

A dramatic scene of a wooden boat on a stormy sea. In the background, large, dark, 3D letters spell out 'JONATHAN'. The sky is dark and stormy, and the water is turbulent with whitecaps.

# JONATHAN

A Jesus University Study  
Sundays @9:45am  
*(except on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays)*

# A Jesus University Study

JOHN 14:1-14



*(scan to download presentation)*

# About the Class

Study: Book of Jonah

Duration: 6 Sessions (*no class August 7<sup>th</sup>*)

Curriculum: The Bible (*NASB*)

Study progression method: verse-by-verse

# Classroom Expectations

Seek to bring value to the class through participation

“Parking lot” tangential questions/comments till end

Strive to apply lessons learned throughout the weeks

Purposely get to know someone new & pray for them



TEN COMMANDMENTS

# Study Overview

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to show the extent of God's grace – the message of salvation is for everyone.

## **Author (?)**

Jonah, son of Amittai

## **Date Written**

Approximately 785 – 760 B.C

## **Audience**

God's people everywhere

## **Settings**

Joppa, Nineveh, Belly of a large fish

# Key Passage

Jonah 4:11

*“Should I not also have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 people, who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left, as well as many animals?”*



# A Jesus University Study

Chapter 3 – Repentance *(continued)*

Session #4



# Who was Jonah?

- Jonah was the son of Amittai
- Jonah came from a town later known as Galilee (*2 Kings 14:25*)
- Jonah was a prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II (*2 Kings 14:23-28*) 782 -753 B.C.
- Jonah was one of the few prophets to come from the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- He lived during a time of expansion of the Northern Kingdom's borders, under the reign of Jeroboam II
- When God calls him to preach to the Ninevites, he refuses, unable to see how God could have compassion for a nation that boasts of its cruelty toward others. Jonah eventually obeys.

# Chapters 1 & 2 Recap

- God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach against its wickedness
- Jonah disagreed with the assignment and ran from God by boarding a boat leaving Joppa for Tarshish
- Jonah's disobedience was the cause of a great storm on the boat
- The crewmen cast lots and learned that Jonah was the cause of the storm
- Jonah confessed that he served the God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land and that he disobeyed God by fleeing to Tarshish
- The crewmen reluctantly threw Jonah overboard to calm the sea
- Jonah was swallowed up by a big fish
- Jonah prays to the Lord from the belly of the big fish
- In prayer, Jonah gives a prayer of thanksgiving to Lord
- The Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up on dry land



FRANCE

ITALY

SPAIN

Tarshish?

TURKEY

Mediterranean Sea

THE FLIGHT

ASSYRIA

BABYLONIA

THE MISSION

ISRAEL

EGYPT

JUDAH

Joppa

Gath-hepher

Jerusalem

Nineveh

### Tarshish ☆

An unknown port city in the Western region of the Mediterranean (1:3), i.e. in the opposite direction to Ninevah.

Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼



The Assyrian king (3:6)



The great fish (1:17)

### Joppa ☆

A port city in Judah (1:3), where Jonah disobediendly boarded a ship for Tarshish.

Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼

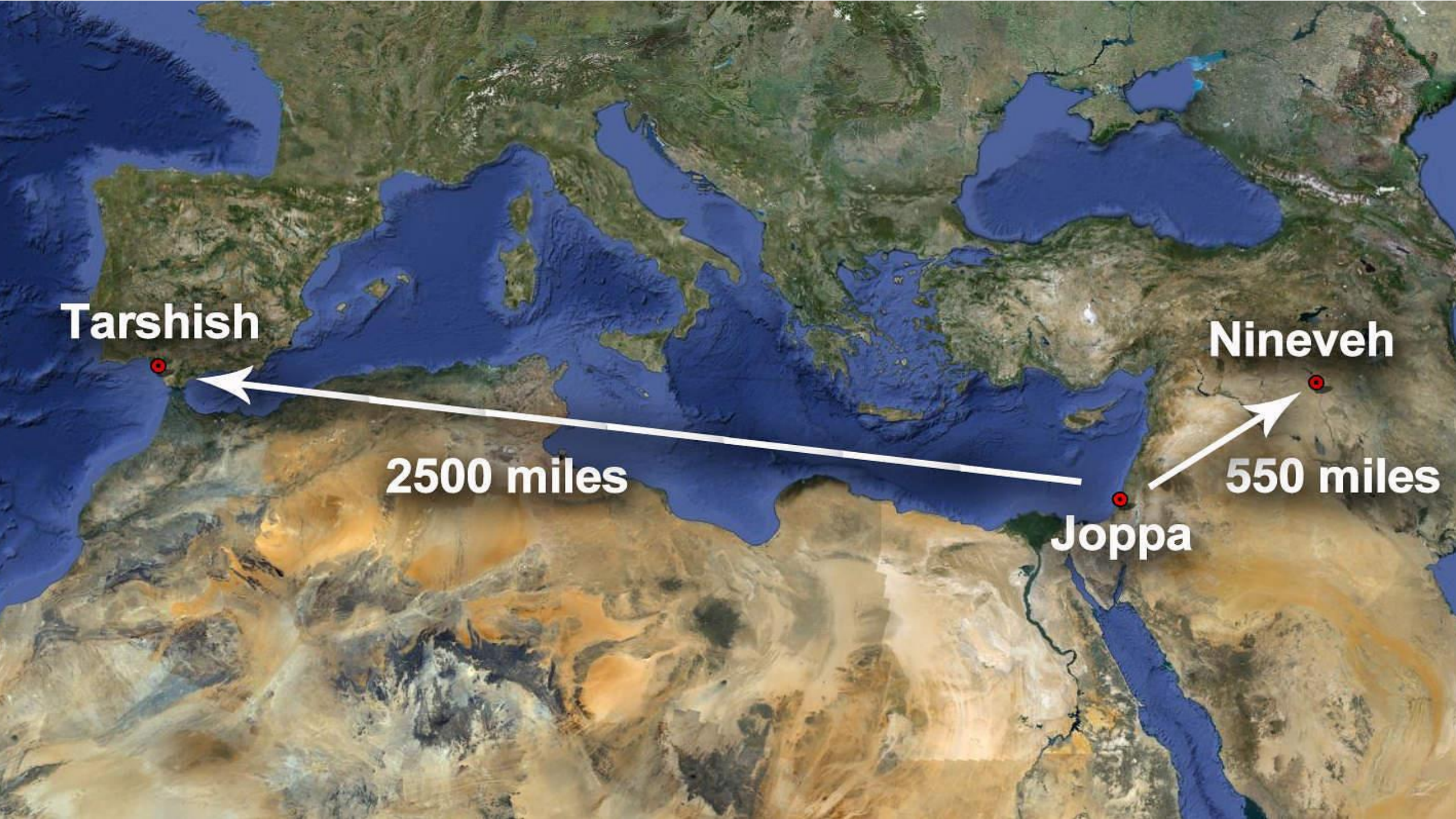
### Nineveh ☆

"That great city" (1:2), namely the capital of Assyria and home to 120,000 of Israel's enemies (as well as many cattle). Also, the mission destination of Jonah.

Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼



The Temple (2:4,7)



**Tarshish**

**Nineveh**

**2500 miles**

**550 miles**

**Joppa**

# God's Sovereignty

Although Jonah attempted to run away from God, the Lord was always in control. God powerfully displayed His control over the stormy seas, creatures of the sea, and man. Through this glorious display, God remained loving and compassionate.

**What might the consequences be for saying “no” to the Lord rather than yes?**

# The Importance of God's Sovereignty

An underwater scene featuring a large whale swimming in the foreground, a diver in the background, and a vibrant coral reef at the bottom. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above.

Saying “no” to God’s will immediately lead us down a path of destruction though we may not realize this at the onset.

Saying “yes” brings a deeper understanding of His will and our purpose in this world. Even more, God’s purpose in this world.

# God's Message is for the World

Jonah was purposed to preach to the Assyrian nation but his hatred for the Nineveh people caused him to respond to the call with anger, fear, prejudice, etc. Jonah had a huge problem with loving his neighbor.

