

## A Study of Jonah – Week 1

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**Week 1: God's love and authority are demonstrated by His call to, and pursuit of, Jonah.**

**Day 1- Overview - Read Jonah 1:1-10**

1. What do you learn about Jonah from these verses: Jonah 1:1, 1:9; 2 Kings 14:25; Matt. 12:39-41)? If you have a Bible dictionary, you may want to see what it says about Jonah.
2. While most of the Old Testament prophets prophesied to Israel and Judah, what seems to be different about God's prophetic call to Jonah?
3. What do you learn about Nineveh from these verses: Genesis 10:6-12; 2 Kings 19:32-36; Jonah 1:2; the book of Nahum?
4. Most prophetic books focus on God's words as spoken by the prophet to the people. How is the book of Jonah different?
5. Looking at these verses, who would you say this book is really about: Jonah, Nineveh, or God? Explain.

**Application:** What is something you can apply to your life today from these verses?

**Day 2 – Jonah runs from God. Read 1:1-3**

1. From 1:1-2, why must Jonah go to Nineveh? Using a dictionary, write the definition of "wicked."
3. From verses 1:3, when Jonah started his journey to Tarshish, how did this demonstrate his attitude toward God?
4. What were some outward circumstances which might have caused Jonah to think he had made the right decision? What does this teach you about being guided by only favorable circumstances in making decisions?
5. Have you ever run from the Lord, or are you running from Him now? Explain.

**Application:** What will you do today to help ensure you are in the Lord's will?

**Day 3 – God pursues Jonah. Read 1:3-7**

1. What did God send in His pursuit of Jonah? What does this reveal to you about God?
2. Using 1:5, describe who did the sailors pray to and what followed?
3. List some of the suffering the captain and crew experienced because of Jonah's disobedience.
4. Using 1:5b, explain the evidence of Jonah's conscience being dulled by his disobedience? You ever just want to go to sleep to avoid irritating thoughts?
5. What did the captain say to Jonah and how did they discover Jonah to be the problem?

**Application:** Today, who will you turn to first, when you need guidance?

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### Day 4 – Jonah is confronted by the crew. – Read 1:8-10

1. Read 1:8 – Could you answer the questions Jonah didn't answer? Here they are: What was his occupation? Where was he from (2 Kings 14:25)? What was his country? What people was he from?
2. What do you suppose Jonah said in 1:9-10 that terrified the sailors?
3. Do you think people would be terrified today at the words of Jonah in 1:9? Explain why or why not.
4. Have you ever caused someone to suffer because you decided to disobey one of God's commands? Explain.

**Application:** How will you avoid causing others to suffer by your actions today?

### Day 5 – God is in the storms of life. – Read 1:1-10

1. What does Jonah's running from God demonstrate to you regarding both Jonah and God (see Psalm 139:7-14)?
2. The crew were probably Phoenicians and therefore probably shared a common polytheistic (many gods) religion. However, after the men prayed to their gods, did the storm subside? What did this demonstrate to the crew about their gods?
3. The crew knew this was a supernatural and violent storm. Their prayers to their gods hadn't helped. How do you think God might be using this situation to help the crew?
4. When storms come in your life, who do you turn to? Do you ask Him to show you how He is working in the situation and what He expects from you? Will you try that prayer the next time?

**Application:** How will you demonstrate your appreciation to God for Him being in your life today?