



Jonah

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF JONAH

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OVERVIEW

THE PARTICIPANTS: This study series is designed for small group use of approximately 10-20 people. It is for Christians with basic biblical knowledge and belief. This is not a seeker study or for those who have little to no biblical knowledge.

THE SETTING: Preferably an in home family room space with comfortable couches and chairs. The availability of breakout spaces throughout the study is necessary.

The study consists of 6 lessons designed to be approximately 2 hours in length. There is some flexibility on time at the end for additional social time, casual discussion and beverage/snack.

THE CONTENT: We will study through the entire book of Jonah exploring historical and theological themes. The study will also lend itself to a great deal of life application as we study the Word, draw closer to the Lord and one another.

THE GOAL: By the end of this workshop, participants will be aware of the story of Jonah and be able to place the events of the book within the larger narrative within the Bible. They will know the historical and theological themes in Jonah and be able to discuss the book with others, both Christian and non-Christian. Through group discussion, interpretation and prayer, participants will be comfortable articulating a personal understanding of Jonah and how the lessons throughout the book apply to modern life.

THE OBJECTIVES: By the end of this workshop, participants will have:

- **Used** the Bible and supplementary material to answers questions for the Jonah discussion
- **Analyzed** the Scriptures as it relates to Jonah
- **Critiqued** the Scriptural material and any supplementary material used
- **Asked questions** on the book of Jonah
- **Discussed** the historical and theological themes in Jonah
- **Personalized** Jonah and **applied** it to one's own spiritual journey
- **Connected** with other believers and **shared** how they can be supported in their spiritual walk in the coming week
- **Identified** areas of spiritual growth in ones life

LESSON 1: THE FLIGHT OF A PROPHET

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." 3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. 4 But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. 6 So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

Welcome and opening prayer!

Grab a beverage and a snack...

Gather in the group...

Hi, my name is...

I'm thankful for...

I'm looking forward to...

One: Getting Started

Let's read aloud Jonah 1:1-6

Meditate on the passage

Pray for insight and understanding into the text

Take the time to highlight key phrases from the text. Look for repeated wording, contrasts, similarities and things that are emphasized

Highlight key words or actions in which you see the characters engaged

In one clear sentence summarize the passage, and write your sentence below

MY SUMMARY:

When you are ready, join in pairs,

- *Share your summary and insights*

Let's gather now in the group,

- *What questions do you have about these passages that you'd like to ask the group?*

Let's worship together by singing, "In Christ Alone", "Cornerstone"



A mighty tempest (Jonah 1:4-5)

Two: Digging Deeper

In preparation for tonight's meeting, many of you answered the questions handed out via email a week ago.

In the large group, let's take up and discuss,

- Many other prophetic books begin as Jonah does. Compare Jonah 1:1 with Joel 1:1, Micah 1:1, and Jeremiah 1:4.
 - *What do you notice that's unique about Jonah's calling?*
 - *How does "the word of the LORD" come to us today?*
- In verse 2, God gives three commands to Jonah.
 - What are they? Circle all three in the text above.
- Compare the commands to Jonah with Matthew 28:18-20
 - *Describe the similarities and differences between the two.*
- Jonah's action contrasts with the prophets' typical responses to God's call. Read Isaiah 6:8 and Hosea 1:2-3.
 - *How did these prophets answer God's call?*
 - *Think of a time you felt God's call to act. How did you respond?*

In groups of 2-3, compare Jonah in verse 5 with Jesus in Matthew 26:36-45.

- *How would you answer someone who said to you that they knew they were making a right decision about something because they had "a lot of peace" about it?*



The captain wakes up Jonah (Jonah 1:6)

- *Why do you think that Jonah fell asleep in the boat?*
- *Have you ever wanted to sleep instead of working for Christ? Explain.*

Three: Prayer

Take a few minutes to search your heart and reflect on the content discussed and how it can be applicable to your life in the week ahead. Feel free to walk around, change seats, grab a snack/beverage refill as you meditate on the lesson.

- *What are you taking away as you leave this session?*

Women and Men break out into small groups. Share how the group can support you this week in prayer. After 5 minutes or so, I will ask you to pray together for your group members.

Four: Bookmark

On the card provided (and in the box below), write down one word to take away from today's lesson. At the end of the study, this word will be 1 of 6 and be a heart reminder of what God has revealed to you while studying through Jonah.

Let's take a minute to hear a few of your thoughts...

Ongoing Reflections:

As you leave this week's study, examine and respond to the personal study and reflection questions. Take the time to reflect on this study and God's Word to encourage you this week.

1. Read 2 Kings 14:25. *What does this verse tell us about Jonah?*
2. Read Luke 11:30. *What is so significant about the fact that in the New Testament Jesus referenced Jonah's story?*
3. How can you make this study a part of your spiritual journey?

LESSON 2: GOD IN PURSUIT

7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 9 And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. 11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. 12 He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." 13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. 17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Welcome and opening prayer!

Grab a beverage and a snack...

Discuss the following with a partner:

Debrief about the past week and pray for one another that our hearts will be open to God's teaching in tonight's lesson.

One: Getting Started

Let's read aloud Jonah 1:7-17

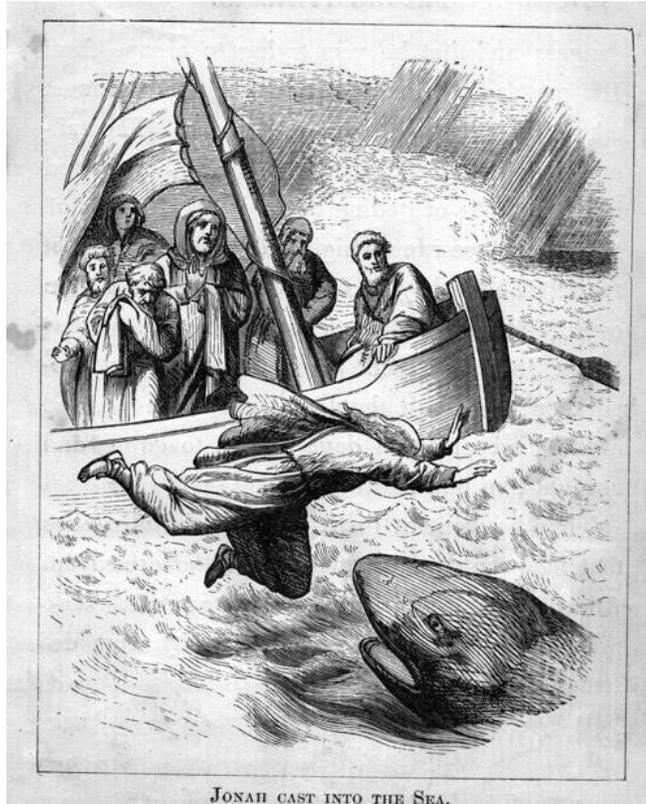
Meditate on the passage

Pray for insight and understanding into the text

Take the time to highlight key phrases from the text. Look for repeated wording, contrasts, similarities and things that are emphasized

Highlight key words or actions in which you see the characters engaged

In one clear sentence summarize the passage, and write your sentence below



JONAH CAST INTO THE SEA.

