

The Bible is the Word of God
It is impossible to know God without knowing the Bible

I will charge you with coming to church not just today but next Sunday

Excited—the Word of God is living! Active! Powerful! It will Speak to you! It Guides you! It Protects you! It Empowers you! It guards you against temptation! It renews your mind! It builds your faith! It shows you heavenly riches! It shows you God's promises! It gives you identity! It will speak absolute TRUTH and the Truth Set free—**Don't miss out**

How to Study the Bible

1. **Choose a translation you understand.**
2. **Choose a consistent plan, time, and place to study**
3. **Understand the context.**
4. **Read slowly and ask questions.**
5. **Pray for God to speak to you and apply what he shows you.**
6. **Where do I start?**

1. Choose a translation you understand.

- There are over 3000 translations of the Bible
 1. **Word-for-word translation:** KJV, Amplified, ESV, NASB, NJKV
 2. **Thought for thought:** Ex. NIV, NLT REB
 3. **Paraphrase:** the Message bible, the Passion bible

What should we use? One that you understand

I use the NJKV 1960

I use the thought for thought, paraphrase, commentaries, and books as tools of study.

2. Choose a Plan time, a place, and a plan to study.

Pastor Mike's plan, is daily, if you miss one day don't miss 2.

Successful people do consistently what others do occasionally.

3. Understand the context.

- Context matters more than you can imagine—Understand ...
- The pastor was drinking wine today. (Context: it was communion Sunday, and it wasn't wine it was grape juice) chismoso
- Context matters

The Bible is a library—Not a book.

The Bible Is ...

- A collection of 66 different books.
- Written in three languages.
- Across three continents.
- Over 1,500 years.
- By 40 different authors. (Shep/farm/tentmakers/dr/fish/priest/prophets/king)
- It's a collection of poems, prophecies, letters, laws, stories, and biographies, written by people and inspired by God, **2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [c]instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- The whole bible tells one unified story that reveals to us the Love of God, shows us our need for Jesus, teaches us to become like him, and God's plan of Salvation
- One text that can sum up the general context of the Bible is **John 3:16**
- To be able to study, understand, and apply the Bible to our lives we must understand the context

Who wrote it? — To whom was it written? — What is its purpose?

- We can learn context with a study bible, (introductions, concordance) your version, bible websites (blue letter bible), commentaries

4. Read slowly and ask questions.

- We must read slowly, especially in the popular parts
- What does this say about God? What does this say to me? (SPECK)
 - **Is there a SIN to be avoided?**
 - **Is there a PROMISE to be claimed?**
 - **Is there an EXAMPLE to follow?**
 - **Is there a COMMAND to obey?**
 - **Is there something to KNOW about God?**

Start w/ Jonah — Context?

Who wrote it: there is no Author (many have disqualified Jonah as a true story), but he was a real prophet 2 Kings 14:23 Jesus also spoke of him

To who: It's not directed to anyone it tells the story of Jonah on a specific assignment from God.

Main characters: the only name given in the book is “Jonah”. No one else is named in this book, the big fish, but the main character of the book is God

The theme: is God's mercy

Overview: God calls Jonah > Jonah runs from God's assignment > There's a storm > gets swallowed by a big fish > Jonah repents > vomits > Jonah preaches > Nineveh repents > Jonah asks God to kill him > Jonah gets mad > There's a vine that provides shade > The vine dies > Jonah gets mad again > God speaks to Jonah about His Mercy... the book doesn't have an ending.

Jonah 1 Jonah runs from the presence of God. gets in a boat... God sends (provides a storm... Jonah loses hope and asks the sailors to throw him overboard...

