



JONATHAN

A Jesus University Study
Sundays @9:45am
(except on 1st Sundays)

A Jesus University Study

JOHN 3:16

A dramatic scene featuring a small wooden boat on a turbulent, dark blue sea. In the background, large, dark, 3D block letters spell out 'JOHN 3:16'. The sky is dark and stormy, with rain falling. The overall mood is one of struggle and faith.

(scan to download presentation)

GRACE

About the Class

Study: Book of Jonah

Duration: 6 Sessions (*no class August 7th*)

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 4 – Forgiveness
Session #5

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



More... Map Satellite Earth

FRANCE

ITALY

SPAIN

Tarshish?

TURKEY

Mediterranean Sea

THE FLIGHT

ASSYRIA

Nineveh

THE MISSION

ISRAEL

BABYLONIA

Joppa

Gath-hepher

Jerusalem

JUDAH

EGYPT

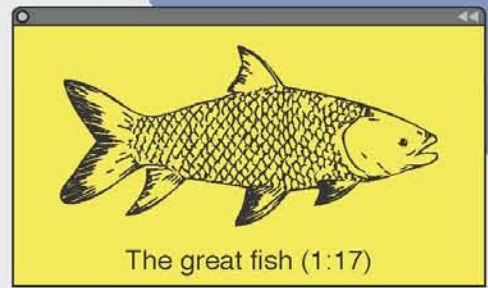
Tarshish

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)

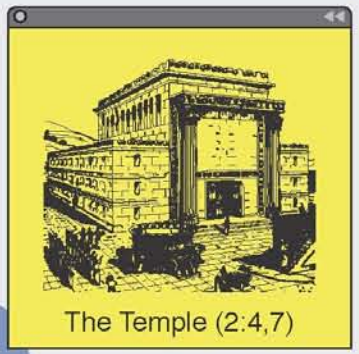


The great fish (1:17)

Joppa

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

Directions Search nearby Save to... move



The Temple (2:4,7)

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

Joppa ☆

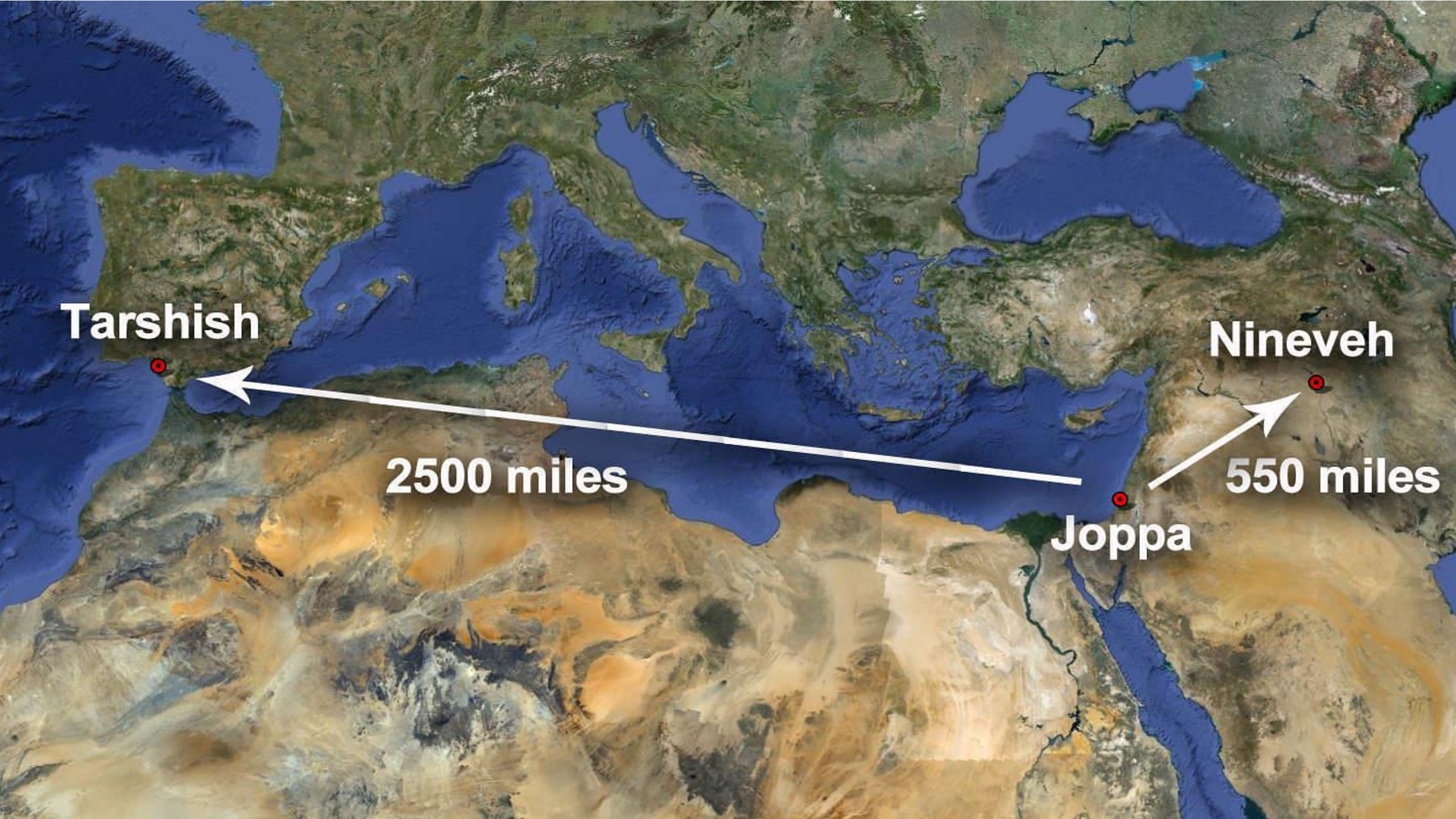
A port city in Judah (1:3), where Jonah disobediendly boarded a ship for Tarshish.