Jonah cast into the sea (Jonah 1:15)

MY SUMMARY:

When you are ready, gather in the group

- What questions do you have about these passages that you'd like to ask the group?

Let's worship together by singing... "How Great is our God", "Shout to the Lord"

Two: Digging Deeper

In preparation for tonight's meeting, many of you answered the questions handed out via email a week ago.

In the large group, let's take up and discuss,

- Jonah attempts to get "away from the presence of the LORD" in Jonah 1:3. But as we've seen, this is completely impossible (1:4). Read Psalm 139:1-12.
 - *How does this psalm describe God's knowledge of our actions and attitudes?*
 - *Do you find that comforting or intimidating, and why?*
- Jonah's description of God—"the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land" (Jonah 1:9)—makes his attempt to flee seem foolish.
- Think back to a situation where you acted in a way that now seems foolish—why did you act the way you did? How can you respond differently to similar situations you face today?

In groups of 2-3, consider the story if it happened differently and Jonah had obeyed and gone to Nineveh right away.

- *Think of a time in your life when God used your disobedience to advance his plans in your life or the lives of others around you?*

Now read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

- *Why does God use the foolish and weak of the world?*
- *Why do you think we are so often tempted to see the limitations of ourselves in the face of obeying the command to "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19)?*

Let's hear some of your thoughts and findings in the large group.

Three: Prayer

Take a few minutes to search your heart and reflect on the content discussed and how it can be applicable to your life in the week ahead. Feel free to walk around, change seats, and grab a snack/beverage refill as you meditate on the lesson.

- *What do you want to take away as you leave this session?*

Women and Men break out into small groups. Share how the group can support you this week in prayer. After 5 minutes of so, I will ask you to pray for your group members using the prayer structure "ACTS," representing adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication (or intercession).

Adoration is to adore God, to worship him and to fulfill the commandment to love him with all of our heart, mind and soul. As we spend time in adoration, we praise God for who He is - our Creator, our Sustainer and our Redeemer.

Confession allows us to clear away the things in the relationship between you and God which are displeasing to Him. All of us have sinned. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Thanksgiving. From childhood we are brought up to say "Thank You" when someone does something for us, or gives us a gift. Each moment God is blessing us, every minute we can recall the wonderful things that God has done for us, and the gifts that we have been given. And so, we need to be constantly thanking God for his blessings.

Supplication or Intercession. Finally we come to ask God for our needs and the needs of others. There are many demands on our prayer time - many topics and issues that we could pray for, so we need to choose, and to be specific.

Four: Bookmark

On the card provided (and in the box below), write down one word to take away from today's lesson. At the end of the study, this word will be 1 of 6 and be a heart reminder of what God has revealed to you while studying through Jonah.

Let's take a minute to hear a few of your thoughts...

Ongoing Reflections:

As you leave this week's study, examine and respond to the personal study and reflection questions. Take the time to reflect on this study and God's Word to encourage you this week.

1. Read Matthew's account of Jesus' calming of the storm in Matthew 8:24-27. *How is this story similar to Jonah 1? In what ways are they different?*
2. In Matthew 12:39-41, Jesus foretells of his coming death and burial with the language of Jonah. *Examining these verses, what do you think he means by, "the sign of Jonah"?*
3. How is the storm in Jonah 1 an act of mercy rather than judgment? *How have you seen God spare no expense in his pursuit of you?*

LESSON 3: THE PROPHET PRAYS

1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. 3 For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. 4 Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.' 5 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head 6 at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. 7 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. 8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. 9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" 10 And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Welcome and opening prayer!

Grab a beverage and a snack...

Discuss the following with a couple of people:

Share one or two insights from last weeks lesson that you found useful this past week.

One: Getting Started

Let's read aloud Jonah 2:1-10

Meditate on the passage

Pray for insight and understanding in the text

Take the time to highlight key phrases from the text. Look for repeated wordings, contrasts, similarities and things that are emphasized

Highlight key words or actions in which you see the characters engaged

In one clear sentence summarize the passage, and write your sentence below

MY SUMMARY:



Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish (Jonah 2:1-9)

When you are ready, turn to the person next to you and share your summary,

- What questions do you have about these passages that you'd like to ask?

Let's worship together by singing, "Amazing Grace," "Blessed Be Your Name"

Two: Digging Deeper

In preparation for tonight's meeting, many of you answered the questions handed out via email a week ago.

In the large group, let's take up and discuss,

- After reading over Jonah's prayer, do you think he has experienced a change of heart between chapter 1 and chapter 2?
- In moments of distress, is your first inclination to pray? Why or why not?
 - *What about when your distress is the result of personal sin and disobedience?*
- In verse 9, Jonah expresses thanksgiving to God for saving him while he was drowning in "the heart of the seas" (verse 3). As believers in Jesus Christ, we have been saved from sin and death.
 - *Does your life demonstrate thankfulness to God for your salvation?*

On your own, take a moment to thank God for saving you.

When you're ready, in groups of 2-3 consider the following,

- Whether drowning in the sea or imprisoned in the belly of the fish, Jonah was completely incapable of saving himself or compensating for his disobedience.
 - *How do his circumstances compare with our previous state as unbelievers (see Ephesians 2:1-3)?*
- In verses 6b and 9b, Jonah identifies that his salvation was work of God alone. Compare this with Ephesians 2:4-9 and Romans 5:8.
 - *Do you understand your salvation to be entirely God's work?*
 - *How might you be tempted to think that you contribute your own salvation?*
- Now compare 2:10 with 1:17.
 - *What do these verses reveal about God's sovereignty over Jonah's circumstances?*

Let's hear some of your thoughts and findings in the large group.

Three: Prayer

Take a few minutes to search your heart and reflect on the content discussed and how it can be applicable to your life in the week ahead. Feel free to walk around, change seats, and grab a snack/beverage refill as you meditate on the lesson.

