

## A Study of Jonah – Week 6

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**Week 6: God expects us to accept His call.**

**Day 1- Overview - Read Jonah 3:1-10**

1. God's call came again to Jonah and he obeyed. Do you think Jonah's "death and resurrection" experience added power to his message?
2. What do you learn about God from His proclamation through Jonah?
3. What effect did God's proclamation have on the people?
4. God spared Nineveh as a result of the Ninevites repenting. What do you learn about God from this change of events?

**Application:** This entire book of Jonah is about God and His saving grace. What might you do today to show appreciation for God's grace in your life?

**Day 2 – God's call and Jonah's acceptance. Read 3:1-3a**

1. Much has happened to Jonah since God first called him (Jonah 1:1). God has been silent through all Jonah's experiences because of his rebellion. Now God calls him again. What does this tell you about God?
2. When you are expecting to hear from God and you don't, what might be the problem? How might you change that?
3. Often God says "go" without giving any more information. Did Jonah know what he was to proclaim at this time? See Gen. 12:1; Ex. 3:9-10, 4:11-12; Matt. 8:3-4, 28:19; Acts 5:17-20.
4. How has Jonah changed since his first call from God? Explain.

**Application:** What is God calling you to today? How will you respond?

**Day 3 – God's call may be in conflict with personal feelings. Read 3:3b-5**

1. Use a Bible dictionary or other reference material to describe what Nineveh was like in Jonah's day:
2. Based on the information you found for question "1" and Jonah 1:3, 5, 10 - What do you think Jonah thought of the Ninevites? Do you think he was justified?
3. What do you think God thought of the Ninevites? How was He getting their attention?
4. Though Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, he went (similar to Matthew 21:28-29). Who benefited? Explain. What do you learn about God from this?
5. Is there something God is asking you to do which conflicts with your feelings? What will you do about that?

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**Application:** How might you demonstrate to the Lord today that you are a willing servant?

### Day 4 – God works through Jonah’s call to bring the Ninevites to repentance. – Read 3:6-9

1. **3:6** There is no indication that Jonah attempted to reach the royal presence in Nineveh. That makes the actions of the king even more amazing. What did the king do to demonstrate his humility? In what ways do you demonstrate your humility/reverence to the Lord?
2. Using a Bible dictionary or other reference, write about the significance of sackcloth and ashes:
3. **3:7** “neither... beast... flock... taste anything.” What does this tell you about the evil effects of man’s sins? See Jonah 4:11; Romans 8:20, 22.
4. **3:8** “call urgently.... give up....” What does God expect us to do before we have communion with Him? See Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 58:6; Jeremiah 31:18-19.
5. **3:9** “Who knows...” Remember these people were multi-theistic, had many gods. What an amazing instance of faith, shallow though it may be. Evidently their faith rested on the fact that God had sent Jonah to warn them of impending doom. They reacted to his prophecy. Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:41 that Ninevites will judge the people of His day because they repented. See also Joel 2:14-17. Do you think people today would react to such a prophecy? Would you? What does this demonstrate to you about God’s desire to save souls?

**Application:** How will you prepare yourself today, and in the future, to commune with God?

### Day 5 – God’s grace saves the Ninevites as a result of Jonah accepting His call. – Read 3:10

1. What did God see the Ninevites do (see previous verses)?
2. How do you explain the change God made regarding the Ninevites?
3. How were the people different from when Jonah first entered their city? What do you learn about God from His action of compassion and grace to the Ninevites?
4. Repentance means to “turn from your old ways” which (3:10) the Ninevites did. No one is without sin (Romans 3:23). Is there something in your life for which you need to repent? What will you do?
5. Jonah could not be sure that the people of Nineveh would be saved. He suspected it and that presented a problem for him personally. However, by accepting God’s call, thousands of people were saved. What does this tell you about the importance of accepting God’s call?

**Application:** Not all calls are like Jonah’s (thank goodness). Whether the call is as serious as Jonah’s or as simple as a one-on-one conversation about your faith, the question you must answer is: “Will I accept His call?” Will you today?