite of our guilt. Second, God answers us in spite of His judgment. Third, God answers us and delivers us from impossible circumstances. Fourth, God answers us in the nick of time. Fifth, God answers us in stages, not all of which are comfortable. Sixth, God answers us in order to win our undivided loyalty and thanks. Finally, God answers us in our guilty distress to help us become merciful like He is.

God was basically saying...

"Jonah, don't you see what I was trying to teach you when I answered your cry of distress and sent the fish to save you?

- I had mercy on you in spite of your guilt.
- I had mercy on you in spite of My own sentence of judgment.
- I saved you from impossible circumstances.
- I delivered you in the nick of time.
- I commanded a fish to save your life.
- You were filled with a song of thanksgiving for my mercy and vowed your loyalty to Me.

Jonah, Jonah, be merciful, even as I have been merciful to you!"

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Summarise Psalm 32:1-5



I praise the Lord that we serve the God of the Second Chance!

He doesn't write His people off when they mess up, but He forgives them, restores them and uses them again for His glory. Just look at Moses, he was a murderer, **Ex. 2:12**. Consider Mark, he abandoned

Paul and Barnabas on a mission trip, **Acts 15:38**; but God restored him and used him in a great way, **2 Tim. 4:11**. Look at David, he messed up in some mighty big ways, but God still used his and his life for His glory. Then there is Peter; he denied the Lord three times, but Jesus forgave him and used him as a mighty preacher of the Word of God.

(Note: There are times when we can fail the Lord and lose our right to hold certain offices. There are times when our influence with men is so devastated that it can never be fully repaired.

But, there will never be a time when the Lord will refuse to forgive His repenting child and to restore them to a place of fellowship! It is possible that you might not be able to do what you once did, but there is a place of service for all those who will repent and call out to the Lord once again!)



Consider your own salvation

Write your own "Psalm of Praise" using the same outline as Jonah's prayer:



• Summary statement of praise	
••••••••••••••••••	•••••••
•••••••••••••••••••••••	••••••
 <u>Summary of your predicament</u> Who and were you were before you were saved before salvation. [See Ephesians 2:1-10] 	. Your position
•••••	
• <u>Statement relating to your deliverance</u> How God saved you. His grace and mercy to you [See Ephesians1:3-8, 2:1-10]	u.
••••••••••••••••••••••••	
•••••	••••••
•••••	
• End with a vow of sacrifice and commitment How you will commit your life to Him. [See Ron	nans 12:1-2]
••••••••••••••••••••••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •



Samuel Morris: African Missionary to America

You have heard of missionaries who went to Africa to tell the people about Jesus. But did you know that in the late 1800s an African man went to America and showed Americans the love of Jesus?

His name was Samuel Morris, or Kaboo, as he was known to his tribe. His story is as amazing today as it was to those who met the young Samuel Morris more than 100 years ago. Here is his story based on his own account.



Pay or Sammy Suffers!

The year: 1872

The place: My native country of Liberia, in Africa

"You must pay if you want peace," threatened the enemy chief. "We will pay," thundered my father, "We will pay." As the oldest son, I was taken as a hostage until my father, also a tribal chief, could pay off the war debts. Each month, my father brought gifts to the enemy chief, but they were never enough. The chief beat me daily with a poisonous, thorny vine he used as a whip. The poisonous thorns infected the wounds on my back, making me sick with chills and a fever.

A Bright Light and Broken Knots

After many whippings, I was so weak, I could no longer stand. I was tied to a wooden cross to be beaten. My captors planned to bury me alive if my father didn't bring enough goods next time. I actually began to look forward to death. At least I would be released me from this unbearable pain. As I

The Chief
planned to bury
Kaboo alive, up to his
head, and place honey
in his mouth to
attract ants,

hung over the grave they had dug, I could feel myself slowly dying. Then suddenly a bright light appeared over me! The ropes miraculously fell off my hands and feet! I heard a voice call my name, and it told me to run! All of a sudden, I felt strong. I ran as fast as I could into the jungle and hid in a hollow tree until night came. I now had time to think about what had happened. What caused the bright light? Who had spoken to me? How did I become

strong so quickly? I didn't have any answers, but I knew I must run far away. If I returned to my father, the enemy chief would kill my entire tribe. As I stepped out of the hollow tree into the darkness, I was amazed--the bright light that shone on me earlier was still there. It guided me through the night.

My Kneeling Friend

After walking for many days, I came to a farm. A young worker greeted me and took me to his boss. The boss gave me clothes to wear and a job. I noticed there was something different about the young farm worker. I often saw him kneeling on the floor. He told me he was praying to God, his Father in heaven. He invited me to go to church with him. I went and found the presence of God there. It all began to make sense to me. I now know it was Jesus who saved me from my captors. Jesus was the light who guided me through the jungle and to my new home!

As I began to learn more about Jesus, I asked him to be my Saviour. After I was baptized, an American missionary who was teaching me gave me a new Christian name: Samuel Morris.

It Really Did Happen

I know my story about the bright light seems impossible, but many months later I met a young boy who had been a slave of the enemy chief at the time I was a hostage. He said, "We did not know what had happened to you. We saw the bright light flash over you. We heard someone call your name, and then you were gone." After I told him about the miracle, he became a Christian, too.

Nothing Stops God Taking Me to America

I had so many questions. I was hungry to know more about God. I decided to go to America to study and learn. I went to the African coast and found a ship headed to America. The ship's captain refused to let me on board. I asked God to change his heart, and he did! One of his sailors became very sick. The captain let me take



his job, assuming that I knew how to sail, but I didn't. When he and the sailors drank too much, they treated me very badly. One man even tried to kill me. But I showed them God's love. Over the months at sea, many of them, including the captain, became Christians. A ship, once so full of hatred and drunkenness, became a vessel of love and unity in Christ.