**Question: Do we struggle with loving our neighbor?**

# The Importance of God's Sovereignty

We can not limit our reach to our “own” people but must proclaim God's love to all. We are commissioned to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

## **Matt 28: 16-20**

....<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



# Jonah 3:1-2

## [Repentance]

<sup>1</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”

# Jonah 3:1-2

## [Key Points]

- When we rebel against God, He still shows compassion though we have to deal with the consequences of our disobedience
- Jonah was given a second chance at “obedience.” We often disqualify ourselves when we sin thinking that God is done with us.
- Serving God is not an earned position. We are not qualified to serve him by our works
- Jonah was ordered to bring a message of doom to the greatest city in the world. We should not let social pressures or fear of people dictate how if and how we deliver God’s word.



**Jonah 3:3**  
**[Repentance]**

**<sup>3</sup> So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk.**

# Jonah 3:3

## [Key Points]

- City boundaries (*walls were 8 miles in circumference w/ 175,000 people*)
- The administrative district of Nineveh (*30 to 60 miles across*)
- The Hebrew text does not make a distinction
- Took Jonah 3 days to walk through the entire city

## Jonah 3:4-6 [Repentance]

<sup>4</sup> Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Forty more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown."<sup>5</sup> Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. <sup>6</sup> When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, removed his robe from himself, covered *himself* with sackcloth, and sat on the dust.

## Jonah 3:7-8 [Repentance]

<sup>7</sup> And he issued a proclamation, and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: No person, animal, herd, or flock is to taste anything. They are not to eat, or drink water. <sup>8</sup> But *every* person and animal must be covered with sackcloth; and *people* are to call on God vehemently, and they are to turn, each one from his evil way, and from the violence which is in their hands



**Jonah 3:9**  
**[Repentance]**

**9 Who knows, God may turn and relent, and turn from His burning anger so that we will not perish**

# Jonah 3:4-9

## [Key Points]

- God's message is for EVERYONE!
- Despite their wickedness, the Ninevites were open to God's message and repented immediately
- If we testify of the greatness of God, we will be amazed of how many people will hear and respond to it.



# Jonah 3:10

## [Key Points]

<sup>10</sup>When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their evil way, then God relented of the disaster which He had declared He would bring on them. So, He did not do *it*.

# Jonah 3:10

## [Key Points]

- Nineveh heard God's word and repented
- God's word can change the hearts of the vilest people
- Nineveh's repentance contrast with Israel's stubbornness
- Israel heard many messages from the prophets but refused to repent
- God responded in mercy by canceling his threat to punish Nineveh
- Repentance is for everyone Jeremiah 18:7-8
- God forgave Nineveh as He had forgiven Jonah
- God's judgment is one correction, not revenge

# 2 Scenes, 2 Chances

A large whale is breaching the ocean surface near a rocky coastline. The whale's back and tail are visible above the water, and it appears to be moving towards the shore. The background shows a blue sea and a rocky beach.

In chapters 1 & 2, Jonah is given a command by the Lord, and he fails to carry it out because of his own disobedience. In chapters 3 & 4, Jonah is given a second chance to carry out the command of the Lord and is successful. Let's look at the parallel between Chapters 1 & 3.

**SCENE 1**  
Jonah, the pagans, and the city

**SCENE 2**  
Jonah, the pagans, and the city

**JONAH AND GOD’S WORD**

1:1 God’s Word comes to Jonah

3:1 God’s Word comes to Jonah

1:2 The message to be conveyed

3:2 The message to be conveyed

1:3 The response of Jonah

3:3 The response of Jonah

**JONAH AND GOD’S WORLD**

1:4 The word of warning

3:4 The word of warning

1:5 The response of the pagans

3:5 The response of the pagans

1:6 The response of the pagan leader

3:6 The response of the pagan leader

1:7 How the pagans’ response was ultimately better than Jonah’s

3:7 How the pagans’ response was ultimately better than Jonah’s

**SCENE 1**  
Jonah, the pagans, and the city

**SCENE 2**  
Jonah, the pagans, and the city

**JONAH AND GOD’S WORD**

1:1	God’s Word comes to Jonah	The Lord spoke directly to Prophet Jonah
1:2	The message to be conveyed	Nineveh needs to repent from their wickedness
1:3	The response of Jonah	Jonah attempted to run and avoid God’s command