- *What do you want to take away as you leave this session?*



Jonah dropped on the dry land (Jonah 2:10)

Women and Men break out into small groups. Share how the group can support you this week in prayer. After 5 minutes of so, I will ask you to pray for your group members using the acronym P.R.A.Y. representing Praise, Repent, Access and Yield.

Praise: We're to enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise (see Psalm 100:4). Sit quietly and thank God for who He is and what He has done.

Repent: A sober reminder comes from Psalm 66:18: "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." A spiritual cleansing is needed in order to come nearer to the throne of God.

Access: We're not telling God anything new — "All my longings lie open before you, O Lord: my sighing is not hidden from you" (Psalm 38:9). Even so, He gives us access to talk to Him about our needs and frustrations.

Yield: The fact that we have brought our prayer list before God indicates our trust that He will, in His time and in His way, show us the way we should go (see Psalm 143:8).

Four: Bookmark

On the card provided (and in the box below), write down one word to take away from today's lesson. At the end of the study, this word will be 1 of 6 and be a heart reminder of what God has revealed to you while studying through Jonah.

Let's take a minute to hear a few of your thoughts...

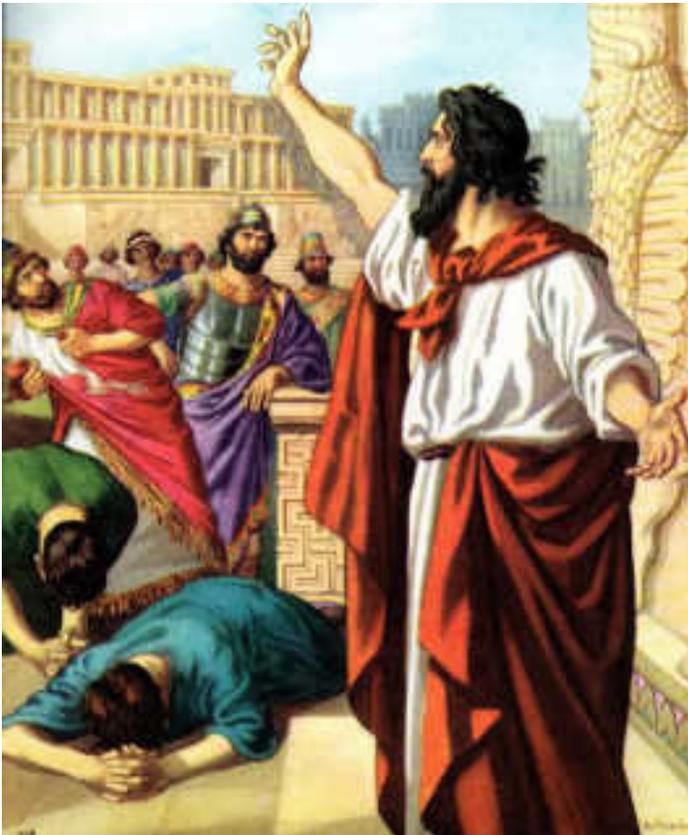
Ongoing Reflections:

As you leave this week's study, examine and respond to the personal study and reflection questions. Take the time to reflect on this study and God's Word to encourage you this week.

1. Jonah's prayer contains many of the phrases in David's psalms of lament and deliverance. Read Psalm 5, 31, and 69. *How do David's circumstances differ from Jonah's? In what ways are Jonah and David's prayers similar and dissimilar?*
2. Consider that Jonah cries out God in the midst of his sin, while drowning in the sea, and within the belly of the fish. *Have you ever found yourself in a place where you thought God was unable or unwilling to hear your prayer?*
3. Read 1 John 1:9 and 1 John 5:14-15. *What do these verses promise?*

LESSON 4: THE PROPHET OBEYS

1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.



Jonah preaches in Nineveh (Jonah 3:4)

Welcome and opening prayer!

Grab a beverage and a snack...

Gather in the group...

My highlight of the past week...
I'm grateful for...

One: Getting Started

Let's read aloud Jonah 3:1-5

Meditate on the passage

Pray for insight and understanding in the text

Take the time to highlight key phrases from the text. Look for repeated wordings, contrasts, similarities and things that are emphasized.

Highlight key words or actions in which you see the characters engaged.

In one clear sentence summarize the passage, and write your sentence below.

MY SUMMARY:

When you are ready, gather in the group,

- *What questions do you have about these passages that you'd like to ask the group?*

Let's worship together by singing, "How Deep The Father's Love For Us," "How Great Thou Art"

Two: Digging Deeper

In preparation for tonight's meeting, many of you answered the questions handed out via email a week ago.

In the large group, let's take up and discuss,

- Have you ever given someone important instructions that they have entirely refused to follow?
 - *How did their actions influence your trust in them and your desire to work with them in future?*

- After Jonah's disobedience and failed escape attempt, God asked him a second time to take His message to Nineveh.
 - *Does this surprise you?*
 - *What does God's willingness to use Jonah despite His initial failure to obey tell you about His character?*

- What was the message that Jonah was to bring to Nineveh?

In pairs, consider why is it significant that this message was told to Jonah by God and was not Jonah's own words?

- *What does the Ninevites response tell you about the power and sufficiency of God's word?*

Let's hear some of your thoughts and findings in the large group.

Three: Prayer

Take a few minutes to search your heart and reflect on the content discussed and how it can be applicable to your life in the week ahead. Feel free to walk around, change seats, and grab a snack/beverage refill as you meditate on the lesson.

- *What do you want to take away as you leave this session?*

Women and Men break out into small groups. Share how the group can support you this week in prayer. After 5 minutes of so, I will ask you to pray for your group members on your own or in groups using a new prayer posture.

Kneeling shows God that you are entering into His presence or asking Him for something.

Standing shows God that you are ready for "marching orders."

Walking shows God that you are "on the move" for Him, ready for His battle plans.

Bowing shows God that you honour Him and feel humble because of who He is.

Prostrate, lying flat on your face or back, shows God that you are in awe of Him and are desperate and hungry for Him to come and be with you.

Uplifted hands show God that you are reaching toward Him — in praise or asking for something with arms open to receive it. .

Four: Bookmark

On the card provided (and in the box below), write down one word to take away from today's lesson. At the end of the study, this word will be 1 of 6 and be a heart reminder of what God has revealed to you while studying through Jonah.

Let's take a minute to hear a few of your thoughts...

Ongoing Reflections:

As you leave this week's study, examine and respond to the personal study and reflection questions.