America Warms to Sammy Morris

We arrived in New York City, and I spent many months with Stephen Merritt, a man the missionaries said could teach me more. My desire to know God better helped stir the hearts of the men at the homeless mission that Stephen operated. Many of them became Christians. Stephen later urged me to go to Taylor University, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Even though the University was having hard times, the dean felt that God wanted me to come. God used my desire to know him better to start a spiritual revival in the town, after a local newspaper printed a story about an all-night prayer service we had. It also included the story of my capture and conversion to Christianity.

The name Samuel Morris became known in almost every home in Fort Wayne. So many donations came in to the "Samuel Faith Fund" that the university began to grow. (The fund helped other needy students, too.)

PostScript

Samuel often became sick because of the cold Indiana climate that he was not used to. He asked God to heal him, but Samuel's work on earth was done. He died just five years after coming to America.



But the story doesn't end there. God used Samuel's simple faith and strong prayer life in a mighty way. Many students took the Gospel that Samuel understood so well back to Africa and even around the world. **Taylor University** is still sending out missionaries today, thanks in part to the faith of a young African man named Samuel Morris.

[www.christianhistorytimeline.com]

Personal Observations							
What inspires you and what challenges you about this account of Samuel Morris' life? What similarities are there to Jonah's life?							
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Listening Guide

Chapter 2 ~ Week 2





Yet God is my king form of old, Who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth. Psalm 74:12

God is the God of deliverance and the God of salvation, to the Jews and to the Gentiles, to Jonah and to you and me.

COD	, C	DEI	IVER		
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(i) G	od planned our deliverance before we realised we needed eliverance
(ii)	God delivers us even when we don't deserve deliverance.
(iii)	God delivers us even when we call to Him.
(iv)	God delivers us in perfect timing
(iv)	God delivers us unexpectedly and supernaturally
(vi)	God delivers us to restore us.
(vii)	God deserves all the credit for our deliverance.

For by grace you have been saved, through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not as a result of works so that no-one can boast.

[Ephesians 2:8-9]

OUR PRAYERS:

(i)	Our prayers for deliverance are to	thankful
(ii)	Our prayers for deliverance are to	remorseful
(iii)	Our prayers for deliverance are to	humble
• ,	Our prayers for deliverance are to	worshipful
` ,	Our prayers for deliverance are to	purposeful

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

[Psalm 51:17]

Chapter 3 - The Preaching Prophet

• Read through **chapter 3 of Jonah** printed below.

Take your coloured markers and mark the following:



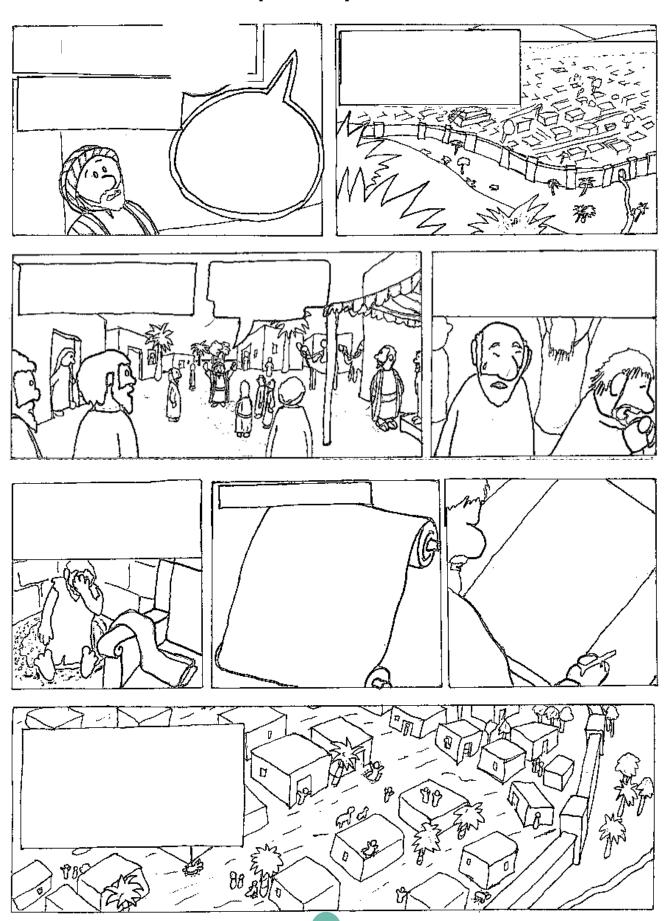
- Highlight any references to Jonah in blue
- Block phrases referring to what the Ninevites did.
- Circle any verbs referring to God's actions in pink
- Mark any reference to God with a red △
- Highlight "call, turn, turned" in green

Jonah 3 - The Great City

- **1** Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,
- **2** "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you."
- **So Jonah** arose and went to Nineveh according to **the word of the LORD**. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.
- **4** Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk (on the first day); and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."
- **5** Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.
- **6** When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.
- **7** He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.
- **8** "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.
- 9 "Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."
- **10** When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.



Jonah 3 Complete the cartoon by summarising the events of chapter 3 in your own words.



Read Jonah 3:1-3



The first 3 verses of chapter are almost a direct parallel to the first 3 verses of chapter 1. After Jonah repented, God called him again. He was under no obligation to call Jonah again, but He did so out of grace and mercy. He is giving Jonah a second chance.

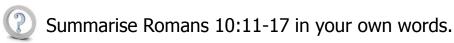
"Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD."

Jonah 3:3

By paralleling here the book's opening remarks, almost word for word, the author skillfully conveys the idea that Jonah is being offered a new beginning." (Alexander)

What are the differences and similarities between Jonah 1:1-3 and Jonah 3:1-3?

Differences		Similarities
Jonah's obedience require		
Nineveh and then, as Nine 3 days to walk around Nir		
What was God's commiss	sion to Jonah in Jona	h 1:2 and 3:2?
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
This time Jonah obeyed. Eve through the entire city, Jonah		,
commission he received from	•	•
bringing revival to the city of		,
As followers of Christ. W	hat commission have	e we been given?
See Matthew 28:19-20		
		•••••
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	





Did you notice the verb "arose" in verse 3? This is in deliberate contrast to Jonah going down below deck in chapter 1 and going down into the belly of the fish in chapter 2. God is at work.

