

# Jonah



**8.30am/10.30am Gatherings**

INTEGRATED BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

# 1 The Runaway

Read Jonah 1: 1-16

Describe a situation which you have wanted to run from rather than face?

What are some of the reasons people run from God and His Word?

**Read Psalm 139:7-16**

What does the Bible teach us about the presence of God?

How can that make us both uncomfortable and reassured?

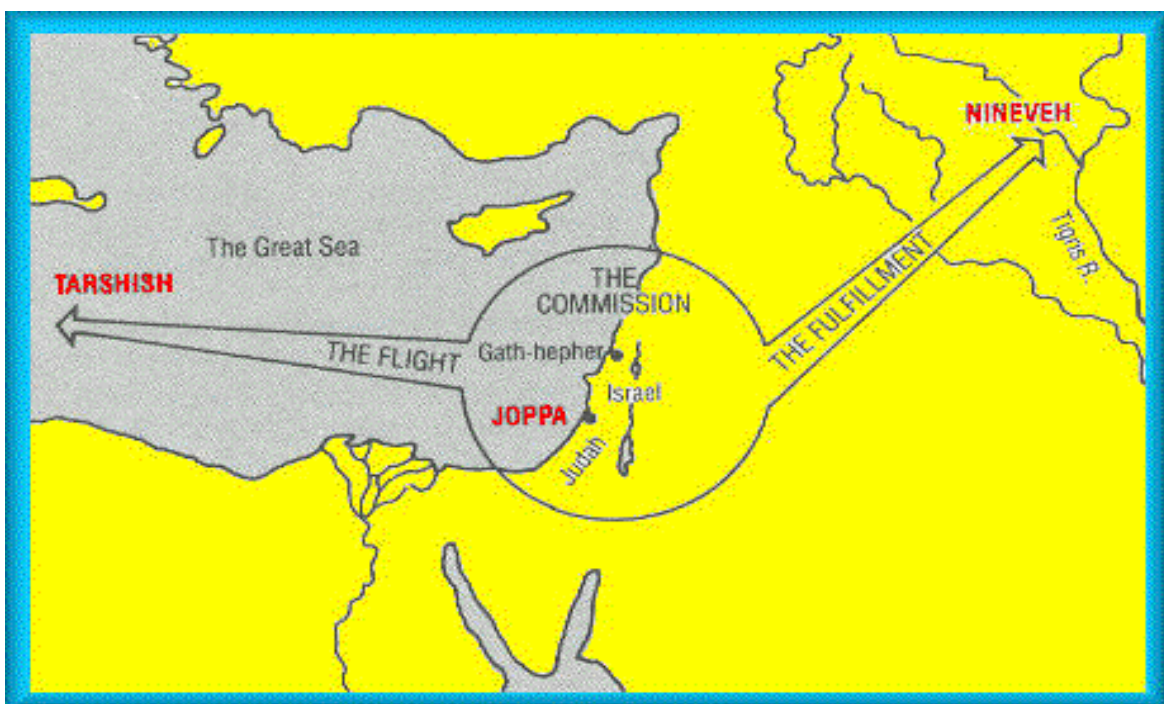
How do we know if stormy circumstances are the result of us running from God or a trial sent by God?

What does "saying no to God", mean for you?

How is fear of God different from being scared?

Maybe you would like to talk to your leader about some issues you've been avoiding that God wants you to deal with.

Your leader may like to share with you a time that they have been asked to do something by God that hasn't been easy.



## 2 The First Submarine Ride

Read Jonah 1:17-2:10

Jonah spends three days and nights in the belly of a whale, in complete solitary confinement. Can you think of a time you felt isolated or alone...what did you think about?

How is Jonah feeling about himself?

What sorts of things does Jonah say to God?

The Bible describes "HELL" as being cut off from God. Read Revelation 20:11-21:5. Why do you think Jesus saw being cut off from God as the greatest danger? (Matt 10:28, 2 Thess 1:8-9)

What does "Salvation is from the Lord" mean to you?

## Prayer Time

Is there a situation you need to talk to God about today?

Tell Him exactly how you feel.

Thank God that He listens, He answers, nothing is outside His control.

What can you learn from Jonah about prayer?

What can you learn from Jonah when you've messed things up ?

