

INVITE

February 5-11, 2020

Day One: Devotional

1. For the next two weeks, we will be looking at the story of Jonah and learning that we are called to bring people in to the family of God and that everyone matters. With that in mind, let's start this week in thoughtful prayer. Try to find a comfortable place, take a few deep breaths, and remind yourself that you are here to meet God. Repeat slowly, "Speak, Lord, your child is listening." Open your mind and your heart to what God wants to speak to you today. Think of those people in your life who are far from God, and pray that He would show you how He wants you to treat them. Pray that He would show you ways you can display His love to those who need to feel loved.
2. Read Luke 15:4-7, the parable of the lost sheep. This is probably a story you have heard and read before, but try today to read it with fresh eyes. The amazing thing about Scripture is that no matter how many times we read something, new things always seem to present themselves. That is the beauty of Scripture being God-breathed. That is the work of the Spirit. Write anything that stuck out to you here:
3. Try to retell the story out loud. Introduce the parable with any background information, and tell the story in your own words. Use the questions: Who, what, when, where, why, and how, to get you started. Keep in mind the characters, the circumstances, and the choices that were made.
4. Application: How does the truth of this story affect your life in your marriage, home, parenting, job, church, community, or society?
5. How does this story give me a better picture of God's attributes and who He is? How can this affect your life today?

Day Two: Observations & Color Code

This week we will be looking at the book of Jonah. Read through the four chapters of the book, color coding as you go, and make any observations here.

Jonah

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

³ But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

⁴ Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

⁹ He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴ Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.” ¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

¹⁷ Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,

and he answered me.
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.
³You hurled me into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers
swept over me.
⁴I said, 'I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.'
⁵The engulfing waters threatened me,
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.
⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.
But you, LORD my God,
brought my life up from the pit.

⁷"When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, LORD,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

⁸"Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God's love for them.

⁹But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.' "

¹⁰And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

3 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶ When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.
⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

4 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴ But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

¹⁰ But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

Observations:

Observations Continued:

Day Three: Method: Book Study- Book Background

This week, we will cover the first two parts of the book study on Jonah: book background & book survey. Then, next week we will perform a chapter analysis of each chapter and finally bring it all together with a book synthesis.

1. The first step is to pick the subject or book of the Bible you will be studying. You can do a background study on any subject, word, or person in the Bible. However, for the purpose of our study we will be looking at the book **Jonah** together.
2. List your reference tools. What tools will you use for this background study? Helpful tools include: Bible dictionary, Bible encyclopedia, Bible handbook, and/or a Bible atlas.

3. Starting Questions: Using your tools, try your best to answer these questions.

What can I learn about the writer?

When was the book written?

Where was the book written?

To whom was the book written? Who were they?

Why was the book written?

Day Four: Book Study Method Continued: Book Survey

1. Read/Skim the book of Jonah one more time. Perhaps read it in another translation. Try to read it through ignoring chapter divisions. Sometimes, those divisions can affect the way we understand a book. Since they were not in the original text, it can be helpful to try to put those aside while reading through. During this time of reading, **do not consult any commentaries**. Read it through prayerfully, asking God to speak to your heart as you read.
2. Make notes on what you read. Write out impressions and important facts you discovered. Here are some things to consider:

Category: Is the book History? Poetry? Prophecy? Law? A biography? A letter?

First Impressions: What is the first impression you get from the book? What do you think is the purpose of the writer? What “feel” do you get from reading it?

Key Words: What are some of the significant words the writer uses? What words are repeated the most? What word or words is he emphasizing?

Key Verses: What seems to be the key verse (if any)? What ideas or phrases are repeated that may show the main thought? What is the writer’s key statement?

Literary Style: Is the book a narrative? A drama? A personal letter? A discourse? Poetry? A combination of narration and poetry? Does the writer use figurative speech? Is he using a logical argument?

Emotional Tone: Is the writer angry? Sad? Happy? Worried? Excited? Depressed? Calm? How do you think his hearers must have felt when they received this writing? How does it make you feel?

Main Themes: What is the main theme? Is there more than one? What is the writer saying? What is his major emphasis?

Structure of the book: Are there obvious divisions of thought in the book? How is the book organized? Around people? Events? Places? Ideas? Time spans?

Major People: Who are the principle personalities in the book?

Any Other Notes:

3. Make a horizontal chart: Go through the book looking at the natural divisions. First look for major divisions, and write those at the top of the chart, grouping chapters underneath those divisions. Then, title each chapter on the chart. Finally, go through the paragraph divisions, making titles and grouping sections in the larger box under each chapter. Make notes of what happens in each chapter.

	Chapter 4	
	Chapter 3	
	Chapter 2	
	Chapter 1	

Day Five: Application

1. Look back on everything you have learned from the book of Jonah so far. Write out a practical application. How does what you have read encourage you to reach out to unbelievers? Is there anyone who God has put on your heart?