Remember – in God's economy, the only way UP is DOWN! [Proverbs 29:23]. But once we are down, in humility, repentance and submission – God will restore us and raise us up!

Only then we are ready to be used by him and see Him at work through us for His glory!



Have you ever felt you have messed up in a certain area of your life and there is no way God can use you now?

What Biblical characters can you think of who really messed up, but

What Biblical characters can you think of who really messed up, but then repented and God restored and used mightily?



Let's look at 3 of them. Look up the passages to see how they messed up and then look up the passages to see how they are referred to in Scripture.

Teleffeu	to in Scripture.	
Character	How they messed up	What they are called
Abraham	Genesis 16:2, 20:2	James 2:23 / Hebrews 11:8
• David	2 Samuel 11:1-17	Acts 13:22 / 1 Kings 9:4
• Peter	Luke 22:33-34/Mark 14:66-72	2 Matthew 16:17



Read Jonah 3:4-10

In chapter 1 we saw **REBELLION**

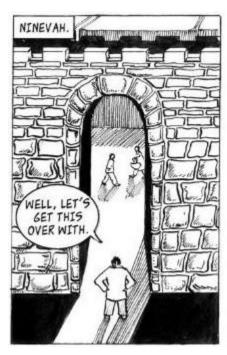
In chapter 2 we saw **REPENTANCE**

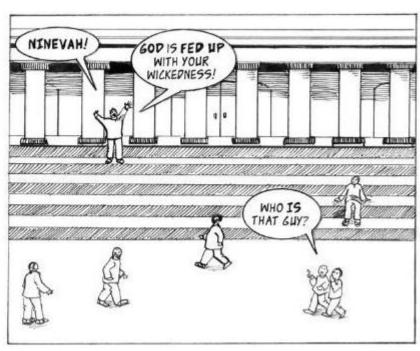
In chapter 3 we are going to see **REVIVAL**

Jonah's enters the city and speaks to 1/3 of the people on day 1. He preaches an 8 word message of destruction. He probably said more, but destruction was the was the main gist of his sermon to the people.

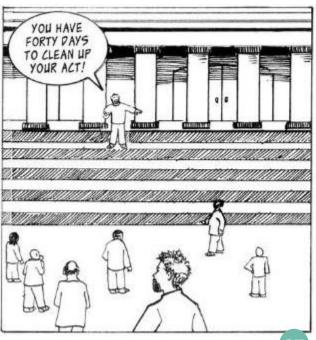


What was his message according to verse 4?



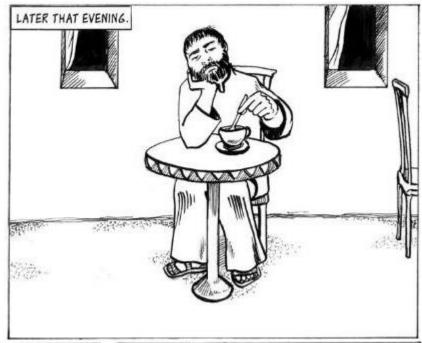


REVIVAL























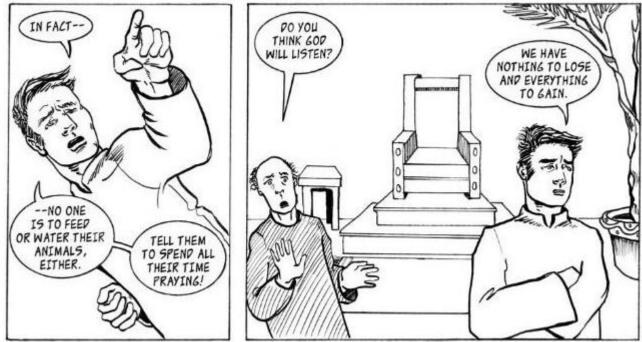


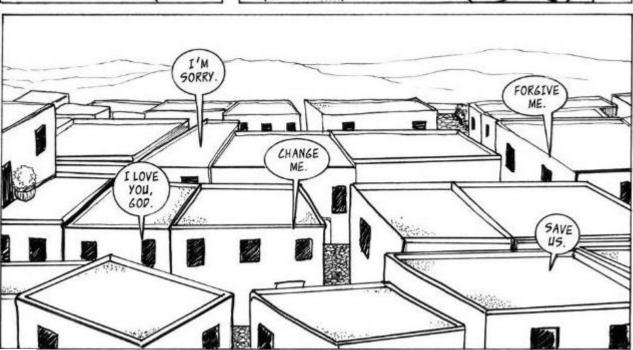












What 3 things did the people who heard the message do? (v.5)

What 5 things did the King of Nineveh do when he heard? (v.6-7)



God used Jonah's message to stir the hearts of the people who heard.

God's Word does not return to Him without achieving what God intended for it to achieve. God, the God of Salvation is at work in the hearts of the Ninevites. It is supernatural. God's Word has the same power and effect today!

Jonah must have been quite a sight as he entered the city of Nineveh. It is likely that his skin was bleached white by the gastric juice of the fish's stomach and that his hair was dissolved off his body.

Most commentators seem to agree that although Jonah is obeying and not fleeing, he is doing so with a **reluctant heart** and seems to be doing some things his own way. **He is obeying, but on his own terms.**

- In chapter 3:2 it is inferred that the God's message to the Ninevites has changed, yet Jonah still seems to preach the judgement, destruction message of chapter 1:2
- Normally a prophet of God, when going to another place, would go to the king first. Jonah does not do that. The king would give authority and credibility to the prophet and would endorse his message so that the people would listen. Jonah goes to the people first, hoping they will ignore him.
- Compare the different commission God gave to Jonah in Jonah 1:2 and Jonah 3:2. (notice the words "against" and "to")

 Jonah 1:2

 Jonah 3:2

 Have you ever had this same attitude? You obey on the outside, but you are still rebelling on the inside? Your mouth says "Yes," but your heart says "No?"

 Yes No

 DESPITE Jonah's methods and reluctant heart, all the Ninevites believed in God! They bow down to an unknown God (ELOHIM) who threatened to destroy them! But they are bowing down to the True God, the God of salvation! God's Word is God's Word! It has POWER!