Take the time to reflect on this study and God's Word to encourage you this week.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. *What does it mean to be ambassador for Christ?*
2. As Christians, we are called to make disciples by sharing the message of the gospel. Read John 20:19-21 and Matthew 28:18-20. *How should the fact that it is God who sends influence your desire and willingness to share the gospel?*
3. Have you ever felt the Lord telling you to share the gospel with someone who might be hostile? *How did you feel? How did you respond to the Lord's leading?*
4. Read Matthew 28:18-20 again. *What promises are in this passage that give you courage to share the gospel even in the face of opposition? How will you respond to these promises today?*

LESSON 5: A CITY REPENTS

6 The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, 8 but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." 10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Welcome and opening prayer!

Grab a beverage and a snack...

Discuss the following with a partner:

God has been teaching me throughout this study...
Discuss past week....

One: Getting Started

Let's read aloud Jonah 3:6-10

Meditate on the passage

Pray for insight and understanding in the text

Take the time to highlight key phrases from the text. Look for repeated wordings, contrasts, similarities and things that are emphasized

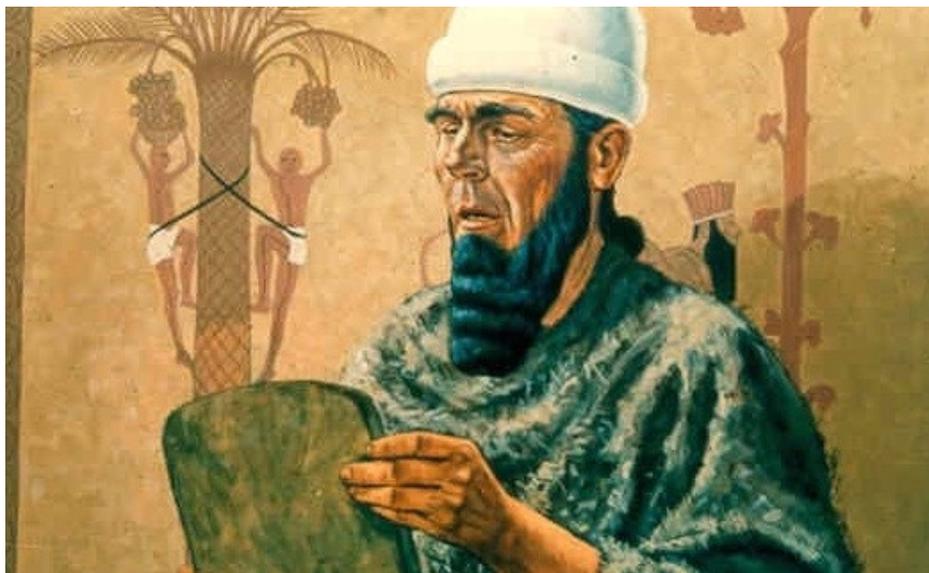
Highlight key words or actions in which you see the characters engaged

In one clear sentence summarize the passage, and write your sentence below

MY SUMMARY:

When you are ready, with a partner, share your summary and insights.

Let's worship together by singing, "Lord I Need You," "The Heart of Worship"



The king proclaimed prayer and fasting (Jonah 3:6-10)

Two: Digging Deeper

In preparation for tonight's meeting, many of you answered the questions handed out via email a week ago.

In the large group, let's take up and discuss,

- Can you think of a significant event by which the course of your life drastically changed?
 - *Was it for the better or the worse?*
- Think of someone in your life right now who could be described the same way the Bible describes Nineveh and its inhabitants (1:2, 3:8, 3:10).
 - *How would you feel if they repented and trusted Christ?*
- Repentance can be described as "a godly grief over, and turning away from sin."
 - *What evidence do you see of authentic repentance in the king of Nineveh in 3:6-10?*

In groups of 2-3 consider, what role, if any, does repentance play in your daily life?

- *What practical steps can you take to increase your practice of it?*

Now read Jeremiah 18:7-8 and compare with 18:9-10.

- *What are the two promises contained in these verses?*

Lastly, read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11.

- *What do you think is the difference between "worldly grief" and "godly grief" over sin?*
- *Is there sin in your life currently that you grieve over only at the worldly level?*
- *What can you do to change this?*

Three: Prayer

Take a few minutes to search your heart and reflect on the content discussed and how it can be applicable to your life in the week ahead. Feel free to walk around, change seats, and grab a snack/beverage refill as you meditate on the lesson.

- *What do you want to take away as you leave this session?*

Women and Men break out into small groups. Share how the group can support you this week in prayer. After 5 minutes of so, I will ask you to pray for your group members using the acronym "P.R.A.I.S.E." representing Praise, Repentance, Ask, Intercede, Speak and Enjoy.

PRAISE - Psalm 100:4

The entrance into the presence of God, at His gates and courts, is the foyer of praise and worship. We are told in Philippians 4.6:7 to make our requests "with thanksgiving"!

REPENTANCE - 1 John 1:9, 2 Corinthians 7:10

This time does not need to be discouraging or condemning, but sobering. When we genuinely repent and seek God's forgiveness He gives great peace. If we ask, he will cleanse us of our sin and our leaning toward rebellion and independence.

ASK - Luke 11:9

James tells us that "we have not because we ask not" (James 4:2, 3) so it is imperative that we ask. Even though He already knows what we need He still commands us to ask.

INTERCEDE - Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

SPEAK the Word - Mark 11:21-24, Matthew 4.1-4

There are things we ask of God but then there are other things He sometimes leads us to proclaim or declare. In Mark 11 He tells us that we can speak to the mountain under certain conditions and the mountain will be removed.

ENJOY His Presence - Psalm 16:11

You have spent some great quality time with Jesus. You have given him praise, asked Him to cover your family, interceded for others and spoken the Word. You will sense him very near and you need to enjoy his presence. There is full joy here!

Four: Bookmark

On the card provided (and in the box below), write down one word to take away from today's lesson. At the end of the study, this word will be 1 of 6 and be a heart reminder of what God has revealed to you while studying through Jonah.

Let's take a minute to hear a few of your thoughts...

Ongoing Reflections:

As you leave this week's study, examine and respond to the personal study and reflection questions.

Take the time to reflect on this study and God's Word to encourage you this week.

1. The book of Acts contains many references to repentance. Read Acts 2:37-41, 3:18-21, and 26:19-20. *What other actions are called for alongside repentance? Why do you think repentance is so many times paired with other actions?*
2. Is repentance the same as remorse, or being sorry for sin? *Why or why not?*
3. Consider how seriously the Ninevites took their sin by stopping everything in their daily lives to focus exclusively on repenting and crying out for mercy. *Do you take your sin and the process of repentance as seriously? Why or why not?*
4. Take some time at the end of this study to ask God to increase the seriousness of your sin.

