



Comparing Storms

Do we respond in faith or react in fear?

■ SERIES SUMMARY

■ Most people know Jonah as the story of a runaway prophet and a great fish. But Jonah is far more than a children's story. It is a story about reluctant obedience, unexpected mercy, and God's relentless pursuit. As we explore this remarkable little book together, we'll find that God is not only pursuing Nineveh or even Jonah—He is patiently shaping the hearts of all who are willing to follow Him.

■ As we compare Jonah's story with the life and teachings of Jesus, we'll discover that God's greatest work isn't just changing our circumstances—it's changing us.

■ ICEBREAKER

■ What's the craziest storm you can remember being in?

■ SCRIPTURE

■ **JONAH:** Jonah 1:4–17

■ **GOSPEL:** Mark 4:35–41



LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. What can we learn from the fact that Jonah's storm came from his disobedience and Jesus' storm came in the face of his obedience?
2. Thinking of the sailors in each story, how does God end up getting glory in both cases?
3. Why do you think taking God's message to people who don't know him can be such a hard thing?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. Have you ever assumed that because something became difficult, it must not have been God's will? What shaped that assumption?
5. Looking back, can you think of a "storm" that actually came because you were doing the right thing rather than the wrong thing?
6. Based on times when your life felt out of control, when are you most likely to panic, pray, or something else?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. What's the right response when you're in a storm: A) of your own making? Compared to B) one that comes in spite of obedience?
8. Who are the "Gentiles" that God has positioned you to go to?
9. Which practice would most help you respond in faith during a storm: a breath prayer, journaling God's past faithfulness, corporate worship, or something else?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Lord, in every storm, help us trust Your presence more than our fears. Give us the faith and courage to keep following wherever You lead. Amen.

