

THE BOOK OF JONAH

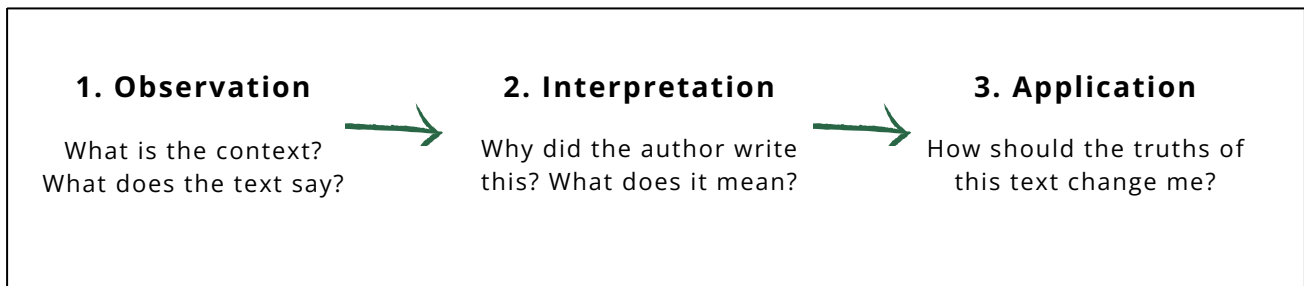
JONAH | HOW TO SLOW STUDY A SECTION OF SCRIPTURE IN A WEEK

Our hope for you this summer is that you are able to find time to slow down and steep yourself in God's word. The worksheets will help you do just that! Take a week to study each section of scripture and use these prompts and questions to guide your study time. Reading God's Word for yourself is the best way to get better at it! You never read alone. God's Spirit is right there with you and will guide you through your study.

HOW TO USE THE WORKSHEETS

Whenever you start to study a new book of the Bible or section of scripture you will want to learn about the context of that book. The first worksheet will help you do that.

Once you have established the context for the book you are ready to start studying! Take each section of scripture a week at a time. The worksheets will walk you through three simple steps that will guide your study. Thinking through and answering these questions help you to understand and apply what you learn from that section of scripture.



In every step, pray and meditate on God's word.

Remember, spending time with God in scripture is the goal. Slow down to marvel at who He is. Ask Him to press His truth into you. Prioritize your relationship with Him over finding the right answer or the perfect application. You change as you spend time with Him.

The Bible is to be studied for a lifetime. Try not to get overwhelmed by what you don't know or understand. Build your library of knowledge one day at a time. You'll be amazed at how the connections start to come more easily and quickly over time. God's Spirit is with you as a guide.

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SAMPLE STUDY SCHEDULE

The book of Jonah contains 4 chapters but we will be taking 6 weeks to study Jonah. Below is a sample schedule that will keep you on track with what will be preached on Sunday mornings. Feel free to use this schedule as a guideline, not necessarily a hard and fast rule if you find a different schedule works better for you.

WEEK 1 - OVERVIEW

Take one week to read the book of Jonah in its entirety several times. Try reading it in different translations or listening to an audio version. Also complete the Jonah Overview Worksheet pages.

WEEK 2 - JONAH CHAPTER 1

WEEK 3 - JONAH CHAPTER 2

WEEK 4 - JONAH CHAPTER 3

WEEK 5 - JONAH CHAPTER 4

WEEK 6 - CATCH UP + REFLECTION

Take the last week to catch up if you are behind, deep dive into something you found interesting in chapters 1-4, and reflect on what you have learned using the Jonah Wrap-Up worksheet.

BOOK OVERVIEW: JONAH

Before you dive into studying the book of Jonah it is important to understand the context of this book. Take some time to answer the questions below to learn more about the historical, cultural, and Biblical context of the book of Jonah. A study Bible or the resources below can aid you as you seek to answer these questions. But don't take your thinking cap off! What other connections can you make? Think about the implications of where this book falls in the overarching story of God.

