



# **JONAH**

STUDY GUIDE

# How to use this Connect Group Curriculum

The goal of connect group curriculum is to enable each person to be in the Bible for themselves and for the Bible to guide the group discussion. The discussion questions are based on the scripture passage and not directly connected to the sermon. The sermon's role is to inform us as we study the passage together.

To enable everyone to contribute in group time, members should select a group role prior to meeting. Descriptions are listed on the Group Role Cards, which are located in the Group in a Box.

More group resources can be found on [www.sanctuschurch.com/connectgroups](http://www.sanctuschurch.com/connectgroups)

## This Study has three parts:

### 1. Walk with Jesus

We will be reading through the Book of Jonah as a church. Each week there are daily readings and an opportunity to reflect on the passage.

### 2. Celebrate Big

Use this space to take sermon notes each week.

### 3. Connect Small

This section will lead your group through your meeting time and includes a Table Talk video.

## Table Talk Video

This is a short video where Pastor Jon and Pastor Angela interact around the passage of scripture being studied each week. It's a great kick-start to your discussion time, and it provides some additional insights into the sermon and the passage being studied.

Downloadable study guides and table talk videos can be found on [www.sanctuschurch.com/currentseries](http://www.sanctuschurch.com/currentseries)

## WEEK 1

# Walk With Jesus



A five-step personal devotion plan  
(with a suggested time frame):

### 1. Prayer (2–3 min)

Tell the Lord what's on your mind so you can focus on him.

### 2. Thanks and Praise (5 min)

Express thanks for what the Lord has done and praise Him for who He is. You may want to worship in song.

### 3. Listen (2–3 min)

Ask God's Spirit to guide you and be quiet, giving God time to speak.

### 4. Read

Read Jonah 1 several times throughout the week and in multiple translations.

### 5. Reflect (10–15 min)

Each time you read, record what stands out to you. What does it say about God? What does it say about you? Are there sins to confess? Promises to claim? Commands to follow?

Look into commentaries or study notes for greater insight into the passage.

## WEEK 1

# Celebrate Big – Sermon Notes

## WEEK 1

# Connect Small – Jonah 1

If this is your first meeting, take turns introducing yourself and share an expectation that you have of being in a connect group (start/end times, commitment, communication, food, etc).

**View ‘Table Talk’ Video Week 1**

### Let’s Talk

What is your “pet peeve”, something you find particularly annoying? (For example: noisy eaters, rude drivers, getting the shopping cart with the one wheel that doesn’t work, etc.)

### Let’s Study

#### Read Jonah 1.

What stood out to you from this week’s sermon?

#### Read Hebrews 1:1-2.

In the first verse of Jonah it says, the word of the Lord came to Jonah. This Hebrews passage says the way God communicates has changed since the time of the prophets. What are the different ways God speaks to us today? What has your experience been? Has it been a struggle to hear and know His voice?

Verse 3 says Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord. Why do you think Jonah fled?

What was the result of the crew’s attempts to help themselves? To help Jonah?

Jonah’s choices and actions put others at risk. What are your thoughts about that?

When we choose to sin, that choice often affects others. When have you done something wrong, thinking it wouldn’t affect others only to realize the consequences later?

The crew eventually threw Jonah overboard. Have you ever had to turn someone over to the consequences of their own sin? How did that make you feel?

## Let's Apply

Tim Keller in his book: The Prodigal Prophet says:

*“Jonah wants a God of his own making, a God who simply smites the bad people, for instance, the wicked Ninevites and blesses the good people, for instance, Jonah and his countrymen. When the real God-not Jonah’s counterfeit-keeps showing up, Jonah is thrown into fury or despair.”*

Do you ever find yourself like Jonah did, struggling with the mystery of God’s saving grace? For us? For a particular people group?

What is something you will continue/start doing, which will assist you in hearing God’s voice?

Is there something in your life that God has asked you to do, that you have not yet done? Why are you avoiding / disobeying? Ask someone to hold you accountable in this area.

## Let's Pray

Pray for one another, that God would enable each of us to remain faithful and obedient to Him and to what He is asking us to do.

Pray together for the people in your life who have run away from God. Ask Him, in His faithfulness to continue to call them home.