 Write out what Hebrews 4:12 says about God's Word.

What does Ro

What does Romans 1:16 say about the Gospel?

Day 5

Let's look more closely at the reactions of the Ninevites. Remember – these are a violent, cruel, powerful and intimidating people. In Jonah's book, they deserve no mercy! Yet what God does in the hearts of the Ninevites is miraculous and awesome. Their actions show repentance, humility, submission and surrender to



Elohim. They cried out, believed, fasted, prayed and turned from their evil ways. That is true repentance and salvation!

They believed in God v.5

To believe God is to believe what God says, to be true; **"to believe in God"** expresses not belief only, but that belief resting in God, trusting itself and all its concerns with Him. It combines hope and trust with faith, and love too, since, without love, there cannot be trust. They believed then the preaching of Jonah, and that He, in Whose Name Jonah spoke, had all power in heaven and earth. But they believed further in His unknown mercies; they cast themselves upon the goodness of the hitherto "unknown God." Yet they believed in Him, as the Supreme God, the object of awe. [Albert Barnes]

(3)	Do you believe God or do you believe in God? Explain.
•••••	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
?	What warning does James 2:19 give us?
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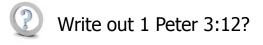
They called a fast and put on sackcloth v.5

It was not then a repentance in word only, but in deed. A fast was at that time entire abstinence from all food until evening; the sackcloth was a harsh garment, irritating and afflictive to the body. They who did so, were (as we may still see from the Assyrian sculptures) men of pampered and luxurious habits, uniting sensuality and fierceness. Yet this they did at once, and as it seems, for the 40 days. They "proclaimed a fast." They did not wait for the supreme authority. Time was urgent, and they would lose none of it. [Albert Barnes]

If repentance is anything, it is not business as usual. When repentance comes, something has to change and something has to be different.

A change of heart shows a change of deeds. At salvation, how do our hearts and desires change?
••••••
What does Romans 6:17-18 say about our change at salvation?
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
When the king heard (v.6) he arose. He lost no time and he repented, and sent out a proclamation to be obeyed. This king was the king of Nineveh, the king, whose name was dreaded far and wide, whose will none who disputed, prospered. "He who was accounted and was the greatest of the kings of the earth, was not held back by any thought of his own splendour, greatness or dignity, from fleeing as a suppliant to the mercy of God, and inciting others by his example to the same earnestness." The kings of Assyria were religious, according to their light. They ascribed all their victories to their god, Asshur. When the king came to hear of One who had a might such as he had not seen, he believed in Him. [Albert Barnes] Write out Psalm 102:15.
••••••
They called on God earnestly v.8
It means coming to God with a passion and seriousness about your sin and your need for His mercy and forgiveness. This is not a quick, once off prayer. This is desperation! This is the constant prayer of a begging, undeserving heart! This is seeking God with all your heart and soul. Nothing else matters. No excuses. (That us why they covered their animals with sackcloth and they were not fed or watered by day – nothing worldly is important – this is such overarching repentance!) They do not want to perish at the hand of this God! (Hebrews 10:31)





They turned from their wicked ways and violence v.8

Repentance involves an acknowledgement of sin, a confessing of sin and a deliberate turning away from sin. Repentance has hope in the mercy and love of God. It hope that God will **relent** and that the repentant people will **not perish**.

Repentance reflects a humble, dependant heart.

God, the God of grace, sees that heart and has compassion and shows mercy.



What is God's response in verse 10?

God honoured their repentance, even though their past sin was just reason enough for an outpouring of judgment. God mercifully relented from judgment against the people of Nineveh.

We do not obligate God to forgive us when we repent. Instead, repentance appeals to God's mercy, not His justice.



God's mercy did not make Jonah a false prophet. See what Jeremiah 18:7-8 says.

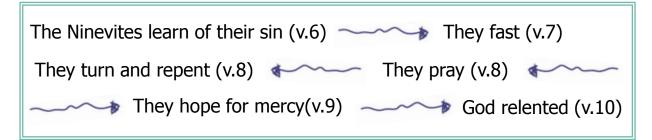
Jonah's preaching was like all warnings of judgment: **it was an invitation to repent and avert the promised judgment.** His words had an implied "if you do not repent" in front of them. Remember that we are not told the sum total of Jonah's preaching; though we should assume that the statement in Jonah 3:5 is the central theme of what Jonah said, we should not assume it was *all* that he said. [David Guzik]





How does God's mercy and compassion encourage you personally?

God did the same in the time of Noah. His warning of destruction only came to pass because the people refused to repent of their wicked ways. In His patience, God gave them 120 years to repent. [See Genesis 6-7]



Consider God's compassion, grace and mercy to you

Using Romans 6:11-23, write a prayer of praise to God for what He has done in your life and your commitment to turn from your evil ways.

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Adoniram Judson – Turning back to God

I sat by the fireplace after supper, poking a long stick into the crackling fire. Mother was clearing the table and little Mary cooed sweetly in her cradle--a wonderful sound to my ears after hearing her cry and cough so many nights lately. Father lit his pipe. "I hear they call you Virgil at school now."

"Yes, Father. They all say I do the lessons too fast!"
"If you train your mind, son, you will become a great man one day," Father replied from the nearby rocker.

"I'm going to enrol you in Captain Morton's School of Navigation What do you think of that?"



Adoniram Judson
could read books at age
3 and could read and write
Greek and Latin at age 9.
"Virgil" is an old-fashioned
nickname meaning
"bookworm"

I could have shouted! Father kept his word and enrolled me in the navigation school, a short distance from my home near Plymouth, Massachusetts. I learned how to chart the sun and stars and read marine maps. I dreamed of sailing to far away places some day.

Turning Away from God

On the evening of September 13, 1796, a knock came to my bedroom door. It was Father.

"It's Mary," he said. His face was pale as though he'd taken sick. "She's dead."