LESSON 6: GOD GETS THE LAST WORD

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. 3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?" 5 Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. 6 Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." 9 But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." 10 And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Welcome and opening prayer!

Grab a beverage and a snack...

Gather in the group...

My highlight of the study...

I'm grateful for...

One: Getting Started

Let's read aloud Jonah 4

Meditate on the passage

Pray for insight and understanding in the text

Take the time to highlight key phrases from the text. Look for repeated wordings, contrasts, similarities and things that are emphasized.

Highlight key words or actions in which you see the characters engaged.

In one clear sentence summarize the passage, and write your sentence below.

MY SUMMARY:

When you are ready, in small groups, share your summary and insights.

Let's worship together by singing, "You Are My King," "Your Love Never Fails"



God used the plant to teach Jonah a lesson in mercy (Jonah 4:6-11)

Two: Digging Deeper

In preparation for tonight's meeting, many of you answered the questions handed out via email a week ago.

In the large group, let's take up and discuss,

- Have you ever found yourself upset or even angry about something trivial?
 - *How did you react?*
 - *Was it right for you to be angry?*
 - *Why or why not?*

- Compare Jonah's prayer after God showed him mercy by rescuing him from drowning (2:1-9) with his prayer after God showed the Ninevites mercy by relenting of his wrath (4:2-3).
 - *What is different about Jonah's attitude and response?*

- Compare Jonah's attitude in verse 1 and verse 6.
 - *What do these verses reveal about Jonah's heart?*

In pairs, consider, what phrase is repeated in verses 6-8? Compare this with 1:4, 1:17, and 2:10.

- *What major theme is presented here and woven throughout the book of Jonah?*

Now, reflect on how God's continues to demonstrate grace to Jonah by appointing a plant to provide him with shade in the heat of the day.

- *Why would God later appoint a worm to attack the plant?*
- *In what way might the worm still be an extension of God's grace?*
- *What does it mean that the Ninevites did not know their right hand from their left?*

Let's hear some of your thoughts and findings in the large group.

Three: Prayer

Take a few minutes to search your heart and reflect on the content discussed and how it can be applicable to your life in the week ahead. Feel free to walk around, change seats, and grab a snack/beverage refill as you meditate on the lesson.

- *What do you want to take away as you leave this session?*

Women and Men break out into small groups. Share how the group can support you this week in prayer. After 5 minutes of so, I will ask you to pray for your group members.

Four: Bookmark

On the card provided (and in the box below), write down one word to take away from today's lesson. At the end of the study, this word will be 1 of 6 and be a heart reminder of what God has revealed to you while studying through Jonah.

Let's take a minute to hear a few of your thoughts...

Ongoing Reflections:

As you leave this week's study, examine and respond to the personal study and reflection questions. Take the time to reflect on this study and God's Word to encourage you this week.

1. Think of last time you were angry about something. Reflect carefully on these questions: *Why were you angry? Was it right for you to be angry? In your anger, were you primarily focused on your own needs and desires or the good of others?*
2. Read Ephesians 4:26. *Is anger always sinful? How would you differentiate between righteous and unrighteous (sinful) anger?*
3. Read verse 9. *Is there anything in your life that you feel you could not live without? If so, in what ways might this reveal idolatry in your life?*
4. How do you view the unbelievers in your family, your workplace, and your community?
5. Read John 8:34, 2 Corinthians 4:4, and Ephesians 2:1-4. *How will you pray for the unbelievers in your life in light of these verses?*

Appendix A: Facilitator Guide

The Participants:

The attendees of the workshop will be Christian believers desiring to dig deeper into God's Word and engage in fellowship with other Christians.

The study is designed for approximately 10-20 adults per group with the age range 21+. There is no requirement of cultural background, gender, ethnicity, profession etc. All Christians are welcome who are seeking to grow in their relationship with Christ.

The Facilitator:

The facilitator (s) will be a Christian or Christian couple that has a deep passion for the Word. The facilitator (s) will preferably run the workshop from their home, however if circumstances prevent that, they can use someone else's home.

The facilitator (s) will also be responsible for providing a light beverage/snack for attendees to enjoy throughout the session.

When the participants arrive to your home (or the home you are facilitating from), please ensure you WELCOME your guests and orient them to the space. (ex. Bathroom, coatroom, tearoom etc.)

The Setting:

The workshop will take place after dinner approximately 7/7:30pm, one night a week for 2 hours in a home. The majority of the study will take place in a family room setting with comfortable couches and chairs in a circle formation. However there will be the availability of breakout spaces in other areas of the home.

Participants, who are unable to attend the workshop due to circumstances that may arise, have the option of Skyping in to the session.

Materials:

Each participant will receive a hard copy of the workshop design. It will be printed in advance by the facilitator and distributed at the session. Weekly questions will be sent by email the week prior to the workshop to give the attendees the opportunity to reflect on the discussion prior to the study.

Please ensure that there are spare Bibles, pens/pencils, blank paper for everyone to use if needed.

The bookmark will be distributed week 1 which is approximately 7x2 inch card with 6 blank lines to fill in the reminder word after each session. This can be designed/decorated in a number of ways. Use your imagination! Please see **Appendix C** for further instructions.

Each week please print the lyrics of the worship songs for each participant to maximize worship participation. Please see **Appendix D** for the song lyrics.

The Learning Needs and Resources Assessment (LNRA) is to be completed with the participants prior to the study. Please see **Appendix B** for further instructions.

At the end of the lesson you will distribute a feedback sheet for the participants to fill out. Please see **Appendix E** for further instructions.

The Time and Timing:

The workshop consists of six 2-hour (120 min) sessions. Each workshop consists of a warm-up, four tasks and on-going reflections. The recommended timing of each segment is as follows:

1. Welcome and opening prayer (15 min)
2. Task One (35 min)

3. Task Two (40 min)
4. Task Three (25 min)
5. Task Four (5 min)

Worship:

Each week worship time is incorporated into Task One. The facilitator can use any form of instrument, electronic device, vocals that they desire. In the Learning Needs and Resources Assessment (LNRA) the participants are asked if they would like to participate in the facilitation of worship during one of the sessions. Please ensure if they have responded 'yes' to this question, that you follow up and include them in this time. Please see **Appendix B** for further instructions.

