



**Real Characters**  
**Jonah: Boldness & Bitterness**  
By Pastor Pat Stark , 04 May 2014

**BIG IDEA: I am Jonah and so are you**

"Remember the time you were eaten by a giant fish?" Sounds like a conversation between God and Pinocchio right? Wrong ... Pinocchio was a children's story. Jonah was real. And you and I are far more like Jonah than we might realize. We run from God. We cling to sin. We think our way is better than God's way. Oh and let's not forget that whole pouting thing when we don't get our way.

Yeah, when I'm honest ... I am Jonah ... and so are you. Most people, whether church goes or not, are aware of the story of Jonah. By "aware of" I mean you know that it vaguely involves a prophet named Jonah and some giant fish-whale-thing that swallows him whole, swims around with him for a couple days then spits him out and the evil Ninevites do a 180 and repent.

On the surface of this short, four-chapter book in the Bible, that is essentially what happens. But there is so much more to the story than that.

Here are some thoughts and questions for you to consider after you have had your Jonah experience this morning:

- *Is there anything that God has asked of you that you are running from, right now?*
- *Is there anyone you know who appears to be beyond the reach of God? How about a certain person or group of people who, if they repented, you would be a little ticked off?*
- *What does Jonah's story tell you about the pursuit of God and His ability to bring about His ways, with or without us?*
- *How much of Jonah can you relate to now?*