I felt as though Father had hit me in the stomach. Immediately I thought of Father's recent sermons saying that even little babies had to decide to become a Christian or they'd go to hell. His message didn't sound right to me then, but now, now it made me mad. I became so angry at father and his beliefs that I rejected God. I didn't want anything to do with the God my father described, who could send my innocent baby sister to hell.

Turning to Deism

When I was 16, I enrolled at Rhode Island College, where Jacob Eames became my best friend. He invited me to go with him to parties filled with rich and intellectual people. If my father had known, he would have brought me home and grounded me.

"Adoniram, do you really believe that God cares about people?" Jacob asked me one evening.

"I don't know," I answered honestly.

"I am a Deist," Jacob told me proudly. "I believe that God is out there somewhere, but he is not interested in us. What do we have to offer him?" Many of my classmates in 1806 were Deists, always arguing that God existed, but didn't really care about us.

A Deist believes

that God created the

universe, but does not get

involved in running the universe. The type of God that

Deists believe in doesn't

care about people or

"I don't know," I answered. "Let's talk about something more interesting. What do you think you will become after graduation?"

"I'm going to be a United States senator and maybe even the president!" exclaimed Jacob. "But first I'm going to New York City to have some fun."

I laughed, admiring Jacob's love for life. He wasn't afraid to try anything.

As it turned out, I went home to Plymouth to teach after graduating. The tensions between my parents and me grew and grew. I finally told them that I had become a Deist. I felt bad about making my mother cry, but I argued

Turning to Jesus

into the night with my father.

Against my parents' wishes, I left for New York City in search of some fun. I looked for my old friend Jacob, but couldn't find him. No one had ever heard of him. After a month of sleeping on hard floors and eating oatmeal three times a day, I'd had enough. I left New York City and rode my horse from town to town, wondering what had become of Jacob Eames.

One night I stopped at an inn, but was told there was no room. After begging the innkeeper for lodging of any kind, I was allowed to share a room with a dying man. The innkeeper had hung a sheet to divide the room in half, but all through the night I heard the loud groans of the dying man. He sounded like he was afraid to die.

The next morning, I asked the innkeeper, "How is the man in the next room?" "Died early this morning," he replied.

"Who was he?" I asked.

"An intellectual young man, I hear," replied the innkeeper. "His name was Jacob Eames."

A chill ran down my spine as I gasped aloud. I'd looked all over New York City for Jacob. How could he die ten feet away from me behind a sheet? Jacob's death not only made me sad, but it made me think. Was Jacob right? Was God distant and uncaring?

I knew I needed answers to these questions, so when I returned home I enrolled in Andover Seminary where I debated the facts of the Bible with my professors. I finally realized that the Bible was true and that there is a loving God who cares about people! I committed my life to serving Him! I still didn't share my father's belief that babies who die would be doomed, but I began to realize that father and I agreed on most things in the Bible.



A Call to Burma

One day I found a book in the seminary library that talked about a British officer who was sent to Burma in 1795. As I read about the land of Burma where people worshiped idols, I felt a strange fiery excitement inside.

I am staring at my future! I thought. I'll tell the Burmese people about Jesus!

On February 18, 1812, shortly after I was ordained as a missionary, my new wife Ann and I sailed away

from our family and friends in America. Four of my friends became missionaries with us and, in fact, we became known as America's first missionaries. While our friends went to India, Ann and I followed our hearts to Burma, where we hoped to tell the Burmese about Jesus.

After we arrived in Burma, Ann and I learned the new language. It took me years to do it, but I translated the entire Bible into Burmese. Although we told them about Jesus all the time, it took six years before one person accepted Jesus as their Saviour.

Postscript

Adoniram and Ann Judson went through many hard times in Burma. The poor food, unbearable heat, and widespread diseases made life difficult. Two of their babies died in the terrible climate, and both Ann and Adoniram were imprisoned during the war with Britain. But when Adoniram died in 1850, there were 7,000 baptized believers, 63 Christian congregations and 163 missionaries in Burma. To this day, over 150 years later, his Burmese Bible translation is still in use.

Personal Observations

[www.christianhistorytimeline.com]

Ad Ho life	Adoniram Judson's life? How do you see God's compassion and mercy illustrated in his life?																																													
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Listening Guide

Chapter 3~ Week 3





The time is at hand, the kingdom of God is fulfilled, Repent and believe in the Gospel. Mark 1:15

Repentance couples faith and belief in God. Repentance is of the heart and is a turning "away from" and a "turning to."

TRUE REPENTANCE:
(i) Repentance begins with hearing God's word
(ii) Repentance begins with Believing God's word
(iii) Repentance begins with acting on God's word
(iv) Repentance begins with crying out to God.
(v) Repentance begins with turning away from your sin and evil and turning to God and righteousness.
(vi) Repentance moves God's heart
(vii) Repentance results in God's Mercy
(viii) Repentance brings LOPE
For the LORD you God is gracious and compassionate, and will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him. [2 Chronicles 30:9]
(i) Our Posture will illustrate our intent [Jonah 3:5,6]
(ii) Our Prayers will illustrate our attitude [Jonah 3:8]
(iii) Our actions will illustrate our heart [Jonah3:8]
God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. [James 4:6]

Chapter 4 - The Pouting Prophet

Read through chapter 4 of Jonah printed below.

