

Weekly Study Guide | March 30, 2025

Jonah, The Angry Fisherman

READ Jonah 2-4

[Jonah 2: Jonah Prays](#)

1 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. 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. 9 But 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.’” 10 And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

[Jonah 3: Ninevah Repents, God Relents](#)

5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. 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.

[Jonah 4: Jonah Laments](#)

1 This displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 2 So he said, “Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 4 But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?” 9 Jonah said, “It is. I’m so angry I wish I were dead.” 11 But the Lord said, “Should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left?”

SUPPORT: [Jonah 2-4](#); [Luke 11:29-32](#); [Ecclesiastes 10:2](#); [Proverbs 28:5](#); [Luke 23:34](#); [Acts 17:23, 30](#); [1 Timothy 1:13](#); [2 Peter 3:8-9](#); [1 Timothy 2:4](#); [Matthew 5:7, 18:33](#); [Psalm 40:8](#)

- “God is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:8).
- “God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).
- “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7)

Questions:

1. What stands out to you in the verses above? What is the message being communicated through the book of Jonah?
2. What happened when Jonah went to Ninevah? What kinds of things did they do show that they were sincere (Matthew 3:8)? What was God's response?
3. Why was Jonah so angry? Does his anger line up with God's heart? What kind of heart should we have? What does God ask us to do? How are we like Jonah?
4. What can we learn from this lesson? What are a few takeaways? How does it apply to you? What difference will this make in your daily walk with Christ?

For later: Please take time to prayerfully reflect on how this lesson relates to you. What did you learn? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How will this help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make in your life? Is there anything you need to change in light of this lesson?

Summary: Jonah cried out to God in his despair. God answered and saved Jonah. Jonah went to Ninevah. The people repented. God relented. Jonah lamented. Jonah knew that God was compassionate, but he didn't think the people deserved God's kindness. God values the souls of all people. Do we realize how valuable a soul is? Should people be allowed to hear about God and repent before being judged?

First, our God is a merciful God, willing to forgive all those who repent. The Ninevites were Gentiles, yet God still extended His salvation to them. In His goodness, God warned the Assyrians before sending judgment, giving them a chance to repent.

Second, God cares for all people. People from every tribe, nation, and tongue. He is, by nature, a Savior. As Luke 15 reveals in the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son, God's heart is for the redemption of all who will come to Him. Further, the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 emphasizes God's call to take God's message of "good news" to all the nations. Romans 1:16 also emphasizes the importance of sharing the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews).

Third, God is concerned for those who have never heard the message of His salvation. The mention of "more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left" (Jonah 4:11) most likely refers to those who know nothing of spiritual truth. Concerning the things of God, they cannot tell up from down or right from left. God takes pity on the spiritual blindness of the pagan. God desires to extend His salvation to all who would repent and turn to Him.

Pray this prayer every day: "Lord, give me a willing spirit!" "Not my will but yours be done." "What do you want me to do?" "Here am I, send me!" "I delight to do your will."