Directions Search nearby Save to... move

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



Tarshish

Nineveh

2500 miles

550 miles

Joppa



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: The Bad News (Problem)

Step 2: The Good News

Step 3: Salvation by Grace not Works

Step 4: Prayer of Repentance



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)

²³for 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

⁸But 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

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ 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

⁴Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵However, 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: 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.

Jonah 3:10

[Repentance]

¹⁰ 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]

- The ungodly Ninevites believed Jonah's message & repented
- Jesus said that at the Judgement Day, these Ninevites will rise up to condemn the Israelites for their failure to repent
(Matt 12:39-41)
- Not only are we to "hear" God's word but we must also obey.
- God forgave Nineveh as He had forgiven Jonah.
- God's word should bring correction, not revenge.

Jonah 4:1-2 [Forgiveness]

¹ But it greatly displeased Jonah, and he became angry. ² Then he prayed to the LORD and said, “Please LORD, was this not what I said when I was still in my *own* country? Therefore in anticipation *of this* I fled to Tarshish, since I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in mercy, and One who relents of disaster.

Jonah 4:1-2 [Forgiveness]

Why did Jonah become angry when God spared the Great City of Nineveh?

Jonah sincerely believed that God should not give His salvation to a nation so wicked.

NOTE: Salvation is for all who come to the Father by faith!

Jonah 4:1-2

[Forgiveness]

- Jonah was angry that God spared Nineveh which happens after God had forgiven Jonah for his obedience.
- Jonah comes clean – he wanted Nineveh DESTROYED!

Have you ever been surprised by God's mercy towards someone and thought (*even for a minute*) that God should NOT have shown mercy on them? .

Jonah 4:3-4

[Forgiveness]

³ So now, LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.” ⁴ But the LORD said, “Do you have a good reason to be angry?”

