

APRIL 2021
Word for Women

WEEK 1 - Jonah 1

Day 1: Read the first chapter of Jonah. What did God tell Jonah to do and how did Jonah respond? Have you ever responded the same way Jonah did when God called you to do something?

Day 2: We see God's sovereignty on full display as He sends a storm to threaten the ship. Verse 10 tells us Jonah is trying to flee from the presence of the Lord. God makes it very clear with this storm that you cannot escape His presence. Can you think of another example in Scripture when we see someone try to escape what God has called them to do?

Day 3: Read verse 12. What does Jonah realize about the storm? In verse 15, after a failed attempt to reach the shore, the sailors throw him overboard. God's display of power through the storm leads the sailors to fear Him, and ultimately leads to worship (verse 16).

Day 4: In verse 17 God displays His sovereignty once again. He sends a fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah disobeyed, but God had a plan to use him to reach the Ninevites. Praise God that nothing, even our disobedience, can thwart His plan!

Day 5: Think back through the events we read about in Jonah 1. In His sovereignty, God directs what happens around us to accomplish His good purposes. He used Jonah in spite of his disobedience. How have you seen God's sovereignty displayed in your own life?

WEEK 2 - Jonah 2

Day 1: Read Jonah 2. This is Jonah's prayer while he is in the belly of a fish. Write down key words or phrases that tell us how Jonah is feeling.

Day 2: Read verse 2. Jonah has just been thrown overboard and now resides in the belly of a fish. But God still heard his call! Praise God that He always hears us, no matter how far we have walked away.

Day 3: Read verse 3. Jonah says, "you cast me into the deep." God used the sailors in His sovereign plan to send Jonah to Nineveh. Jonah acknowledges that God was in every detail of the events unfolding in his life. Thank God for being in every detail of your life!

Day 4: Read verse 6-9. Jonah acknowledges that God is the source of his salvation. God brought Jonah up from the pit (verse 6) and He heard Jonah's prayers (verse 7). God saved Jonah from his sin and called him to good works. Praise God He has done this for us also!

Day 5: Verse 10 tells us that God spoke and the fish spit Jonah out on dry land. Jonah's time in the fish brought repentance and thanksgiving. Is there something God has called you to that you are running away from? Turn to God and away from your disobedience. Allow Him to use you to accomplish His good purposes.

WEEK 3 - Jonah 3

Day 1: Read Jonah 3. God tells Jonah again to go to Nineveh and deliver the message God has given him and this time Jonah obeys. What is God's message for the Ninevites?

Day 2: How do the Ninevites respond to Jonah's prophetic message? Do you think this response surprised Jonah? .

Day 3: In verse 6 we see that Jonah's message reached the king of Nineveh. How did he respond? How can you respond to God's Word today in repentance?

Day 4: In verse 10, we see God's response to the people's repentance. God did not carry out the disaster He threatened against them. This is what God desires of us: that we heed His call to repentance and turn to Him and away from our sins. How will you choose obedience to God over sin today?

Day 5: God is gracious to us when we repent. He shows mercy to those who turn to Him. Praise God for how you have seen Him work in this way in your own life!

WEEK 4 - Jonah 4

Day 1: Read chapter 4. How does Jonah respond to God's mercy towards Nineveh in verses 1-4? Do you struggle when you feel as though someone who has hurt you does not get what they deserve? Take a moment to pray and thank God that He showed you grace and mercy, just like He showed grace and mercy to the Ninevites.

Day 2: In verses 5-11, we see God teach Jonah a lesson about compassion. Read verses 5-6. Jonah leaves the city seemingly to pout about the outcome of this situation. The Lord, in His kindness, provided a plant to give Jonah shade. Even though Jonah was frustrated with God's choice to offer Nineveh compassion, God still showed him compassion. Give thanks to God for the compassion He has extended to you!

Day 3: Read verses 7-9. The plant dies and Jonah no longer has shade to provide him any comfort. God asks Jonah why he is angry about the death of the plant. What do you think God is trying to teach Jonah?

Day 4: Read verses 10-11. Jonah shows more concern about the death of the plant than the possible death of the 120,000 Ninevites. God showed the Ninevites compassion in giving them an opportunity to repent. God also showed Jonah compassion in exposing his sin in order to draw him to repentance. Praise God that He continues to call us to repentance so that He can continue to show us compassion.

Day 5: Think back through the events that unfolded in the book of Jonah. You may find it helpful to read the whole book again. We see that God is compassionate, merciful and gracious. He gave Jonah and the Ninevites opportunities to repent and then drew them to himself. He used Jonah as a part of his plan to rescue the Ninevites. Praise God for who he is and how he works in us!