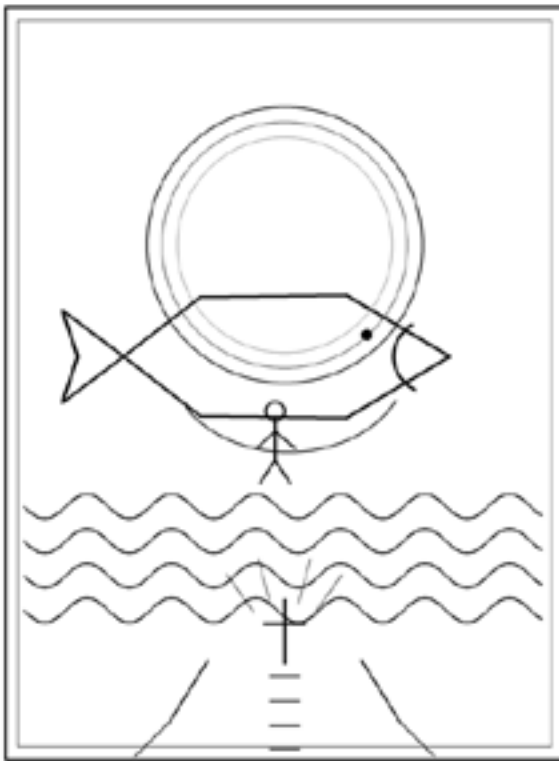


# A MINOR PROPHET WITH A MAJOR MESSAGE

## THE BOOK OF JONAH

Running From God, Running Into Grace



*"You can run from God's will, but you can't outrun God's grace."*

A 5-Day Devotional Guide

## Day 1 - When God Calls and We Run

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**Scripture:** *Jonah 1:1-3*

God's call to Jonah was clear, "Go to Nineveh." Jonah did not run because he lacked information. He ran because he resisted God's heart. We often do the same. God tells us to forgive, speak up, let go, or obey – and instead of surrendering, we begin negotiating.

Jonah reminds us that disobedience is often not confusion; it is resistance. Yet even here, grace is already at work. Before the storm, before the fish, before the turnaround, God was still pursuing Jonah.

The same is true for us. The Lord is patient, clear, and faithful. When He calls, the best path is always surrender.

### **Reflect:**

Where has God been clear, but I have resisted?

What excuse have I been using instead of obeying?

What would surrender look like today?

### **Prayer:**

*Lord, forgive me for the places where I have resisted Your voice. Give me a willing heart and the courage to obey what You are asking of me today.*

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## Day 2 - Grace in the Storm

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**Scripture:** *Jonah 1:4-17*

Jonah's rebellion did not stay private. A storm rose, sailors panicked, and everyone on the ship felt the weight of one man's disobedience.

Our choices never affect only us. They ripple into our homes, our relationships, and our witness. Yet even in the storm, God's grace was at work. The storm was not merely punishment; it was interruption. God loved Jonah too much to let him keep running unchecked.

Sometimes grace arrives in forms we do not enjoy – a closed door, a painful consequence, a hard conversation, or a season that exposes what is wrong beneath the surface. But the storm may be the very thing God uses to turn us back toward Him. Grace is not always comfortable, but it is always purposeful.

**Reflect:**

How have my choices affected the people around me?

Could a present struggle be God's invitation to turn back to Him?

What storm might actually be a mercy in disguise?

**Prayer:**

*Father, thank You that You love me enough to interrupt my disobedience.*

*Help me not to waste the storms, but to let them lead me back to You.*

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## Day 3 - In the Depths, God Hears

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### **Scripture:** *Jonah 2:1-10*

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord. He was not in a sanctuary. He was not surrounded by comfort. He was in a dark, confining place of his own making, and yet God heard him there.

That is good news for every believer. No place is too low for grace. No failure is too deep for mercy. Jonah finally came to the place where he remembered the Lord and turned his heart back toward Him.

Repentance is more than hating the consequences of sin; it is coming home to God. At the center of Jonah's prayer is this great truth: Salvation belongs to the Lord. We do not rescue ourselves. God is the One who saves, restores, and gives new beginnings. When we cry out to Him honestly, He meets us with mercy.

### **Reflect:**

What dark place in my life needs to become a place of prayer?

Have I confused regret with true repentance?

What does it mean for me today that salvation belongs to the Lord?

### **Prayer:**

*Lord, thank You that no depth is too deep for Your mercy. Hear me as I call to You, and lead me from regret to true repentance and renewed trust.*

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## Day 4 - The God of the Second Chance

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**Scripture:** *Jonah 3:1-10*

Jonah 3 begins with one of the most hope-filled lines in Scripture: *The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, v. 1.* God did not discard Jonah after failure. He recommissioned him.

That is the kind of God we serve. His mercy does not excuse our rebellion, but it does offer a fresh start. Jonah went to Nineveh, preached a brief message, and the city responded. The power was not in the perfection of the messenger, but in the truth of the message and the mercy of God.

This means God can use imperfect people who are willing to obey. Your past failure does not disqualify you from future usefulness. Grace not only forgives; grace recommissions. God still calls people, still changes hearts, and still works through surrendered lives.

**Reflect:**

Where do I need to receive God's second-chance grace?

Have I let past failure keep me from present obedience?

How might God want to use my obedience to bless others?

**Prayer:**

*Gracious God, thank You for being the God of the second chance. Restore my willingness to obey, and use my life for Your purposes in ways that bring You glory.*

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## Day 5 - When God Exposes Our Heart

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### **Scripture:** *Jonah 4:1-11*

Jonah's greatest struggle was not the storm or the fish. It was his heart. He obeyed outwardly, but inwardly he still resisted God's compassion. When Nineveh received mercy, Jonah became angry. He wanted grace for himself, but judgment for others. That uncomfortable truth is what makes Jonah such a searching book.

Sometimes we can be right in doctrine and wrong in spirit. We can serve God and still resist His heart for people. So God confronted Jonah with a simple lesson: Jonah cared more about a plant that gave him shade than a city full of souls. God cares deeply about people, even the people we find difficult, frustrating, or undeserving.

The book ends with a question because God wants us to answer it with our lives. Will we share His heart? The cure for pride is not self-hatred. It is worship. Worship puts God back in His rightful place and puts us back in ours: loved, forgiven, dependent, and free. So lay down the crown. Trust the King. The Kingdom is the Lord's.

### **Reflect:**

Is there anyone I have written off or withheld compassion from?

Where do I want mercy for myself but judgment for others?

How can I grow into a heart that shares God's compassion?

### **Prayer:**

*Lord, search my heart and expose what does not look like You. Replace my pride, bitterness, and self-protection with Your compassion, humility, and love for people.*

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