

# JONAH

## An Unexpected Response

### DAY 1: Read Jonah 2:10-3:10

After all this time – trying to flee God’s calling, being certain of his impending death in the sea, knowing he deserved it, being miraculously rescued by God with a fish and held there for days, recognizing God as the sole source of salvation, being vomited out of the fish and finding dry land – God came to Jonah a second time with the calling. How have you seen God faithfully pursue you and remind you of your calling when you may have missed it the first several times? Explain. How did you respond? Why?

### DAY 2: Read Jonah 3:5-10

This is the second time in Jonah we see pagans promptly respond to God’s words. First, the pagan sailors and now, the pagan Ninevites hear God’s word, respond through repentance and are spared by God from their impending destruction. Take some time to think about those who are far from God and haven’t been told about Jesus’ blood. What if you showed them the love of Jesus? Do you find yourself presuming to know how they’d respond? Why? Jonah would have had every reason to expect to be mocked, humiliated, tortured and killed by the people of an oppressive empire, yet they did not. Instead, they repented and believed.

### DAY 3: Read 2 Kings 17:6-23

In this passage, we see God’s people, the same people continually rescued by God from slavery, enemies, famine and false gods, reject and resist God’s word and are taken into exile by the Assyrians. These were God’s chosen people, the people of God’s direct attention and affection. They’ve seen His works, heard His words and still rejected Him. How do you think their behavior feels to God? How would that make you feel? Why? Now remember the pagan sailors and Ninevites and how quickly they responded when they encountered God’s word. Zoom out and look at the big picture of what God has done for us through Jesus. What does that help you realize about God’s character? How does that affect you?



## **DAY 4: Read Ezekiel 18:21-32**

We've spoken a lot about people encountering God's mercy through repentance. What does this passage in Ezekiel tell you about the importance of repentance? Refer back to the 2 Kings 17:6-23 passage. Just like we see in scripture with the Israelites, repentance is an all-or-nothing affair. The same is true for the Ninevites and ourselves. In Jesus' blood, we're called to be transformed entirely into the likeness of Christ, a new creation set right to be used by God for His glory and the spreading of the Good News. Have you repented entirely from the old, broken things of your past before Christ? Are there areas of your life that you've kept away from Jesus' transformative blood? Why? Here's your friendly reminder to give it all away to Jesus. Take time to pray and repent of these things.

## **Day 5: Read Psalm 51**

This is a psalm King David wrote after he had been called out by Nathan the prophet for his sins with Bathsheba, a married woman. Take time to reflect on this psalm of repentance. If you struggled with knowing what to repent of on Day 4, David set a good example for us. Let his cries to God be yours. Reflect on the ways you're grateful for who God is and how He is transforming you. Worship God with a grateful (and repentant) heart. Think of a new reason you're thankful to God and tell Him.

## **DAY 6: Read 2 Timothy 2**

Obedience is a crucial part of the equation. Abraham's obedience to God in faith set the precedent for an entire nation of people to be the standard-bearers of God's great promise (Hebrews 11:8-10). God used Jonah's eventual obedience as a vessel to bring repentance and true hope to pagan, godless people. As Christians living in a world that needs to know His goodness, mercy and impending judgment, what does this passage mean to you? How are you being stretched to be more obedient to God? Explain. What is getting in the way of you looking more like the vessels of Christ we see in 2 Timothy 2?

## **DAY 7: Re-Read Jonah 3:4-3:10, Luke 15**

Your heart matters to your relationship to God Himself, but not to His effectiveness. He can and will work through anything in order to reach those who are far from Him. It is not for us to pick and choose who should be offered forgiveness. As vessels of Christ's blood, we are called to scatter the seed; God produces the crop. Who have you written off from hearing God's message? Why? What's stopping you from telling them right now? This is your chance to be willing, able, eager vessels of Christ to a world in need. Don't let anything get in the way. Go share the Good News!