## Bonus Question

**Read 2 Kings 14:23-25.**

Jonah was a prophet during the reign of Jeroboam, king of Israel. What do these verses tell us about this king? And about God’s faithfulness to His people?

## WEEK 2

# Walk With Jesus

A five-step personal devotion plan  
(with a suggested time frame):



### 1. Prayer (2–3 min)

Tell the Lord what’s on your mind so you can focus on him.

### 2. Thanks and Praise (5 min)

Express thanks for what the Lord has done and praise Him for who He is. You may want to worship in song.

### 3. Listen (2–3 min)

Ask God’s Spirit to guide you and be quiet, giving God time to speak.

### 4. Read

Read Jonah 2 several times throughout the week and in multiple translations.

### 5. Reflect (10–15 min)

Each time you read, record what stands out to you. What does it say about God? What does it say about you? Are there sins to confess? Promises to claim? Commands to follow?

Look into commentaries or study notes for greater insight into the passage.

## WEEK 2

# Celebrate Big – Sermon Notes

## WEEK 2

# Connect Small – Jonah 2

These questions are prompts to get conversation going. Be selective. It is okay to not get through all the questions.

**View ‘Table Talk’ Video Week 2**

### Let’s Talk

Jonah was swallowed by a great fish. What questions come to your mind as you think about that?

### Let’s Study

**Read Jonah 2 in two different translations.**

What stood out to you from this week’s sermon?

Jonah could have died in the water but instead the Lord appointed a fish to swallow him. While in the fish Jonah prayed. The Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah out. Does this narrative impact how you think about Jonah? About God? In what ways?

What line in Jonah’s prayer stands out to you? And Why?

In verse 9 Jonah declares ‘Salvation is from the Lord’. What does this clarify about the gospel?

**Read Matthew 12:39-40**

Jesus acknowledges Jonah as historical. He gives no scientific explanation, He simply calls it a miraculous sign. What comparisons can you think of between the sign of Jonah and Jesus, the hope of life in Christ now, and in the promise of the resurrection to come?

### Let’s Apply

Some of you may feel overwhelmed by the trouble in life. Jonah was in distress and faced impossible circumstances and he cried out to God.

Charles Spurgeon wrote *“And, dear friend, God can bring you up, however low you may have gone. Though, in your own feelings, you feel as if you had gone so*

*low that you could not go any lower, God can, in answer to prayer, bring you up again. O despairing one, take heart, and be comforted by this story of Jonah! God is dealing with you as he was with him. There may be a great fish, but there is a great God as well. There may be a deep seas, but there is an almighty God to bring you up out of it."*

Do you find this offers you hope? Explain.

Have you seen God's mercy in the storms of your life?

What kind of sins seem unforgiveable to you?

Jonah is still in the fish when he prays and so he gives thanks in spite of unresolved questions. Are there any issues keeping you from intentionally deepening your walk with Jesus?

Spend time together to worship the Lord. There are many forms of worship. This time could include singing, listening to praise music, saying or writing prayers that expresses devotion, etc.

### **Let's Pray**

Thank God for His mercy in times of raging storms. Ask God to increase our understanding of His grace for us. Ask God also, to provide opportunities for us to reach out with the message of grace to those in our lives.

## **WEEK 3**

# **Walk With Jesus**



A five-step personal devotion plan  
(with a suggested time frame):

### **1. Prayer (2–3 min)**

Tell the Lord what's on your mind so you can focus on him.

### **2. Thanks and Praise (5 min)**

Express thanks for what the Lord has done and praise Him for who He is. You may want to worship in song.

### **3. Listen (2–3 min)**

Ask God's Spirit to guide you and be quiet, giving God time to speak.

### **4. Read**

Read Jonah 3 several times throughout the week and in multiple translations.

### **5. Reflect (10–15 min)**

Each time you read, record what stands out to you. What does it say about God? What does it say about you? Are there sins to confess? Promises to claim? Commands to follow?

Look into commentaries or study notes for greater insight into the passage.

## WEEK 3

# Celebrate Big – Sermon Notes

## WEEK 3

# Connect Small – Jonah 3

The point of group time isn't about just finding the right answers but getting the conversation going so we can learn what God is saying to us as a community and as individuals.

**View 'Table Talk' Video Week 3**

### Let's Talk

Jonah 1:1 and Jonah 3:1 have paralleling opening remarks. Jonah is being offered a new beginning. Share with the group a time you received a "second chance or a new beginning." How did you feel? How did it change your perspective?