Take your coloured markers and mark the following:



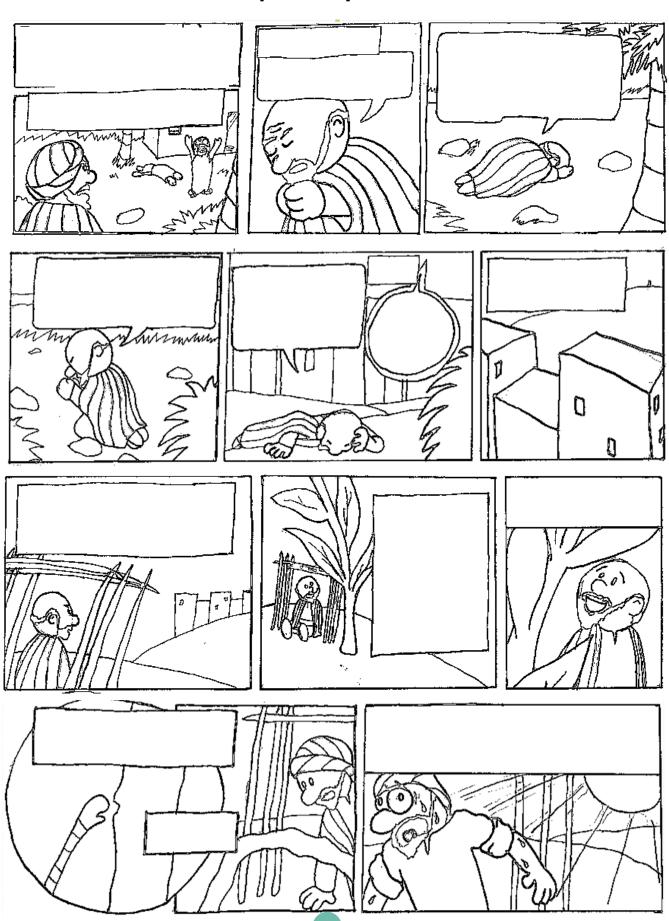
- Highlight any references to Jonah in blue
- Block phrases referring to Jonah's emotions.
- Circle any verbs referring to God's actions in pink
- Mark any reference to God with a red △
- Highlight all Gods attributes in green
- Underline the word "compassion" in purple

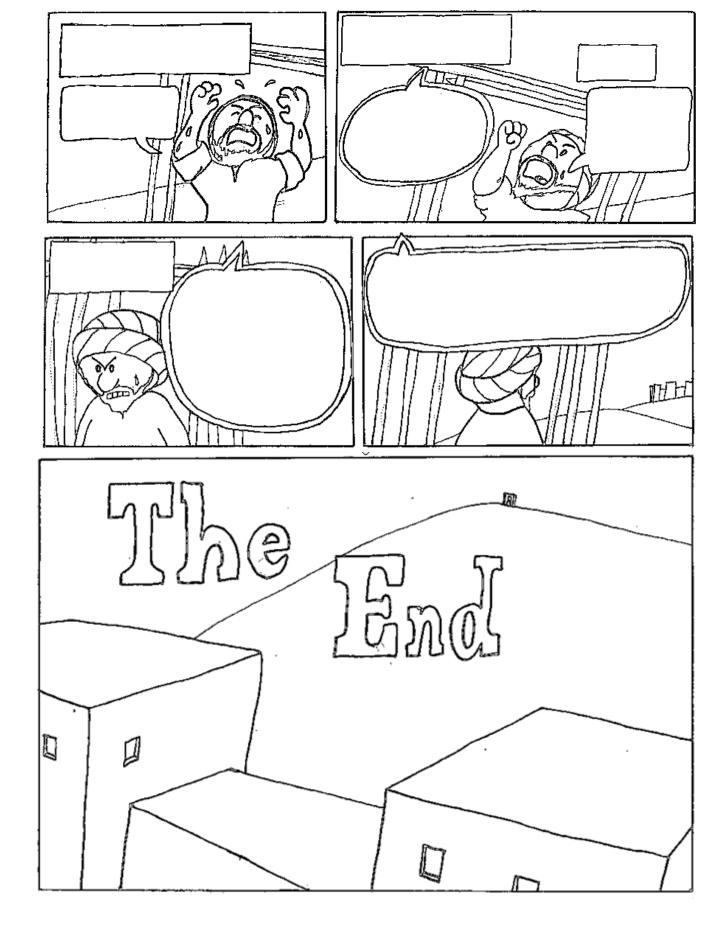
Jonah 4 - The Great Kindness

- **1 But** it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.
- He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my *own* country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.
- 3 "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life."
- **4** The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"
- 5 Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.
- **6** So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.
- **7** But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered.
- **8** When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with *all* his soul to die, saying, "**Death is better to me than life.**"
- **9** Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death."
- **10** Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.
- **11** "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

Day 2

Jonah 4 Complete the cartoon by summarising the events of chapter 4 in your own words.





Day	"I knew I shouldn't have come!"
Read Jona	10d Weie d
	Chapter 4 parallels chapter 2 in structure. But this is Jonah's angry prayer. This prayer focuses on Jonah's self-centredness and hypocrisy: Jonah prayer to the Lord [1:17-2:2 / 4:1-2] Jonah's prayer [2:1-9 / 4:2-3] The Lord spoke/said [2:10 / 4:4]
What is	the first word of chapter 4:1?
"BUTS" be was not end his heart. mercy but	d have thought that we would have left all Jonah's whind in chapter 1! Obviously the "fish experience" mough of a lesson for Jonah. He did not fully change He experiences God's deliverance, compassion and to does not believe the Ninevites deserve it. emotions does Jonah display in Jonah 4:1?
	The Message translates Jonah 4:1 as "Jonah was furious. He lost his temper."
What m	ade Jonah so angry?
② What w	ere Jonah's reasons for his attitude according to verse 2?

This is strange, because usually the preacher is pleased when his hearers repent, but Jonah wasn't. There was something about the whole matter that **displeased Jonah**. Not only was this strange, it was very strange, because Jonah was very upset at the success of his preaching. We should not miss Jonah's intensity here, because the language in the original

What irrational request does he make of God in verse 3?

Hebrew is strong. [David Guzik]

Jonah is saying: "I told you so!"



God questions Jonah's heart.

It is tough when God questions our hearts, because He knows our hearts! God likes to ask us questions, because they reveal our heart. It also puts us on proper ground before God, because He has every right to question us and we owe Him answers.



If we are angry against God, He will ask us the same question He asked Jonah: Is it right for you to be angry? And the answer must always be "No, Lord. All Your ways are right even if I don't understand them."

Yes, Jonah was angry towards God, and yes, it was all right for Jonah to state his anger towards God; but he must also repent of his anger towards God.

[David Guzik]

When Jonah asks God to take His life he is having a super "pity party!" The thing about pity parties is that they are so self-centered, no-one tends to join us in them. Jonah's emotions are running havoc.