**JONAH AND GOD’S WORLD**

1:4	The word of warning	God sent a great storm that nearly broke up the boat
1:5	The response of the pagans	Called on their Gods for help to no avail
1:6	The response of the pagan leader	Desperately ask Jonah to call on his God to show mercy
1:7	How the pagans’ response was ultimately better than Jonah’s	Cast lots to determine who caused the evil to come upon them

## SCENE 1

Jonah, the pagans, and the city

## SCENE 2

Jonah, the pagans, and the city

### JONAH AND GOD'S WORD

3:1	God's Word comes to Jonah	The Lord spoke directly to Prophet Jonah
3:2	The message to be conveyed	Nineveh needs to repent from their wickedness
3:3	The response of Jonah	Jonah obeys and went unto Nineveh, the great city

### JONAH AND GOD'S WORLD

3:4	The word of warning	Jonah proclaims that Nineveh shall be overthrown in 40 days
3:5	The response of the pagans	Ninevites fasted & put on sackcloth from greatest to the least of them
3:6	The response of the pagan leader	The king of Nineveh rose from his throne, laid his robe down and covered himself with sackcloth & sat in ashes
3:7	How the pagans' response was ultimately better than Jonah's	The king decreed a fast overall of Nineveh for people and beast

## SCENE 1

Jonah, the pagans, and the city

## SCENE 2

Jonah, the pagans, and the city

### JONAH AND GOD'S WORD

1:1 The Lord spoke directly to Prophet Jonah

3:1 The Lord spoke directly to Prophet Jonah

1:2 Nineveh needs to repent from their wickedness

3:2 Nineveh needs to repent from their wickedness

1:3 Jonah attempted to run and avoid God's command

3:3 Jonah obeys and went unto Nineveh, the great city

### JONAH AND GOD'S WORLD

1:4 God sent a great storm that nearly broke up the boat

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# The Sound of Repentance

When Jonah decided to obey, lives were changed! The Ninevites repented from their wicked ways and turned their hearts towards God. God will forgive, no matter the sin. Refusing to repent is the same as loving our sin?

Obedience → Repentance → Transformation





# Sharing the Gospel

How do you know for sure that you're going to heaven? Sharing the Gospel helps one to know how they can know where they will spend eternity



# Preparing to Share the Gospel

## Step 1



### Pray

Pray about your connections and for hearts to be open.

## Step 2



### Identify

Identify who you will connect with each week and how.

## Step 3



### Act

Take action and step out in faith to connect and share the gospel.

## Step 4



### Share

Share your experience so it can be celebrated and God can be glorified.



# Sharing the Gospel

## Step 1: Start with the Bad News

- Most will know when they have done wrong
- Romans 6:23
- We need salvation because God is perfect, and He cannot accept imperfection.
- All are sinners in need of God's saving grace

Romans 3:23 (NASB)

<sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the  
glory of God,

# Sharing the Gospel



## Step 2: The Good News

- Romans 5:8
- God loves “all” people so much so that he gave his son, Jesus Christ

### Romans 5:8

<sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



# Sharing the Gospel

## Step 2: The Good News

- Romans 5:8
- God loves “all” people so much so that he gave his son, Jesus Christ

### **1 Corinthians 15:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

# Sharing the Gospel



## Step 3: Salvation can not be earned

- Romans 4:4-5
- God credits the perfection of Jesus towards the account of the sinner who
- We as sinners now have been credited with the righteousness of Jesus

### Romans 4:4-5

<sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup>However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

# Sharing the Gospel



## Step 4: Salvation can not be earned

- Romans 4:4-5
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### Romans 4:4-5

<sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup>However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.



# Sharing the Gospel

## Step 5: Prayer of Repentance

- Romans 6:23

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# Miracles in chapters 1 - 3

- God caused a great storm [1:4]
- The lot fell on Jonah [1:7]
- The seas ceased from its raging [1:15]
- God arranged a great fish to swallow Jonah [1:17]
- God ordered the fish to spit up Jonah [2:10]
- God saw their works and the Ninevites repented [3:10]

A dramatic scene of a wooden boat on a stormy sea. In the background, large, dark, 3D letters spell out 'JONATHAN'. The sky is dark and stormy, and the water is turbulent with whitecaps.

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