RESOURCES FOR THE BOOK OF JONAH

[Bible Project Jonah Overview Video](#)

[Bible Project Jonah Poster](#)

[Map: Places in Jonah](#)

Bible 101 Resource Guide:

- Timeline
- OT characters
- Narrative and prophetic text and questions for studying these genres.

1. What kind of writing is this? (narrative, poetry, prose, wisdom, prophetic, apocalyptic, a letter)

2. Who wrote the book and when?

3. Where does this book take place?

4. To whom was it written?

5. Why was this book written?

BOOK OVERVIEW: JONAH

6. What is the basic outline of this book?

7. What major symbols or themes run through the book that I should be on the lookout for?

8. Other important notes/helpful information about this book:

JONAH 1

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, **2** "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." **3** But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

4 But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. **5** Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. **6** So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. **8** Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" **9** And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.

JONAH 1

12 He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." **13** Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.

14 Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." **15** So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. **16** Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

17 And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

PASSAGE OF STUDY: JONAH 1

STUDY TIP:

Read through a chapter in multiple translations. What do you notice between translations?

DAY 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire section a few times. You can listen to it or read it out loud.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION

What does the text say?

<p>People: Who are the characters? What are they like? Do they appear anywhere else in scripture that you know of? (Remember: God is often a character. What's He doing?)</p>	<p>Places: Where is this passage taking place? What does the text say about it? What's the time frame or place in history?</p>
<p>Plot: What's happening? How are the characters interacting with each other + God? What are the high points + low points?</p>	<p>Connections: Are there any repeating patterns in words, phrases, ideas? Biblical themes or symbols?</p>

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION

Why did the author write this? What does this text mean?

STUDY TIP:

Pull up a map and become familiar with the places mentioned. Where are Joppa, Nineveh, and Tarshish? How does this little geographical fact add significance to Jonah's actions?

1. What questions do you have after observing the people, places, plot, and connections of the passage?

2. How does the text and other scriptures you know of answer these questions? Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances, and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

3. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Write a summary of the passage in one sentence. What is the main idea / intent of the author?

DAY 4: APPLICATION

How should the truths of this text change me?

1. Are there examples to follow or avoid?
2. In what ways should my attitude or actions change as a result of the main idea?
3. What do I learn about who God is that I can praise, worship or be grateful for?
4. When do I resist the truth of the main idea? Why?

DAY 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned. Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

JONAH 2

1 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, **2** saying,

“I called out to the Lord, out of my distress,

and he answered me;

out of the belly of Sheol I cried,

and you heard my voice.

3 For you cast me into the deep,

into the heart of the seas,

and the flood surrounded me;

all your waves and your billows

passed over me.

4 Then I said, ‘I am driven away

from your sight;

yet I shall again look

upon your holy temple.’

5 The waters closed in over me to take my life;

the deep surrounded me;

weeds were wrapped about my head

6 at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land

whose bars closed upon me forever;

yet you brought up my life from the pit,

O Lord my God.

7 When my life was fainting away,

I remembered the Lord,

and my prayer came to you,

into your holy temple.

8 Those who pay regard to vain idols

forsake their hope of steadfast love.

JONAH 2

9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving

will sacrifice to you;

what I have vowed I will pay.

Salvation belongs to the Lord!"

10 And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

PASSAGE OF STUDY: JONAH 2

STUDY TIP:

Remember the setting (both location and timing) of Jonah's prayer.

DAY 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire section a few times. You can listen to it or read it out loud.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION

What does the text say?

<p>People: Who are the characters? What are they like? Do they appear anywhere else in scripture that you know of? (Remember: God is often a character. What's He doing?)</p>	<p>Places: Where is this passage taking place? What does the text say about it? What's the time frame or place in history?</p>
<p>Plot: What's happening? How are the characters interacting with each other + God? What are the high points + low points?</p>	<p>Connections: Are there any repeating patterns in words, phrases, ideas? Biblical themes or symbols?</p>

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION

Why did the author write this? What does this text mean?

STUDY TIP:

What lessons can we learn from Jonah's prayer and response to his circumstances?

1. What questions do you have after observing the people, places, plot, and connections of the passage?

2. How does the text and other scriptures you know of answer these questions? Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances, and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

3. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Write a summary of the passage in one sentence. What is the main idea / intent of the author?

DAY 4: APPLICATION

How should the truths of this text change me?

1. Are there examples to follow or avoid?
2. In what ways should my attitude or actions change as a result of the main idea?
3. What do I learn about who God is that I can praise, worship or be grateful for?
4. When do I resist the truth of the main idea? Why?

DAY 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned. Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

JONAH 3

1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, **2** “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.”

3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. **4** Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” **5** And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

6 The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. **7** And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, **8** but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. **9** Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

PASSAGE OF STUDY: JONAH 3

STUDY TIP:

Where do you see glimpses of the gospel in this chapter?

DAY 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire section a few times. You can listen to it or read it out loud.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION

What does the text say?

<p>People: Who are the characters? What are they like? Do they appear anywhere else in scripture that you know of? (Remember: God is often a character. What's He doing?)</p>	<p>Places: Where is this passage taking place? What does the text say about it? What's the time frame or place in history?</p>
<p>Plot: What's happening? How are the characters interacting with each other + God? What are the high points + low points?</p>	<p>Connections: Are there any repeating patterns in words, phrases, ideas? Biblical themes or symbols?</p>

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION

Why did the author write this? What does this text mean?

STUDY TIP:

What other Scripture and stories from the Bible demonstrate God's mercy, pity, or compassion?

1. What questions do you have after observing the people, places, plot, and connections of the passage?

2. How does the text and other scriptures you know of answer these questions? Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances, and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

3. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Write a summary of the passage in one sentence. What is the main idea / intent of the author?

DAY 4: APPLICATION

How should the truths of this text change me?

1. Are there examples to follow or avoid?
2. In what ways should my attitude or actions change as a result of the main idea?
3. What do I learn about who God is that I can praise, worship or be grateful for?
4. When do I resist the truth of the main idea? Why?

DAY 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned. Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

JONAH 4

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. **2** And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. **3** Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." **4** And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?" **5** Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. **6** Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. **7** But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. **8** When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." **9** But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." **10** And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. **11** And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

PASSAGE OF STUDY: JONAH 4

STUDY TIP:

What stands out about the character of God? What attributes and character traits have you seen throughout this book?

DAY 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire section a few times. You can listen to it or read it out loud.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION

What does the text say?

<p>People: Who are the characters? What are they like? Do they appear anywhere else in scripture that you know of? (Remember: God is often a character. What's He doing?)</p>	<p>Places: Where is this passage taking place? What does the text say about it? What's the time frame or place in history?</p>
<p>Plot: What's happening? How are the characters interacting with each other + God? What are the high points + low points?</p>	<p>Connections: Are there any repeating patterns in words, phrases, ideas? Biblical themes or symbols?</p>

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION

Why did the author write this? What does this text mean?

STUDY TIP:

What stands out about the character of Jonah? What are some differences between how Jonah responds and what God demonstrates about who He is and what He does?

1. What questions do you have after observing the people, places, plot, and connections of the passage?

2. How does the text and other scriptures you know of answer these questions? Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances, and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

3. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Write a summary of the passage in one sentence. What is the main idea / intent of the author?

DAY 4: APPLICATION

How should the truths of this text change me?

1. Are there examples to follow or avoid?
2. In what ways should my attitude or actions change as a result of the main idea?
3. What do I learn about who God is that I can praise, worship or be grateful for?
4. When do I resist the truth of the main idea? Why?

DAY 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned. Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

BOOK WRAP-UP: JONAH

Take some time to reflect on the things God taught you as you studied the book of Jonah. Read through your past worksheets and answer the questions below.

1. What are some overarching themes that are prevalent in this narrative about Jonah?

2. What were some important things God was teaching you in Jonah?

3. Reflect on the application sections of your worksheets. How will you work on applying what you learned?

4. Spend some time in prayer talking with God about what you learned.