His heart is so full of hatred and selfishness.

Jonah is **BURNING** with anger because Nineveh didn't **BURN** under God's judgement.

If this wasn't so close to home – it would be quite comical! But I think we are all feeling a little uncomfortable as we can totally identify with Jonah's reaction and emotions here!



Be honest. Have you ever felt like Jonah was feeling? **Yes** \square **No** \square [Remember, God knows your heart]

We like to be the recipients of God's forgiveness, compassion and grace, but we are so self-righteous we don't want to extend the same forgiveness, compassion and grace to others.

(3)	Summarise Jesus' words in Mark 11:25-26.
•••••	
•••••	



Read Jonah 4:5-8

God prepares an object lesson for Jonah

When we are stubborn and refuse to listen and learn – an object lesson is usually quite effective in getting the message and point across and causing our hearts to become convicted.

This is what God does in these verses. He uses a plant and a worm as an object lesson for length.



plant and a worm as an object lesson for Jonah.
Where does Jonah go in v.5 and for what purpose?
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
Jonah seems to hope that the repentance of Nineveh was lacking, and hopes that he will see the city destroyed after all. He goes out of the city for safety. The LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah: Just as God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, now He prepares a particular plant to shelter Jonah as he waited hoping that they city would be destroyed.
What did God appoint in Jonah 1:17?
What did God appoint in Jonah 4:6?
What did God appoint in Jonah 4:7?
What did God appoint in Jonah 4:8?
What does this tell you about God?
What emotion do we see Jonah displaying in v.6?

In verse 1 we see Jonah **extremely angry** and now in verse 6 we see Jonah **extremely happy**. Jonah is angry at God's mercy to the Ninevites, but happy with God's mercy to him. Jonah is still all about **SELF**. If he was living in the 21st century, he would be a prime candidate for a psychologist and for medication. But the root cause is selfishness and self! **The "all about me mentality" that is pervasive in our society today.**

- God appointed the great fish to judge and deliver Jonah.
- God appointed the plant to show mercy to Jonah.
- God appointed the worm to judge Jonah.
- God appointed the east wind to judge Jonah.

The **irony** here is that in Jonah 1:1, God's intention was to judge the Ninevites for their wicked hearts. In Chapter 4, we see God showing mercy to the Ninevites and judging Jonah instead for his self-righteous, hypocritical, self-centred heart. Jonah is typical of seeing the sin of others as much worse than his own.

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What is Jesus saying in Matthew 7:1-5?

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What irrational comment does Jonah repeat in v.8?

Jonah allowed even a silly thing like a plant to become an idol.

It is interesting to note that in chapter 1 the sailors did not want to die and the Ninevites do not want to die. But in chapter 4, Jonah wants to die! Now that the Ninevites have repented due to his message, he might be fearful for his reputation when he got back home to Israel.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Jonah preaches, then pouts. God gives him a plant for shade, but Jonah still pouts... so God sends a worm to eat the plant. Jonah 4:7

The Book of Jonah could have ended quite nicely after chapter three:
Everybody repented and lived happily ever after. But there was still a problem with God's reluctant missionary. He still has a stubborn heart and is not on the same page as God yet. He still thinks he knows better and does not believe the Ninevites are deserving of God's mercy. He is still angry at God and this shown in his attitude to the plant and the worm and the wind.



Read Jonah 4:9-11



What question does God ask Jonah in verse 9?



Jonah actually responds to this question. What is his answer?



Do you recognise how ludicrous and sad this answer is. Jonah refused to answer God's question in verse 4 and give a reason for his anger over the Ninevites repentance. He walks away in a angry sulk and sits outside the city. Yet he is quick to respond and justify his anger over the plant that it is worth dying over!!

Don't seem too shocked at Jonah's behaviour.We do this all the time. The scenarios are just different.

"It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

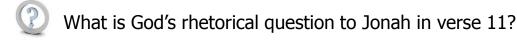
These are the last words of Jonah recording in this book, but thankfully they are not the last words of the book.

God is always going to have the last word!

And in Jonah, God's last word is in the form of a rhetorical question that we do not even need Jonah's answer, because his only response could be the same as that of Job after Job questioned God and God spent 2 chapters asking Job rhetorical questions.

Job said. "I am insignificant. I have no reply. I put my hand over my mouth." [Job 40:4]

God was getting Jonah to that point. Jonah needed to recognise who God is and what that means.



What did Peter say in Acts 10:34-35?

-	uestion in v. 11 assumes an obvious answer. er that question in our own hearts.	
In your own wo	ords, answer God's question.	
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	Check your heart: How do we react when God shows mercy to people we think deserve punishment? If we are resentful, it may indicate that we have forgotten how much the Lord has forgiven us. The heart of our problem is selfishness in our heart.	• • •
have been saved the God" [Ephesians 2 one another, tende	prace is greater than all our sin. "For by grace you arough faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of :8] Because of His grace to us, we should "be kind to er-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in [Colossians 3:13]	of.
destroyed a vine Yet he didn't car might be destroyed How often are	neart is seen when he was upset because a worm had that shaded him from the scorching sun (Jonah 4:9). The that many men, women, and children in Nineveh yed. It you more concerned about your own personal the souls of others?	
Consider Jonah's	words in Jonah 4:2	100
grace, compassion, loving-kindness. Re	umble thanks to God for His patience and abundant epent and ask for forgiveness for splayed the same selfishness and Jonah.	
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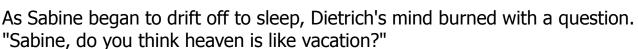
Dietrich Bonhoeffer – The Cost of Discipleship

Childhood Questions

"Don't forget to say your prayers, Dietrich. You too, Sabine." "Yes, Mama," answered the five-year-old twins in one voice. After final kisses and tuck-ins, Mrs. Bonhoeffer moved on to the beds of the other five children.

"I wish we didn't have to go back to the city tomorrow," whispered Dietrich when their mother was out of earshot. "I want to just live here in our vacation house!"

"Yes, I know. But if we lived here, we might get bored even if there's lots to do."



