



Comparing Tombs

**Do we recognize
deliverance or only
see darkness?**

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 movie or book has the biggest "I didn't see that coming" ending?

SCRIPTURE

JONAH: Jonah 2 (+1:17)

GOSPEL: Matthew 12:38–41, Matthew 28:1–10



LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. Jonah describes the fish as both a grave and a place of rescue. How can it represent judgment and deliverance at the same time?
2. What are some reasons Jesus might have chosen to label his coming death and resurrection as “the sign of Jonah?” What is it about Jonah’s story that Jesus is wanting us to connect to Him?
3. Jonah praises God before he’s released from the fish. How does he recognize God’s deliverance before his circumstances change?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. Looking back, can you identify a “fish” in your life that eventually proved to be God’s provision rather than merely your hardship?
5. What are some good things that God has brought about in your life through bad things?
6. Have you ever found it possible to praise while in a dark place?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. What are some ways you can practice gratitude in hard times, even if you’re not feeling grateful for the hardship itself?
8. What are some ways you’d be willing to engage more with the Psalms, learning to pray through the tough stuff?
9. How should this change the way we pray for and encourage one another in hard things—not stopping at asking for deliverance?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Let’s take time to pray now for those we know who may feel like they’re going through a patch of darkness at the moment.