### ***Alive Inside a Whale...By Anne Dupree***

*A WORK party from the whaling ship Star of the East took two days to strip a giant whale of all its blubber. The year was 1863, the heyday of whaling. When the great mammal was reduced to bones the crew cut into its belly. There they made a discovery which haunted them all their lives. In the belly was a man...still alive. He was James Bartley, coxswain of one of the Star of the East's boats. Three days previously, chasing the mortally wounded whale, his boat was tipped up by the thrashing flukes. The whale charged and James Bartley disappeared down its gullet. Bartley, though babbling mad at first, finally told his story lucidly. Bartley's story throws new light on the biblical story of Jonah. In an excellent book, 50 Strange Mysteries of the Sea (Souvenir Press, \$13.95), edited by John Canning, story writer Mollie Hardwick looks at the facts. Was Jonah an actual case of survival and not the allegorical figure modern theologians tend to think he was? Is it humanly possible for a person to survive such an experience? Jonah gave no description of the whale or fish, but Bartley did. "I looked up and saw a big-ribbed canopy of light pink and white descending on me," he told his shipmates. He was drawn lower and lower, ending in a "large sack" where he felt living fishes. There was a "terrible heat." Maritime tall story or the truth?*

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## The City Of Sin

Read Jonah 3:1-10

What are some contrasts between Jonah's first and second calls to Nineveh?

What do you think it means to repent?

What do you think are the signs of a person who is trying to put things right with God?

Can you think of an example where saying sorry was not enough? What else was needed?

Is God fickle because he changes His mind about judging the Ninevites?

Read Luke 11:29-32. What is it about the people of Nineveh that Jesus praises?

What have Jonah and Jesus got in common as messengers of God?

What do you think is the sign Jesus is talking about?

## 4 The Reluctant Missionary

Read Jonah 4:1-11

How do you explain Jonah's outburst of anger when the Ninevites don't get zapped?

What are some of the reasons why people can have it in for other people?

What do you think is the main lesson God teaches Jonah through the dead plant?

Read Luke 15:25-32. What was the real issue behind the big brother chip on his shoulder?

From the book of Jonah, I reckon God's grace is like...

What are some types of people who you think don't deserve God's grace. Pray for them, and ask God to soften your attitude to them.

What are some things that can sometimes become more valuable to you than other people?

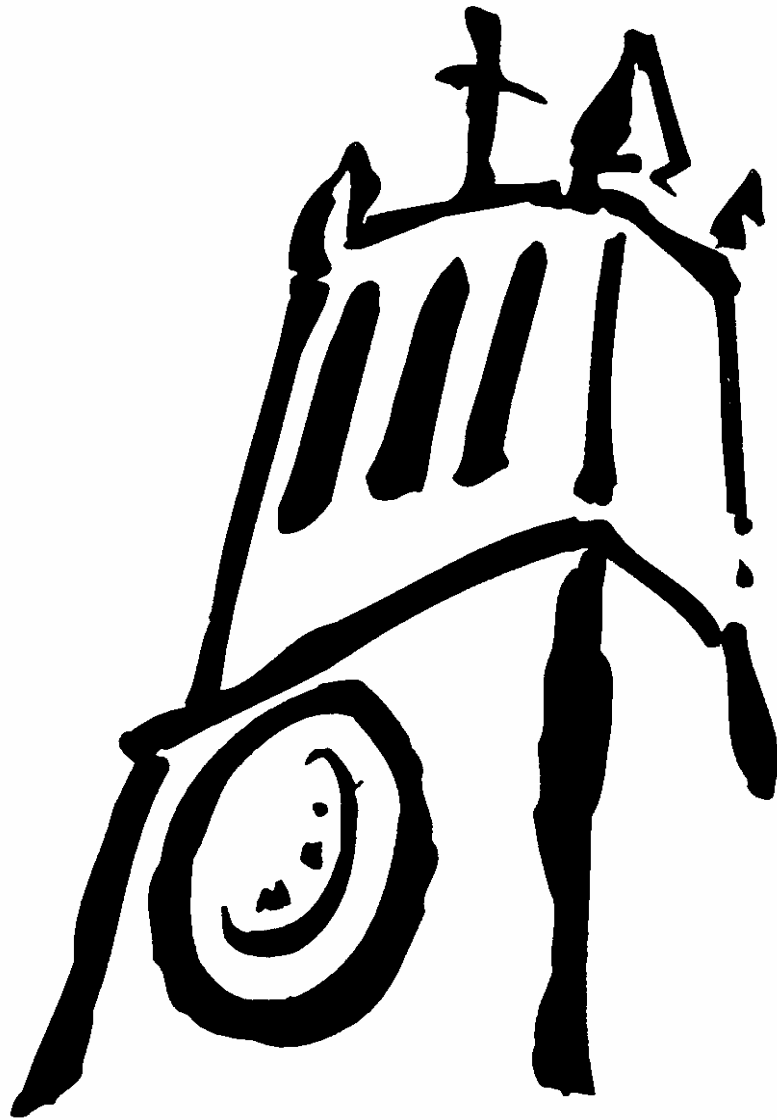
In the notes section of this book, write down what have been the main ideas, thoughts, lessons, etc... that God has spoken to you this week.

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## **Notes**

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