



Story Series – Part 3: Jonah

Brian Coles
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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **We Praise You** (*Bethel Music*)
- **All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name** (*Default Arrangement*)
- **Jesus Be the Name** (*Elevation Worship*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

- Psalm 139:7-8
- Read the entire book of Jonah (only 4 chapters!)

OPENING PRAYER

Share one thing you're grateful for this week.

Sermon Overview

This week we explored the story of Jonah, a prophet who ran from God's call to preach to Nineveh. Unlike Noah and Mary who demonstrated obedience, Jonah shows us what rebellion looks like—and how God pursues us even in our disobedience. Through storms, a fish, and a plant, God teaches Jonah (and us) about His compassion for the lost.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

On Running from God:

1. Pastor Brian said, “most of us don’t run from God; we walk.” What do you think he means by this? In what subtle ways might we “walk away” from God rather than outright run?
2. Jonah was a prophet—a “church boy”—yet he still ran from God. Why do you think people who know God well sometimes struggle most with obedience? Have you experienced this in your own life?
3. Read Psalms 139:7-12 together. What comfort or conviction do you find in knowing you cannot hide from God?

On Storms and Vehicles:

4. Brian stated, “God will send a storm to wake you up.” How do we discern between storms that are consequences of our disobedience versus storms that are just part of living in a broken world?
5. Jonah was asleep during the storm while pagan sailors were praying. What does this reveal about spiritual complacency? Are there areas where you might be “spiritually asleep”?
6. God provided a fish as a “vehicle to get Jonah back on track.” The pastor said, “The vehicles is not necessarily designed for your comfort, because saving your life is not always a comfortable process.” What uncomfortable “vehicles” has God used in your life to redirect you? (Examples: counseling, accountability, consequences, prophetic words, etc.)

On Obedience and Revival:

7. When Jonah finally obeyed, an entire city repented—even the animals wore sackcloth! What does this teach us about the potential impact of our obedience?
8. Why do you think Jonah was angry about Ninevah’s repentance? Can you relate to his frustration when God shows mercy to people you think don’t “deserve” it?

On God’s Character:

11. What does this story reveal about God’s character—both in how He dealt with Jonah and how He dealt with Nineveh?
12. The sermon ended with: “God will go to great lengths to save His children” and “God will send His people into messy situations so they can be cleaned up.” How does this challenge or encourage you regarding missions and evangelism?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Stop running from the call of God on your life.
- God will send a storm to wake you up.
- God will provide a vehicle to get you back on track.
- When the people of God are obedient to the word of God, we will see a powerful move of God.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to this week:

1. **Identify Your “Nineveh”:** Write down one specific thing you sense God calling you to do but you’ve been avoiding. Share it with one trusted person for accountability.
2. **Pray for the “Lost”:** Make a list of 3-5 people who don’t know Jesus. Pray for them daily this week, asking God to give you His heart of compassion for them.
3. **Support Missions:** In honor of Missions Sunday, research one of our church’s mission partners. Pray for them specifically and consider how you might support them (financially, through prayer, or practically).
4. **Examine Your Heart:** Journal through these questions:
 - a. Where am I “walking away” from God rather than running toward Him?
 - b. What “vehicle” (difficult circumstance) might God be using to redirect me?
 - c. Who are the people I struggle to extend grace to?
5. **Memorize Scripture:** Commit Psalms 139:7-8 to memory as a reminder that God is always present and pursuing us.

Reflection & Prayer Requests

- Is there an area where you sense God calling you to obedience, but you’ve been resistant or running?
- Is there a “storm” in your life right now that might be God’s wake-up call?
- Is there a person or group of people you struggle to have compassion for, like Jonah with Nineveh?

Closing Prayer

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for His relentless pursuit of us, even in our rebellion
- Pray for courage to obey God’s calling, even when it’s uncomfortable
- Pray for our church’s missionaries and local outreach partners
- Ask God to give us His heart of compassion for the lost
- Pray specifically for any “Ninevehs” (people or situations) group members shared