



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. 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.

Start Talking. Conversation starter for your group.

- As a teen, when you were told to do something you didn't want to do, were you more likely to: a) obey out of fear of the consequences b) ignore the command c) make excuses for why you didn't obey d) run and hide until the coast was clear e) say “okay” but conveniently forget f) outwardly comply but inwardly rebel or g) willingly obey because you respected their authority and trusted their judgment?

Start Thinking.

- **Read the first chapter of Jonah.** What seems reasonable and surprising about God's command (v 2)? Why did God tell Jonah to go and preach His judgment to the Ninevites? How do you think Jonah felt about the Ninevites? Why do you think he refused to take God's message to them and disobey God?
- What was foolish about Jonah's belief that he could flee from God (v 3)? In what ways can you relate to Jonah's disobedience?
- What is surprising about how the sailors responded to Jonah's confession? Why did Jonah tell the sailors to throw him into the sea? What does Jonah's confession reveal about his heart? What does it take for you to acknowledge your disobedience? What was missing in Jonah's confession?

Start Sharing.

- What is it that usually keeps you from doing something that God wants you to do?
- What did God use to save Jonah? Do you believe it is possible to survive in the belly of a great fish, view this as a supernatural miracle or believe it is a fable? What does God's pursuit of Jonah reveal about God? How does this fact about God impact you personally?
- Share some examples of how the consequences of our disobedience can affect others. Think about a time when you disobeyed God. Who was affected by your disobedience? What has God asked you to do that you haven't done? (Is there any area of disobedience in your life?)
- In your spiritual life, which direction are you running: towards God, away from God, with God, or behind God?

Start Doing.

- If you aren't currently serving at Vision, consider joining the Dream Team. Spend time this week asking God to direct you.