



JONAH

Overview:

The story of Jonah is more than an epic fish tale. It's the story of the God of miracles who's eager to give everyone a second chance.

Lessons:

1. When Jonah Ran
2. When Jonah Hit Rock Bottom
3. The God of Second Chances
4. The Most Embarrassing Chapter in the Bible
5. Four Miracles In the Book of Jonah



WHEN JONAH RAN

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TALKING POINTS

A pursuit of God doesn't always serve up the message we want to hear. Sometimes God calls us out of our comfort zones.

- Sometimes we _____ God's messaging – and we run _____ him.
- Sometimes we _____ God's messaging – and we run _____ him.
- Our _____ choices don't just affect us – they create collateral damage.
- God is _____ at work, whether we're running to him or from him.

DISCUSSION

1. *What did you know (or think you knew) about the story of Jonah before watching this topic?*
2. *Share a time you felt led by God to do something and it was fulfilling and successful. Share a time you felt led to do something and it led to confusion and failure. What did you learn about God and yourself in those situations?*
3. *Read Jonah 1:1-2. What do you think Jonah's rationale was for thinking he could run away from God? How have you tried to run from God's plan in the past? Where did you end up going?*
4. *Read Jonah 1:4-5. The sailors were paying the price for Jonah's disobedience. How has your disobedience in the past negatively affected others in your life?*
5. *Read Jonah 1:13-16. Identify everything the sailors said about God in this passage. Why do you think they trusted in Jonah's God?*
6. *Read Romans 8:28. How did God use a bad situation to bless the sailors? How has God used bad situations to bless you?*

WHEN JONAH HIT ROCK BOTTOM

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TALKING POINTS

Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of that fish – a perfect metaphor for hitting rock bottom in life. It was there that Jonah was able to reflect on his choices.

- If you've hit rock bottom, first _____ the trouble you're in.
- Next, _____ who God (still) is – and that he has the power to save.
- Finally, _____ with God's plan instead of trying to go your own way.

DISCUSSION

1. Share a time you hit rock bottom in your life. What happened to turn you around?
2. Why is admitting our problems an important first step when we find ourselves in trouble? What happens when we deny our issues?
3. Read Jonah 2:1-6 and Proverbs 3:11-12. What does Jonah's prayer reveal about him? How has God used a storm in your life to teach you things?
4. Reread Jonah 2:1-6. What does Jonah affirm about God? How has God used unexpected things to help you out of trouble?
5. Read Jonah 2:7-9. Identify all that Jonah says he will do. What does it look like practically to align our lives with God's plan?
6. Read Isaiah 6:5-8. What have you learned about the character of God in times of rebellion against God?

THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES

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TALKING POINTS

God didn't give up on Jonah. He gave him a second chance and God gives us second chances, too.

- God is a God of _____ chances.
- God's message is _____ and powerful.
- Every generation gets to make its own _____.

DISCUSSION

- 1. Share a time you felt prompted to do something but weren't sure why. Describe your emotions and the results of your bold obedience.*
- 2. Read Jonah 3:1-3. What do you think Jonah's mindset was heading into Ninevah? Why do you think God withheld the specific message from Jonah initially?*
- 3. Read Jonah 3:4 and 1 Corinthians 1:18-24. What did Jonah and Paul both require to speak to their audience? What did they risk in being bold for God? How do Christians need to be bold today? What do we risk for our boldness?*
- 4. Read Jonah 3:5-10. Why do you think the people of Ninevah responded as they did to Jonah's message? How have you seen people respond to the Gospel in miraculous ways?*
- 5. Read 1 John 1:9-10. What do these verses reveal about the heart of God for us? Who can you share this message with this week?*

THE MOST EMBARRASSING CHAPTER

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TALKING POINTS

Jonah pouted and threw an adult tantrum when God didn't do things his way.

- Jonah 4 is the most embarrassing chapter in the whole Bible – because Jonah throws a _____ up tantrum.
- It's embarrassing when your attitude toward God gets _____.
- It's embarrassing how little we understand God's _____.
- It's embarrassing how we care more about our own _____ than people.

DISCUSSION

1. *Share a time you got frustrated and were embarrassed by your actions.*
2. *Review Jonah's journey up to this point. How did his attitude change in each chapter? How do you relate to Jonah's hot and cold relationship with God?*
3. *Read Jonah 4:1-3. How do you relate to Jonah's frustration with the Ninevites?*
4. *Read Psalm 86:14-17. What did David recognize about God's character? How has God shown you unfailing love in the past?*
5. *Read Jonah 4:4 and Matthew 20:1-16. Why do you think God leads with a question to Jonah? What is Jesus' point in telling the parable of the vineyard workers?*
6. *Read Jonah 4:5-11. Draw your own insights from this passage. Why was Jonah sitting there and why did God make him comfortable?*
7. *How does the story of Jonah challenge you?*

4 MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF JONAH

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TALKING POINTS

A miracle is a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.

- It's a miracle that God _____ to Jonah.
- It's a miracle that God controlled the _____.
- It's a miracle that God _____ the fish.
- It's a miracle that the fish couldn't _____ Jonah.

DISCUSSION

1. *Have you experienced a miracle in your life? Explain.*
2. *Read Isaiah 55:11 and Hebrews 4:12. What does it mean that God's word always yields fruit? How has God's word penetrated your heart and convicted you in the past?*
3. *Read Job 38:8-11 and Matthew 8:26-27. What do these passages reveal about the character of God? How do you need to trust more in God's power in the storm you are facing?*
4. *Read Matthew 12:38-41. How does the story of Jonah relate to the story of Jesus? What does it say about the Pharisees that they didn't respond to Jesus the way the Ninevites responded to Jonah?*
5. *Read Jonah 4:2. What have you learned about God, and yourself, through this series on Jonah? If you haven't responded in faith to this merciful God, do it tonight!*