Suggestions: IPod, YouTube, Guitar, Piano, Vocals, Bongo Drums

General Rules for Discussion:

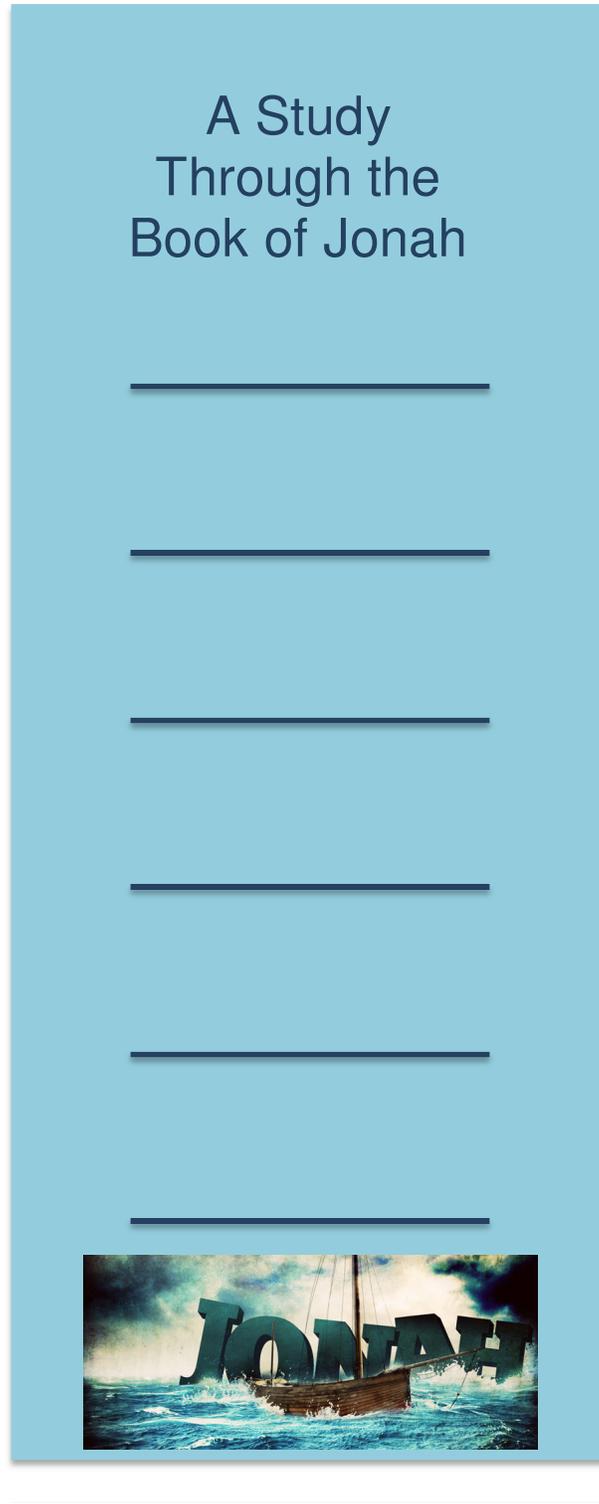
1. Everyone gets a turn to share, including the facilitator
2. Listen to the person who is sharing
3. There are no interruptions, probing, put-downs, or gossip

Appendix B: LNRA Interview Questions with Study Leader

Method of contact: In person, Skype or telephone

1. Please share your statement of faith. (Use the following outline: Before-What characterized my life before I trusted Christ? During-How I came to trust Christ? After-How I am different now?)
2. Do you attend church? If yes, please list what church you attend.
3. What is your desire for your future prayer life?
4. What is your goal for your future knowledge of the Word?
5. Have you been baptized?
6. When do you pray and read your Bible?
7. Is it beneficial for you to receive the lesson questions in advance of the weekly meeting? Yes/No?
8. Are you musically gifted? Are you interested in participating in leading a session of weekly worship through voice or instrument etc.?
9. What is your desire for this group study?

Appendix C: Bookmark Template



7 inch

2 inch

Appendix D: Worship Song Lyrics

Lesson 1

In Christ Alone

ORDER: I V1 V2 V3 KC V4 E

INTRO: G

VERSE 1:

C G C D
In Christ alone my hope is found
G C D G
He is my light my strength my song
C G C D
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
G C D G
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
G C G D
What heights of love, what depths of peace
G C G D
When fears are stilled when strivings cease!
C G C D
My Comforter my All in All
G C D G
Here in the love of Christ I stand

VERSE 2:

C G C D
In Christ alone! - who took on flesh
G C D G
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
C G C D
This Gift of love and righteousness
G C D G
Scorned by the ones He came to save

G C G D
Till on that cross as Jesus died
G C G D
The wrath of God was satisfied -
C G C D
For every sin on Him was laid:
G C D G
Here in the death of Christ I live

VERSE 3:

C G C D
There in the ground His body lay
G C D G
Light of the world by darkness slain
C G C D
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
G C D G
Up from the grave He rose again!
G C G D
And as He stands in victory
G C G D
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
C G C D
For I am His and He is mine -
G C D G
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

KEY CHANGE: G C D C A

VERSE 4:

D A D E
No guilt in life no fear in death
A D E A
This is the power of Christ in me
D A D E
From life's first cry to final breath
A D E A
Jesus commands my destiny
A D A E

No power of hell no scheme of man
A D A E
Can ever pluck me from His hand
D A D E
Till he returns or calls me home
A D E A
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

ENDING: A

Cornerstone

Verse 1

C
My hope is built on nothing less
F G
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
Am Am/G
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
F G C
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

Chorus 1

F Am G
Christ alone, Cornerstone
C/E F Am G
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
C/E F
Through the storm
Am G
He is Lord
C
Lord of all

Verse 2

C
When darkness seems to hide His face
F G

I rest on His unchanging grace
Am Am/G
In every high and stormy gale
F G C
My anchor holds within the veil
F G C
My anchor holds within the veil

Chorus 2

 F Am G
Christ alone, Cornerstone
C/E F Am G
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
C/E F
Through the storm
Am G
He is Lord
 C
Lord of all

Bridge

 Am
He is Lord
 F G
Lord of all

Repeat Chorus 2

Verse 3

C
When he shall come with trumpet sound
F G
Oh may I then in Him be found
Am Am/G
Dressed in His righteousness alone
F G C
Faultless, stand before the throne

C
You are the Name above all names
Am F
Worthy of all praise My heart will sing
G C
How great is our God

C F C
Then sings my soul my savior God to thee
G C
How great thou art how great thou art

Shout To The Lord

ORDER: I V C V C C E

INTRO: G

VERSE:

G D Em D C
My Jesus, my Savior Lord there is none like You,
G C G F C Dsus D
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
G D Em D C
My comfort, my shelter tower of refuge and strength,
G C G F C Dsus D
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

CHORUS:

G Em C Dsus D
Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
G Em C Dsus D
Power and majesty, Praise to the King.
Em C
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar

D Em D
At the sound of Your name.
G Em C Dsus D
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
G Em C Dsus D
Forever I'll love You, Forever I'll stand.
Em C D G
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

ENDING:

Em C D G
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.
Em C D G
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.
Em C D G
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

Lesson 3

Amazing Grace

ORDER: I V1 V2 V3 V4 V1 E

INTRO: D

VERSE 1:

D G D

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,

A7

That saved a wretch like me.

