

# OVERBOARD

Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church  
Jonah 1.7-10 | January 19, 2020  
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## I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue our series Overboard, engaging the Old Testament Book of Jonah. The prophet heard God's voice but ran the other direction. God acted in the midst of the storm, that not only impacted Jonah, but those around him, too...This week, Jonah is the one who is identified as the one who holds the answers and is responsible for the powerful trouble the winds and the waves of the sea are causing.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Did you ever try to run away from home? How far did you get?

What does it take to get you up in the morning?

Describe various ways that God has used to get your attention to follow Him.

What were the results? What can you give thanks for?

## III. Study the Text

### a. Reread **Jonah 1.1-6**.

Any new insights from the last two weeks of engagement with the text?

### b. Read **Jonah 1.7-10**

How many questions are asked of Jonah? Are you surprised that he did not seem defensive because of all of them?

What do we learn about God from this part of the story?

### c. Despite Jonah's determination to disobey God, he ends up giving a pretty good testimony. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

### d. Your thoughts...Since the storm is still raging at sea and Jonah is just waking up, the sailors conclude there must be unresolved sin in the life of someone among them...Does this seem plausible to you?

### e. Verse 7 says they decided to cast lots to determine who was responsible for this terrible storm at sea. Jonah is identified. What is a lot? How does God's sovereignty come into play?

### f. Verse 9 is the first time Jonah speaks. What does he say? Has Jonah shown any evidence of "fearing God" with his actions so far?

### g. Verse 10, "What have you done?" Unpack that question (or is it an exclamation!!!) from the sailors' point of view...



- h. Only now are we told that Jonah has previously informed them of his intended flight from the Lord. Is Jonah trying to evade blame or confirm it? He isn't hiding or holding anything back. And yet, the storm is still raging at sea...thoughts?

#### IV. Pray

- a. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live out your beliefs and to also be available to love and listen to others who are struggling to live out their faith.
- b. Lift up the persecuted Church as they seek to bear witness to the saving love of Jesus in countries and in cultural contexts that very well could resemble the people of Biblical Nineveh.
- c. Pray that our testimony about Jesus is always faithful and true, whether we are "navigating a storm at sea or enjoying peace and tranquility of the dry land."

#### V. Digging Deeper

- a. Reflect on **Psalms 145.1-13**. What are all the characteristics of God/the Lord that you can identify in this Psalm of Praise by David?
- b. What do you want to remember and apply from this part of the "Jonah story" thus far...?
- c. How does this story relate to you? Where do you "go" or what do you do that is the opposite from where the Lord is calling you?
- d. What has God taught you through disobedience?
- e. Casting lots was actually a come way to determine responsibility or God's will (see 1 Samuel 14.38-42; Proverbs 16.33; Acts 1.26)