"I think so! I mean, everyone wants to go there!"

"But Sabine, we'll be there forever-- won't it get boring just like vacations could?"

"I don't know, Dietrich, but I know I want to go there! I hope God hears my prayers."

"Me too, Sabine, me too."

A Strange Announcement

"Dietrich is practicing his vocabulary again! He doesn't even know what a "theologian" is. Of course he doesn't really want to become one." Fourteen-year-old Dietrich became angry at his older brother's mocking words. "Yes, I do know what a theologian is and yes, I do want to become one! It's someone who studies all about God and the Bible and then teaches others. I've already been reading my Bible, and I want to learn all I can!"

"But Dietrich, you don't even go to church! And besides, the church is selfish and corrupt."

Dietrich had an answer for that argument. "In that case, I'll reform it!" He worked hard and eventually graduated as a teacher and pastor. As a real "theologian," Dietrich even started attending church! But when he was given the chance to study in America for a year, he didn't realize how much more he had to learn.

"What Happened in America?"

Dietrich watched in confusion as the New York City waiter left the table without taking Frank's order.

"It's just like I told you. They ignore me because I'm black. I'm sure you'll get great service here, but they won't even give me a glass of water," explained Frank Fisher.



Dietrich's confusion changed to action. "Frank, if they won't serve you because of the colour of your skin, then none of us will ever eat here again!" With that, the entire group left the restaurant in protest. Walking home that evening, Dietrich was deep in thought. America was great, but why were people so prejudiced against blacks? Blacks were even attacked on the street for no reason. It was so unfair! God looked at a person's heart, not the colour of his skin!

Experiences like this taught Dietrich things he hadn't learned in all his years of study. Living out his faith meant more than just attending church, reading books and teaching about God. Dietrich wanted to truly live out Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, "God blesses those who work for peace." He returned to Germany determined to treat all people as equals and teach them that peace was always better than violence. "What is different about you? What happened in America?" asked Dietrich's friends when he returned to Germany. His answer was simple. He told them, "I became a Christian in America." Little did he know that his decision to promote peace and equality would

Assassination Plot!

soon be put to the test.

"Dietrich, we need your help. We're going to do it-- we're going to assassinate Hitler!" Dietrich was shocked speechless. He looked at his brother-in-law, Hans, as his mind raced. As a pacifist, Deitrich believed in peace, not violence. How could he consider killing someone, even a monster like Hitler? Adolph Hitler was Germany's leader. Hitler



hated Jewish people so much that he wanted to get rid of them all. At first Jews lost their jobs, then their homes and businesses were destroyed. Eventually, many were crowded into filthy concentration camps and forced to work without enough food or warm clothes. Many Jews were sent to extermination camps, where they were killed just because they were Jews.

But Hitler and his Nazi party didn't stop there. Anyone who opposed their evil plans would be treated like a Jew. Dietrich did all he could to show other Christians that they needed to stand up for the Jews, but many refused to listen. Now he was being asked to help kill Adolph Hitler.

"Hans, you know my beliefs! I hate what Hitler is doing, but I could never plot to kill somebody. I would be just like him! We've helped Jews escape and called the church to stand firm-- surely that is the most we can do."

"No, Dietrich. It's not enough. Thousands of Jews are dying each week and

Germany is being destroyed. Hitler must be stopped!"
Dietrich remembered the verse that had challenged him back in America: "God blesses those who work for peace." He finally decided that removing the leader who was killing so many defenceless people would be the best way to work for peace. But the assassination attempt did not succeed. Dietrich, Hans and several other members of their family were arrested. He spent the last two years of his life

During
World War II,
Dietrich helped his sister and her Jewish Christian husband leave Germany right before Jewish passports were marked to show their race.
Once this happened, they could not have escaped.

in prison and concentration camps. Even under those awful conditions, Dietrich continued to challenge other Christians through his powerful writing. Those who were imprisoned with him looked to him as a pastor as they faced those dark days.

One Last Sermon

While
Dietrich was in
prison, messages
were smuggled in to
him through a
secret code
system.

After five long days in the back of the transport truck, the weary prisoners were locked in a small schoolhouse for the night. The next morning was Sunday, so Dietrich led them in a church service. Following worship and prayer, Dietrich comforted the other prisoners with words from the book of Isaiah, "With his wounds we are healed." As Dietrich finished his last prayer, the door to the schoolhouse burst open

Two evil-looking men entered and pointed at Dietrich.

"Prisoner Bonhoeffer. Get ready to come with us." Just a few words, but everyone in the room knew what they meant. A hush fell over the little group as the room filled with a sudden tension.

As the prisoners said goodbye to Dietrich, he had time to whisper a last message. "Please don't worry about me. This may be the end of my life, but it' really just the beginning for me."

Dietrich was executed on April 9, 1945, just three weeks before Hitler committed suicide and one month before the end of World War II. Dietrich's most famous book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, continues to inspire and challenge Christians today, partly because Dietrich's life showed that he knew and lived the cost of discipleship. [www.christianhistorytimeline.com]

Personal Observations

What inspires you and	what challenges	es you about this accoun	t of
Dietrich Bonhoeffer's	life?		

Listening Guide

Chapter 4~ Week 4





Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God. 1 John 3:21

The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart

JONAH'S HEART: 🖤	s e
(i) Jonah's heart is Selfish [Jonah 4:1]	ang
(ii) Jonah's heart is Self-centred [Jonah 4:6]	d in
(iii) Jonah's heart is Self-Pitying [Jonah 4:8]	Resulted in anger and bitterness
(iv) Jonah's heart is Self righteous [Jonah 4:9]	Res

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword...and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

[Hebrews 4:12]

GOD'S HEART:



(i)	God's heart is	Gracious	[Jonah 4:2]

(ii) God's heart is COMPassionate [Jonah 4:2,11]

(iii) God's heart is Slow to anger [Jonah 4:2]

(iv) God's heart is abundant in loving-kindness [Jonah 4:2]

(v) God's heart is Merciful [Jonah 3:10]

I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion [Romans 9:15]