D G D

I once was lost, but now im found,

A7 D

Was blind, but now I see.

VERSE 2:

D G D

Tw'as grace that thought my heart to fear,

D A7

and grace my fears released.

D G D

How precious did that grace appear,

D A7 D

the hour I first believed.

VERSE 3:

D G D

Through many dangers, toils and snares

D A7

I have already come;

D G D

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far

D A7 D

And grace will lead me home.

VERSE 4:

D G D
When we've been there ten thousand years,
D A7
bright shining as the sun,
D G D
we've no less days to sing god's praise
D A7 D
than when did when we first begun.

ENDING: D

Blessed Be Your Name

ORDER: I V1 PC C V2 PC C B C C E

INTRO: C

VERSE 1:

C G Am F
Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
 C G F
Where Your streams of abundance flow- Blessed be Your Name
C G Am F
Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
 C G F
Though I walk through the wilderness- Blessed be Your Name

PRECHORUS:

C G Am F
Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
C G Am

When the darkness closes in Lord
F
Still I will say

CHORUS:

C G
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Am F
Blessed be Your name
C G
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Am F
Blessed be Your glorious name

VERSE 2:

C G Am F
Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me
C G F
When the world's all as it should be- Blessed be Your Name
C G Am F
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
C G F
Though there's pain in the offering- Blessed be Your Name

BRIDGE:

C G
You give and take away
Am F
You give and take away
C G
My heart will choose to say
Am F
Lord, blessed be Your name

ENDING: C

Lesson 4

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

E F#m G#m A
How deep the Father's love for us

E/G# C#m B
How vast beyond all measure

E F#m G#m A
That He would give His only Son

E/B B E
To make a wretch His treasure

E/G# C#m B A
How great the pain of searing loss

E/G# C#m B
The Father turns His face away

E F#m G#m A
As wounds which mar the chosen One

E/B B E
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My guilt upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no powr's, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

How Great Thou Art

Verse 1:

 G C/G
O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
 G D/F# G
consider all the Worlds Thy hand hath made.
 G C/G
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
 G D/F# G
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

Chorus:

 G C/G G
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
 Am7 G
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
 C/G G
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
 Am7 C/G G
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Verse 2:

 G C/G
And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
 G D/F# G
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
 G C/G
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
 G D/F# G
He bled and died to take away my sin
(Chorus)

Verse 3:

 G C/G

When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation

G D/F# G

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart

G C/G

Then I shall bow in humble adoration

G D/F# G

And there proclaim, My God, how great You are!

(Chorus x2)

Lesson 5

Lord I Need You

Verse 1:

G C G

Lord I come, I confess

D/F# Em D C

Bowing here I find my rest

G C G

Without You I fall apart

D C

You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus:

G C G D/F#

Lord, I need You, oh I need You

Em C G D

Every hour I need You

G/B C G C

My one defense, my righteousness

G D G

Oh God, how I need You

Verse 2:

G C G

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more

D/F# Em D C

Where grace is found is where You are

G C G

And where You are Lord I am free

Dsus C

Holiness is Christ in me

G C G

Yes where You are Lord I am free

Dsus G

Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge:

C G D Em
So teach my song to rise to You
Em G/B C
When temptation comes my way
C G/B D Em
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
C D G
Jesus You're my hope and stay
C G/B D Em
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
C D G
Jesus You're my hope and stay

The Heart Of Worship

ORDER: I V1 PC C V2 PC C PC C C E

INTRO: G

VERSE 1:

G D C
When the music fades, all is stripped away
Dsus D
And I simply come
G D C
Longing just to bring that's of worth
Dsus D
That will bless Your heart

PRE-CHORUS:

Am G D
I'll bring You more than a song
Am
For a song in itself
G D
Is not what you have required
Am G D

You search much deeper within

Am

Through the way things appear

G D

You're looking into my heart

CHORUS:

G D

I'm coming back to the heart of worship

Am

And it's all about You

C D

It's all about you, Jesus

G D

I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it

Am

When it's all about You

C D (G)

It's all about you, Jesus

VERSE 2:

G D C

King of endless worth, no one could express

Dsus D

How much You deserve

G D C

Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is yours

Dsus D

Every single breath

ENDING:

Am

When its all about You

C D

Its all about You, (Jesus)

Am

When its all about You

C D G

Its all about you, Jesus

Lesson 6

You Are My King

D/F# G2 Asus A
I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken
D/F# G2 Asus A
I'm accepted, You were condemned
D/F# G2 Asus A
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
G2 A D
Because you died and rose again

D G
Amazing love, how can it be
D Asus, A
That You my king would die for me?
D G
Amazing love, I know it's true
D Asus, A
And It's my joy to honor You
G A D
In all I do I honor You

D D
You are my king, You are my king
D D
Jesus, You are my king, Jesus, You are my king

Your Love Never Fails

VERSE:
Em, C,
Nothing can separate
G, D
Even if I ran away

Em, C, G, D
Your love never fails

Em, C,
I know I still make mistakes
G, D
But You have new mercies for me everyday
Em, C, G, D
Your love never fails

CHORUS:

C, G, D
You stay the same through the ages
Am C
Your love never changes
G D Am
There may be pain in the night but joy comes in the morning

C G D
And when the oceans rage
Am C
I don't have to be afraid
G D
Because I know that You love me
Am
Your love never fails

C, Em, D

VERSE 2:

Em, C,
The wind is strong and the water's deep
G D
But I'm not alone here in these open seas
Em, C, G, D
Cause Your love never fails
Em, C,
The chasm is far too wide

G D
I never thought I'd reach the other side
Em , C , G , D
But Your love never fails

BRIDGE:

 C Em D
You make, all things, work together for my good.

Appendix E: Feedback Sheet

Please complete the below survey and email it to your study leader following the six part Jonah workshop.

1. **Length of Study.** This study lasted for 6 weeks. How long do you think this sort of Bible study should run for best effect?

(Circle the best answer) 4 weeks, 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks

2. **Spiritual Impact.** How do you judge this study's impact on your spiritual growth?

(Circle the best answer) Profound, Some spiritual growth, No perceived spiritual growth

3. **Helpful Aspect.** What was the most helpful aspect of the study?