### Let's Study

**Read Jonah 3.**

What stood out to you from this week's sermon?

**Read Matthew 28:18-20.**

God tells Jonah "Go". Jesus tells the disciples to "Go". God's mission is for the good news to be taken to the 'unreached'. Discuss various ways to engage in mission (locally and globally).

**Read Joel 2:12-13 and 2 Corinthians 7:10.**

The people of Ninevah first heard the word of God. They believed it. They were remorseful. Then they turned away from evil. Why do you think each of these are necessary for true repentance?

**Read Jonah 3:10.**

Does God change His mind? What evidence is there for or against this?

**Read Jeremiah 18:7-8 and 2 Chronicles 7:14.**

What do these verses confirm about God's character? His heart for people?

## Let's Apply

God was determined to work through Jonah. God didn't give up on the reluctant prophet. Do you feel Him working in and through you to accomplish His purposes?

What one thing will you commit to do in the weeks ahead, to join God in His mission for the world?

A connect group goal is to notice each other's spiritual growth. Write the names of your group members on a paper and put them in a "hat" or small container and take turns drawing a name. Share briefly about the person whose name you selected, one way you have noticed their spiritual growth in the past year. Alternatively if a member or if your group is relatively new, instead share something that you appreciate about them.

## Let's Pray

Take some time to quietly repent of any area of sin that you have not yet given over to God. Ask for godly sorrow that will lead to a true change of behaviour. Thank God for being merciful and willing to forgive. He is the God of second chances!

## WEEK 4

# Walk With Jesus



A five-step personal devotion plan  
(with a suggested time frame):

### 1. Prayer (2–3 min)

Tell the Lord what's on your mind so you can focus on him.

### 2. Thanks and Praise (5 min)

Express thanks for what the Lord has done and praise Him for who He is. You may want to worship in song.

### 3. Listen (2–3 min)

Ask God's Spirit to guide you and be quiet, giving God time to speak.

### 4. Read

Read Jonah 4 several times throughout the week and in multiple translations.

### 5. Reflect (10–15 min)

Each time you read, record what stands out to you. What does it say about God? What does it say about you? Are there sins to confess? Promises to claim? Commands to follow?

Look into commentaries or study notes for greater insight into the passage.



## WEEK 4

# Celebrate Big – Sermon Notes

## WEEK 4

# Connect Small – Jonah 4

View 'Table Talk' Video Week 4

### Let's Talk

Have you ever lost something you cared about (wallet, cellphone, keys, a pet, a loved one)? Share this experience with the group and how it made you feel.

### Let's Study

**Read Jonah 4 in two different translations.**

What stood out to you from this week's sermon?

How would you describe Jonah's attitude?

What do you think about the dialogue he has with the Lord?

Why did Jonah think his feelings were justified?

Recall a time when you can relate to experiencing feelings similar to Jonah's.

**Read Luke 18: 9-14.**

This passage challenges us not to see ourselves better than others. Discuss why this is difficult.

Biblical scholars agree that Jonah himself wrote the book of Jonah. This last chapter does not make Jonah look good. Does including this chapter influence your perspective on the inspiration of Scripture? Why or why not? The 'inspiration of Scripture' means the Bible is the one book that was written by human authors who were divinely inspired/guided by God.

**Read Acts 10:34-35.**

The author finishes the book reinforcing God's love for all people. God challenged Jonah not to focus on his own comfort but to focus on what matters most to God. What is God concerned about?

## **Let's Apply**

Now that you've discussed what God's concerned about. What are you concerned about? Do these match?

Do you harbor resentment and hard feelings toward a specific person or group of people? Will you commit to pray regularly for their salvation?

Are you angry with God for any reason (unanswered prayers, others receiving blessing upon blessing but you feel overlooked, etc) ? Do you have good reason to be angry?

The Lord easily appointed a storm, a fish, a plant, a worm. Whether He is using 'supernatural means' or simple natural processes to get your attention, what lesson is He currently teaching you personally?

## **Let's Pray**

Praise the Lord for His mercy and compassion for all individuals. Pray the Lord replace self-righteousness amongst us with grace. Ask the Lord to give us His love for all nations and all people.

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