Jonah 4:3-4

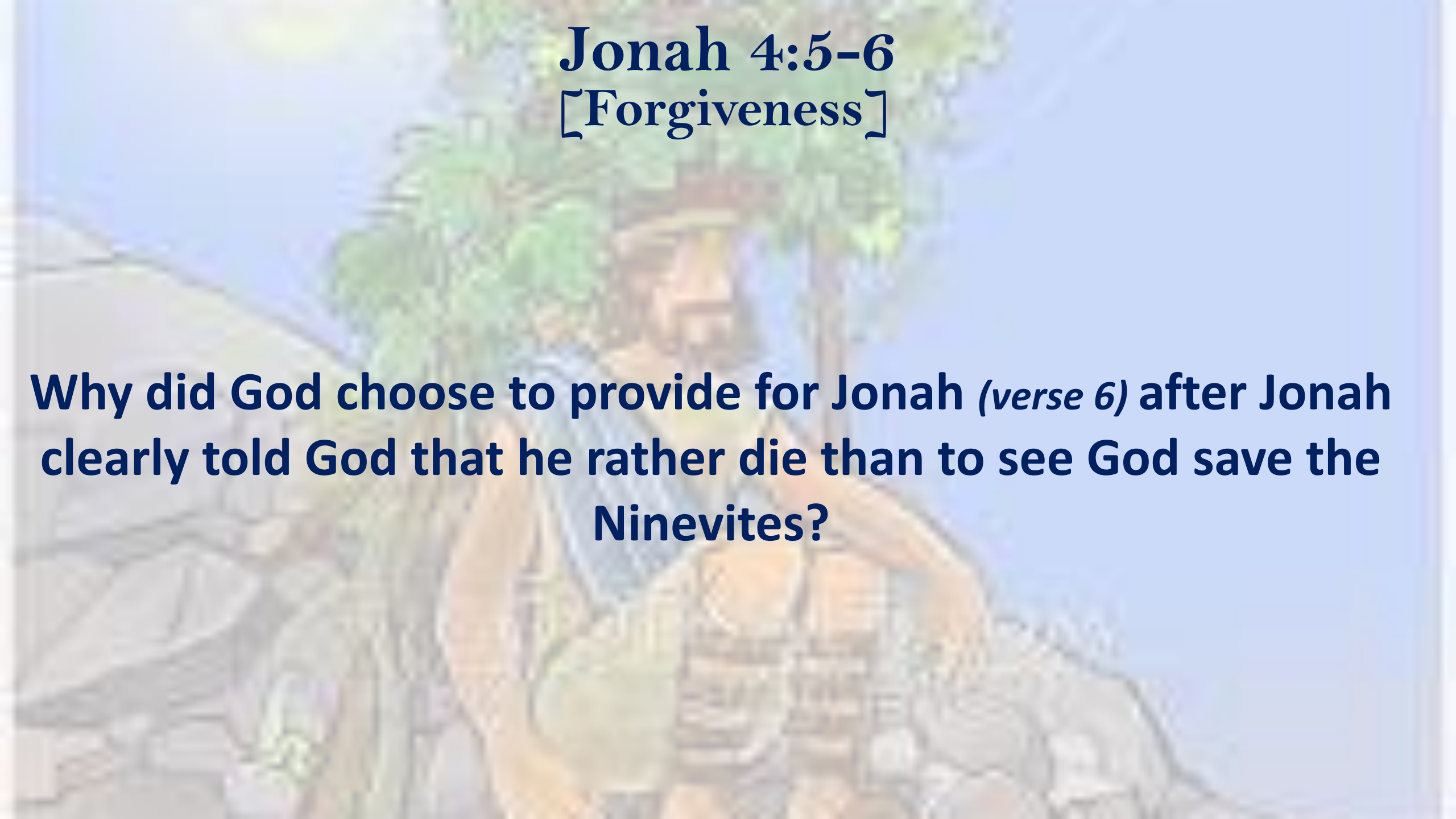
[Forgiveness]

- Jonah initially wanted to run away from God's instruction by traveling to Tarshish. Jonah now wants God to take his life from him, not able to bear God's mercy for others.
- Jonah was more concerned about his own reputation than God's. He was not interested in God getting the glory out of keeping His promise.

Real talk! In what situation might you be more interested in having your way than God having His?

Jonah 4:5-6 **[Forgiveness]**

⁵ Then Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade, until he could see what would happen in the city. ⁶ So the LORD God designated a plant, and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head, to relieve him of his discomfort. And Jonah was overjoyed about the plant.

A painting of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue tunic and a brown hat, sitting on a wooden bench under a large, leafy tree. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background shows a landscape with a blue sky and a body of water.

Jonah 4:5-6

[Forgiveness]

Why did God choose to provide for Jonah (*verse 6*) after Jonah clearly told God that he rather die than to see God save the Ninevites?

Jonah 4:7-8 [Forgiveness]

⁷ But God designated a worm when dawn came the next day, and it attacked the plant and it withered. ⁸ And when the sun came up God designated a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint, and he begged with *all* his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life!"

Jonah 4:7-8 [Forgiveness]

- Note how Jonah was more concerned about the life of a plant than the souls of the 120,000+ Ninevites.
- Jonah gets so hot until he faints. Ok...now he wishes to die again?

Reality Check: We have cried and lost sleep over things that in the grand scheme of things, are meniscal. How often have we cried or lost sleep over the lost soul of a stranger or even a loved one?

Jonah 4:9-10 [Forgiveness]

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Do you have a good reason to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, *even* to the point of death!” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You had compassion on the plant, for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

Jonah 4:9-10

[Forgiveness]

Jonah speaks of death again. How would describe Jonah's heart after reading the dialogue between he and God in verse 9?

Explain the point that God is making to Jonah in verse 10.

Jonah 4:9-10

[Forgiveness]

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Jonah 4:11

[Forgiveness]

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?”

Jonah 4:11

[Forgiveness]

- God spared the sailors when they pleaded for mercy
- God saved Jonah when he prayed from the belly of the fish
- God saved the Ninevites when they repented
- God answers the prayers of those who call upon him.
- If we respond in obedience, God will be gracious and we will receive His mercy, not his judgement.

2 Scenes, 2 Chances



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.

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]
- God cause a vine to shade Jonah [4:6]
- God prepared a worm to eat the vine [4:7]
- A scorching wind blew on Jonah [4:8]

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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