4. **Frustrating Aspect.** What was the most frustrating aspect of the study?

5. **Least Helpful Aspect.** What was the least helpful aspect of the study?

6. **Improvement Ideas.** If you were to change the way the study is run, what would you do differently?

- 7. **Difficulty of Questions.** Speaking of the study overall.
(Circle the best answer) The questions were too difficult, Question difficulty was about right, The questions were too easy

- 8. **Usefulness of Questions.** Speaking of the study overall.
(Circle the best answer) The questions were thought provoking, Question difficulty were okay, The questions seemed superficial

- 9. **Number of Questions per Week.** Looking at the study overall.
(Circle the best answer) There were too many questions each week, There was the right number of questions each week, There were too few questions each week

- 10. **Enabling.** What would have enabled you to contribute more than you did?

- 11. **Value to You.** What value did you gain from the study?

- 12. **What the Study Meant to Me.** Please share whatever you like about what the study meant to you.

Additional Resources: *Background on Jonah*

Jonah, son of Amittai

Little is known of Jonah, the son of Amittai, apart from the book that bears his name and one other reference in 2 Kings 14:25. What we do know is that Jonah was a prophet of Israel from the city of Gath-hepher in the territory of Zebulun near what would later be called the region of Galilee. Most prominently active during the reign of King Jeroboam II (793-753B.C.), and prophesying in the midst of a period of Israelite prosperity, Jonah's message to this king conveyed encouragement as he foretold the restoration of lands previously lost.

Nineveh and the Assyrians

The ancient city of Nineveh is located in the Northern reaches of modern day Iraq. Laying on the eastern edge of the Tigris it sits across the river from the city center of Mosul, and has been largely absorbed into Mosul's suburban area. Sixty years before the time of Jonah, Assyria had expanded into Israel and the king of Israel was paying tribute. In the time of Jonah however, the Israelites had re-expanded northward, possibly indicating a slight decline in the Assyrian Empire's power.

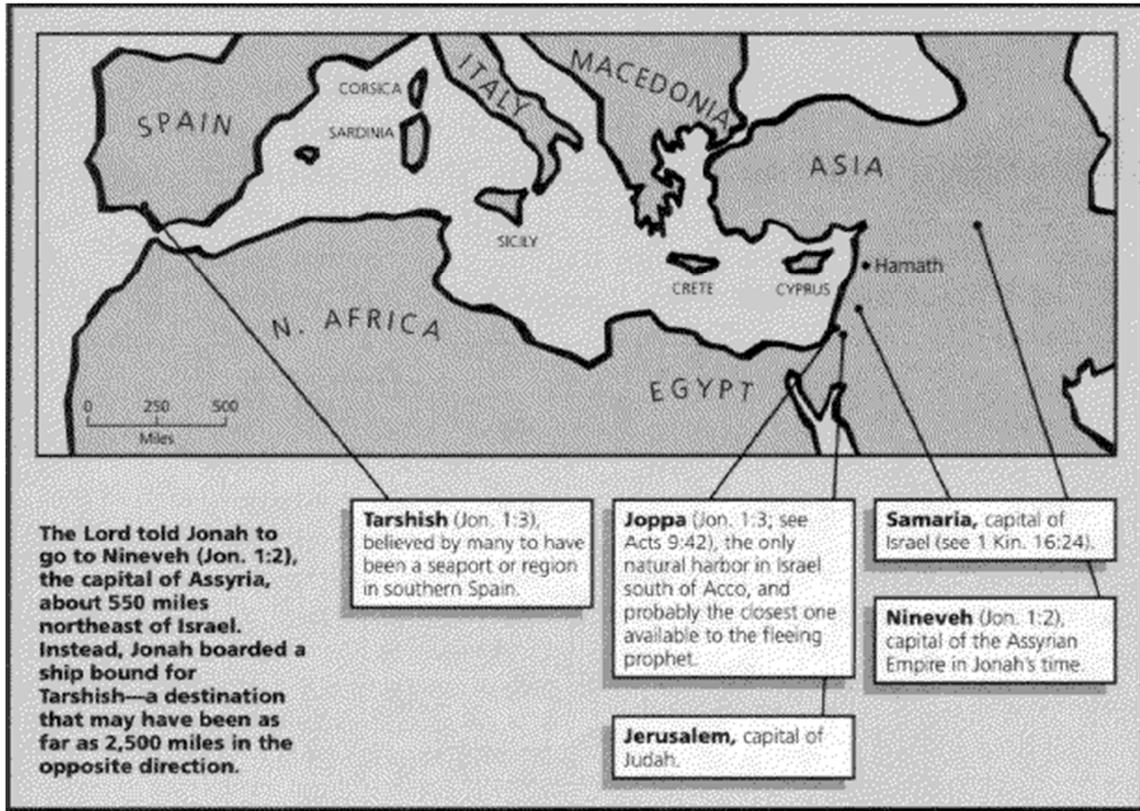
Although not the capital of the Empire at the time of Jonah, Nineveh would remain an important cult center (largely focused on the fertility goddess Ishtar of Nineveh) for many years. The city itself is situated on sparse land and lacks many natural resources. As a result of its limited resources, a good part of the Assyrians' early history is spent in subservience to others, until eventually equality, trade and relations with neighboring city-states grows. As time passes, around 1000 B.C., the Assyrian nation grows and opts for an ideology of conquest and terror as a means to gain resources, and grow the economy through pillage and plunder. Under this philosophy of expansion and conquest Nineveh ascends to prominence and truly becomes one of the greatest and most powerful cities in the world.

Major Themes

God's love and concern for the Gentiles is the dominant theme of the book of Jonah. Although Jewish nationalism blinds the prophet to the importance of the city of Nineveh, God will accomplish his purposes to rescue and redeem the people he loves regardless of background or nationality. As a true account, Jonah presents for the reader a dramatic example of God's intentions to bless the whole world through his chosen people (cf. Genesis 12:3), even if it means using its disobedient members.

A second major theme of the book is the extent and power of a sovereign God. Using Jonah's rebellion, a storm, sailors, and a great fish God positions his prophet in the precise location he wants him as the book begins. Even before the city-wide revival

at Nineveh, God will lead his disobedient prophet to cross paths with pagan sailors who will hear and believe also. His sovereign care of sinners, nature and the created world is vividly on display throughout the book of Jonah. Clearly God is in control of all of life's event, both remote and near, small and sizeable.



The Geography of Jonah¹

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). *Nelson's complete book of Bible maps & charts: Old and New Testaments* (Rev. and updated ed.). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.