

JONAH —1

“The Jonah In Us”

EXTRA CREDIT:

Read the first chapter of Jonah.

What seems reasonable and surprising about God’s command (v 2)? About Jonah’s response? Why did God tell Jonah to go and preach His judgment to the Ninevites? How do you think Jonah felt about the Ninevites? Why do you think he refused to take God’s message to them? What is it that usually keeps you from doing something that God wants you to do?

What was foolish about Jonah’s belief that he could flee from God (v 3)? In what ways can you relate to Jonah’s disobedience? What do you think Jonah was thinking as he fled to Tarshish? During the turbulent storm?

What is surprising about how the sailors responded to Jonah’s confession? Why did Jonah tell the sailors to throw him into the sea? What does Jonah’s confession reveal about his heart? What does it take for you to acknowledge your disobedience? What was missing in Jonah’s confession?

How did God use the storm to grab the attention of the sailors? What affect did God’s stilling the storm have on the sailors? How did God use the storm to turn Jonah back to him? How did God use Jonah’s disobedience to save the sailors? What hope does this give you concerning your past disobediences?

What did God use to save Jonah? Do you believe it is possible to survive in the belly of a great fish, view this as a supernatural miracle or believe it is a fable? (go to: www.icr.org/article/1124) What does God’s pursuit of Jonah reveal about God? How does this fact about God impact you personally?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Matthew 5:43-48, 8:24-27, 12:38-41; Luke 11:29-32, 18:31-33, 24:45-47; Romans 2:1-4, 11:30-33,12:14; Hebrews 4:13-16

JONAH —2

“Jonah’s Prayer”

EXTRA CREDIT:

Read the second chapter of Jonah.

If you were Jonah, in the belly of the fish, what thoughts would flash through your mind? What was Jonah thinking and feeling? When have you felt this way? What do you see in Jonah’s prayer? In verses 1-6, what does Jonah say God did for him? Why do you think Jonah said that it was God who “hurled him into the deep”?

Where does Jonah show hope in God’s deliverance in spite of his situation? (vv 4, 6-7, 9) Compare verse 3 with 1:15. How do you think Jonah is viewing his circumstances? God’s control? God’s purposes?

Before this incident, do you think Jonah was trusting in any worthless idols? What grace had he forfeited? When does Jonah remember the Lord? What else does he remember? (vv. 8-9) What aspects of this prayer sound like confession or repentance? What vow do you think Jonah was remembering? (v 9b) What vows have you made to the Lord that you haven’t kept? What idols have robbed you of experiencing God’s grace?

What does God use to deliver Jonah from the belly of the fish? God used something that usually seems worthless and disgusting to save him from certain death. In what ways do you think this deliverance by God changed Jonah? How has God done something similar in your life?

What can you learn from Jonah’s experience? What is revealed about God in this chapter? How will you apply this to your life?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Psalm 86:13,15, 106, 138, 142, 146; Romans 2:4, 8:35-39; Ephesians 2:5-8; Hebrews 4:16, 5:7-9,12:5-11

JONAH —3

“Jonah Obeys”

EXTRA CREDIT:

Read the third chapter of Jonah.

What evidence do you see in this story that God is a God of second chances? Do you think Jonah heard God speak audibly or in his thoughts? What was Jonah’s response to God’s word? How do you know when God is speaking to you? Why do you think Jonah was quick to obey the second time God spoke? What thoughts do you think went through his mind? How do you think he felt about going to Nineveh?

What kind of physical scars do you think Jonah had from being inside the fish for three days? When people asked him what happened, what do you think he told them? How would Jonah’s appearance and / or his story encourage the fear of the Lord in the Ninevites?

What message did God tell Jonah to preach? (v 4) How did the Ninevites respond to Jonah’s message? (v 5) How do you account for this? What did the Ninevites believe God was going to do? How is God’s message similar or different today? Who is God wanting you to speak to about His grace?

Repentance is changing our mind and actions to agree with God. From what did the Ninevites repent? (v 8) What was the king’s main concern? (v 9) What was God’s response? How does this story of God’s love and mercy compare to the New Testament message of His love and grace? What can we learn from God’s dealings with Nineveh? How will you apply this to your life?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Nahum 1:1, 3:1, 19; Matthew 5:43-48; Acts 10:1-35, 26:14-20; Romans 2:1-11; 10-11; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 2 Peter 3:9

JONAH —4

“Jonah’s Anger”

EXTRA CREDIT:

Read the fourth chapter of Jonah.

What was the main reason for Jonah’s anger? With whom was he angry? How did Jonah handle his anger? Why did he run from God the first time he was told to go to Nineveh? What does Jonah believe about God? (v3) Do you think Jonah really wanted to die? Why or why not? How would you describe Jonah’s behavior?

What three things did God provide Jonah? (vv 6-8) Did Jonah have a right to be angry about God sparing Nineveh? When have you experienced anger towards God? How did this affect your outlook? How can we resolve our anger towards God?

What do the vine, worm and hot sun reveal about God? About Jonah? Did Jonah have a right to be angry about the vine? What lesson was God trying to teach Jonah, through the vine? What do you think God meant when He said the Ninevites couldn’t tell their left hand from their right?

How does Jonah’s response compare with Elijah’s after he confronted the prophets of Baal? (1 Kings 19:1-7) What can we learn from their experiences? How will you apply this to your life?

If you were Jonah, what ending would you like to give this story?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1 Kings 17-19; Matthew 5:43-48, 6:14-15,33, 7:1-5; John 3:16-18; Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32