

# JONAH

## We Are All in the Same Boat

If we're honest, we're all too slow to realize our need for God. We're quick to pray and ask God for things we need or to handle situations we cannot when we're in a tough spot, but when life is calm, we tend to forget we have access to a 24/7 relationship with the God who loves us. This week, we're looking at the moment Jonah realizes God is his sole source of rescue – and how he still hasn't realized the God of rescue is available to all people.

### DAY 1: Read Jonah 1:9 and 1:17-2:1

Notice that Jonah admitted to the terrified sailors that he serves the Lord, the God who made the sea and dry land. Ironically, Jonah now finds himself somewhere between the two, not quite drowned by the sea and not exactly safe on land. Jonah knew what dry land meant and what the depths of the sea ensured. God demonstrated His presence (and power!) in a third way – something totally unexpected and almost certainly beyond the realms of Jonah's wildest expectation. When have you experienced or witnessed the work of God in ways other than how you expected? What did you realize about God? What did you learn?

### DAY 2: Read Jonah 2:2-9, Lamentations 3:19-40

Jonah's initial prayer is thanking God for saving him with a fish. Think of a time you were desperate and God rescued you. What was that like? What's different now? Take time to worship and thank God for the ways He's rescued you. Reflect on the things you learned about Him during those moments.

### DAY 3: Read Jonah 2:3-4, Psalm 31:21-24

In both of these passages, both Jonah and David are convinced that in their dire situations, God has left them or no longer sees them. When have you doubted God's care and concern for you? Did you ever feel like God abandoned you? Why? In both passages, the writers are clear to affirm that God indeed rescued them. Just like Jonah and David, in our moments of trouble, we tend to forget the unfailing character of God, but He never abandons us. Take some time to discuss the ways you've seen God remind you of His constant presence and care.



## **DAY 4: Read Psalm 118**

Look closely at verses 5-7. This particular passage thanks God for deliverance during a time of great distress. While the psalm speaks of being surrounded by enemies seeking the psalmist's destruction, Jonah's circumstance and resulting prayer is not the result of outside enemies desiring his destruction. Instead, Jonah's dire situation is the result of his own disobedience to God. Still, God heard Jonah's cries and rescued him. When have you found yourself in direct conflict or disobedience with scripture or God's call on your life? What was that like? How did God get your attention? How did you respond?

## **DAY 5: Read Jonah 2:7-9, John 14:6-14**

In this passage, Jonah finally understands that his rescue (and salvation) comes solely from the Lord. He can't save himself. In verse 8, he recognizes that any trust placed in anything other than the Lord is faulty and sure to fail. Take time to examine your heart. Are you placing your trust in things other than Jesus Christ? Why? What changes can you make? How have you seen idols fail you in the past? Explain.

## **DAY 6: Read Jeremiah 2:1-13**

This passage addresses Israel's infidelity. Over and over, they saw the beautiful intervention of the Lord, and still repeatedly chose to give up the wonderful inheritance delivered by God. Instead of clinging to God by faith in His unfailing character, this passage holds the priests heavily responsible for this unfaithfulness. The priests handled the law, but did not know God and, therein, could not teach the people the saving knowledge of the living God. Just like Jonah, as believers, we know the saving love of God. We have the ability AND the responsibility to introduce others to a heart relationship with our savior, Jesus Christ. Take some time to reflect on specific people you know who need to be introduced to Jesus. Pray for them and ask the Lord for discernment on the best way to approach them. Now, what's stopping you? Don't let it!

## **DAY 7: Read Jonah 2:9, Matthew 28:19-20**

What has the Lord laid upon your heart to go and do, say or give so that others will know the great compassion and saving blood of Jesus? Perhaps you've disobeyed and disregarded the call before. Take time to thank the Lord for His patient love and consistent rescue. Ask the Holy Spirit for continued renewal and clarity. Now, read Ephesians 6:10-20 and let's get to work sharing the great news of Jesus with a world that needs to hear and believe!