

## Spreading the Word of God

### Jonah 1

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#### Using This Study

##### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we start a four week series on the book of Jonah. Jonah received the Word of the Lord and was told to take the message to the city of Nineveh. Nineveh was a very wicked city; why would Jonah want to save them? Why would he want to help them to understand God? We all have the Word of God through the Bible. We also all have the responsibility to take the Word of God to the lost, like Nineveh. Are there places that you would prefer not to share the Word of God? This week we are going to explore the challenges and difficulties with our responsibility to share the Word of God with all people.



## Jonah 1 (NASB)

### Jonah's Disobedience

**1** The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,<sup>2</sup> "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me." <sup>3</sup> But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. 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.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up. <sup>5</sup> Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and 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. <sup>6</sup> So the captain approached him and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps *your* god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish."

<sup>7</sup> Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity *has struck* us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup> Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account *has* this calamity *struck* us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what

people are you?" <sup>9</sup> He said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

<sup>10</sup> Then the men became extremely frightened 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> However, the men rowed *desperately* to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming *even* stormier against them. <sup>14</sup> 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."

<sup>15</sup> So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. <sup>16</sup> Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

<sup>17</sup> And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

**● EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. Where was Jonah told to go and where did he actually go?
  
9. Why do you think Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh?
  
10. How did the sailor's figure out that the storm was God's wrath toward Jonah?
  
11. Why do you think God wanted to send Jonah to Nineveh?
  
12. Could this story really happen?

**3 EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**Why does this MATTER to me?**

13. Jonah was sent with the Word of God. Do we have the Word of God?
  
14. Are we called to take the Word of God to people? (Matthew 28:18-20)

15. Where might it be intimidating or scary to take the Word of God? Or, where would you be reluctant to take the Word of God?

16. When we take the Word of God to intimidating places are we ever alone? Explain.

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES