



**Title: Unlikely- A Heart for People**

**Scripture: Jonah 1-4**

**Date: 08/12/2018**

**Bible Version: ESV**

**BOTTOM LINE: God uses unlikely people to be His messengers and accomplish His purposes.**

**Vs. 1-2**

**Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it**

Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian empire and known for its brutality. They were Israel's greatest enemy. Jonah wanted nothing to do with the Ninevites.

**1. God may ask you to do things you don't want to do.**

**Vs. 3**

**But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish**

Jonah ran from his calling and tried to escape God's presence.

Jonah went down to Joppa, down into the boat to sleep and eventually down into the deep water.

We always go down when we step away from God.

*When you run away from the Lord, you never get to where you are going and you always pay your own fare. When you go the Lord's way, you not only get to where you are going, but He pays the fare.-Guzik*

**2. A boat sailing in the wrong direction is always available.**

**Vs. 4**

**But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea**

**3. God may send a storm to get your attention.**

**Vs. 5**

**...had lain down and was fast asleep**

#### **4. Sometimes God is at work and you're asleep.**

*Jonah was asleep amid all that confusion and noise; and, O Christian man, for you to be indifferent to all that is going on in such a world as this, for you to be negligent of God's work in such a time as this is just as strange. The devil alone is making noise enough to wake all the Jonahs if they only want to awake ... All around us there is tumult and storm, yet some professing Christians are able, like Jonah, to go to sleep in the sides of the ship. - Spurgeon*

**Vs. 17**

**And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah.**

#### **5. God is sovereign and provides exactly what we need.**

**Chapter 3 vs. 1**

**Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time**

God recommissions this unlikely hero.

*This shows the amazing love of God to His wayward people. Though Jonah did everything he could to resist the first call of God, after Jonah repented God called him again - though God was under no obligation to do it. He did it out of mercy and grace. -Guzik*

#### **6. God is a God of second chances.**

**Chapter 3 Vs. 4-5**

**And the people of Nineveh believed God.**

God had compassion and mercy on a ruthless city.

*There is no natural explanation for a massive conversion of hundreds of thousands of people. There's only a supernatural explanation, and that is that God determined to save that city in that generation. And He used a rebellious prophet to bring a rebellious people to faith in Himself -MacArthur*

**7. God uses unlikely people to be His messengers and accomplish His purposes.**

**Just as God commanded Jonah to GO we have been commanded to GO!**

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

- These words are a command. It's more than a recommendation, it's a commission.
- These words are for every follower of Jesus!

The Story of Jonah is more than a great “fish story”. It illustrates the gospel story. God's sovereign control over creation, our need to repent of selfishness and hypocrisy, and His loving and compassionate heart for repentant sinners.

Aug 12th, 2018

Discuss

Dig Deeper



Unlikely - A Heart For People  
Jonah 1-4

# 3D Guide

**BOTTOM LINE: God uses unlikely people to be His messengers and accomplish His purposes.**

**DO.**

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



**DISCUSS.**



1. Is there anything in your past (or present) that God has used to get your attention?
2. Has God ever asked you to try something that seems impossible?
3. What evidence do you see in this story that God is a God of second chances? Why do you think Jonah was quick to obey the second time God spoke?
4. What lessons do you think God was trying to teach Jonah through the plant, worm, and wind.

**DO.**



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com) or with their app.



# Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

**DATE:** August 12th, 2018

**Bible Story:** Proverb of the Ant (Proverbs 6:6-8), Proverb of the Honey (Proverbs 25:16), Proverb of the Lion (Proverbs 28:1)

1. The Bible is the one and only book that can help prepare us for any and all situations. We took a look at a few Proverbs today that tell us how to live and how to make good decisions. Do you remember what Proverbs 6:6-8 told us about people who are lazy? What did God use as an example for them and why? (Ants because they work hard without anyone telling them what to do.)
2. What about the Proverb about honey-Proverbs 25:16? What does it tell us about how we should eat? (We should only take what we need. Otherwise we will get sick) Have you ever heard your parents tell you that too much candy can make you sick? It's true and it's also in the Bible!
3. Lastly, we looked at the Proverb of the lion. It said that, "the wicked flee when no one is pursuing them, but the righteous are as bold as a lion." That means when we are doing the wrong thing, we will feel afraid and worried that we will get caught at any moment, but when we are doing what is right, we have nothing to fear. We can be bold as lions! Can you think of a time when you knew you were doing the right thing, even if it wasn't the most popular thing? How did that make you feel?
4. Which do you think is the best thing to do first? (Look to the Bible and ask God for wisdom! Of course good friends can give us advice, but we know that God always has the right answer for us and He wants us to seek Him first!)

**Memory Verse:** "Be good to me, your servant, so that I may live to obey your word. Open my eyes so that I can see all of the wonderful things in your teachings." (Psalm 119:17-18)