Jona 1:17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

- Jonah was hopeless... found in his sin (running from God)... prophet of God... said throw me overboard into the ocean... basically under normal circumstances that was over he would drown... Jonah is alone in the ocean, overboard, if he felt hopeless in the boat can you imagine in the water
- The second strange provision of God, a big fish swallows Jonah
- That would not feel like God's provision
- Actually, it might feel more like punishment, a big problem
- Sometimes, what we might call a problem **may may may** be God's provision.
- God sometimes may not provide us with what we expect or want. But he will always provide what we need

WHAT WE NEED THE MOST IS HIM

MANY STORMS, PROBLEMS, AND SITUATIONS SIMPLY TAKE US BACK TO WHAT WE REALLY NEED!!!!!! GOD

WATCH THIS THIS PROVISION LED JONAH TO A PLACE OF PRAYER
BECAUSE FROM INSIDE THE FISH JONAH PRAYED

Jonah Chapter 2 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly. 2 And he said: "I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice. 3 For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me. 4 Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' 5 The waters

surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. 6 I went down to the [a]moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God. 7 “When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple. 8 “Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own [b]Mercy. 9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.” 10 So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah is now in the fish (imagine) “What I'm still alive”
Things went from bad > to really bad > to worse
Nothing can help Jonah ... money, power, influence, relationships
Only God can help Jonah

Just because Jonah was helpless doesn't mean he was hopeless

Maybe

We can relate to Jonah: maybe my marriage is in trouble, finances, health, my kids,
Regardless of what kind of trouble we may be in

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

Prayer is the answer

It is time to pray

It's not time to worry, to complain, or to blame

Sometimes we may not know how to pray

I want to look at Jonah's prayer

Because many times the best prayer to pray is the Word of God

Reminding myself of His Word, claiming His promises, claiming His blessings, remembering His identity over my life,

I.e., peace, joy, forgiveness, struggle,

Jonah 2:2 “I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me.

Psalms 18:6 In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple

At this point, Jonah is praying God has not answered Him

Jonah 2:2 “Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice

Psalms 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,

Jonah 2:4 Then I said, ‘I have been cast out of Your sight;

Psalms 31:22 “I am cut off from before Your eyes” Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.

Jonah 2:5 The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head.

Psalms 69:1 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire,

Jonah 2:6 Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God.

Psalms 40:2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock,

Jonah 2:8 “Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.

Psalms 31:6 I have hated those who regard useless idols;

Jonah 2:9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”

Psalms 116:17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving And will call upon the name of the Lord. 18 I will pay my vows to the Lord

I love this prayer....

This is one of the most important reasons why we need to know the Word of God...So we could pray

The most important reason to know the word of God is: that we know God through His Word
Jonah reminds himself of what is written... declaring what is written

How Jonah inserts himself into the Word of God... I will do what is written...

I'm in Sheol but I am calling upon the name of the Lord, I am declaring the Word of the Lord
{when I was just 3 months of walking with Jesus, I prayed for my son when he was sick, I prayed, “Your word says by your stripes we are healed..... my 3-year-old son was healed}

There is no better prayer to make than the word of the Lord

Are you fearful... sick... guilty... doubt

So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

God spoke to the fish... not Jonah

That means for 3 days for Jonah there was no answer

For 3 days, Jonah had to stay still and wait upon the Lord (**one of the hardest things to do**)

While Jonah was waiting, God was working (even if I do not see it, you are working)

While you are waiting, God is working

God will answer in His time, for His glory, and for your good

When is not God's time you can't force it

When it's God's time, nobody can stop it

What do I do while I'm being still

But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I

It's easy to praise God after the miracle

It takes crazy radical faith to worship God before the miracle....

I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”

Jonah stopped making excuses... stopped running... stopped

He made it right...

I will do what is right

Stop blaming others, stop blaming our past, stop making excuses

God, I will do what you want me to do..... Here is the thing, most of us here know what that is

Stop sinning, stop being in adultery and get married, stop drinking, start forgiving, stop being lustful, start trusting God,

What does walking in the spirit look like?

I will finish

Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the fish

This is a foreshadowing of Jesus

Matthew 12:39 **But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40** For as

Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The Bible points us to our need for Jesus

When Jonah/we did deserve it God saved Him
When Jonah/we could save himself God saved Him

God has grace for you...
Regardless of what your story is
Maybe you're not the way clean (imagine Jonah was slimy with fish guts,) stink, dirty...
God had grace for Him

And God has grace for you this morning
But we need to make it right
Hebrews 4:16: [Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.](#)