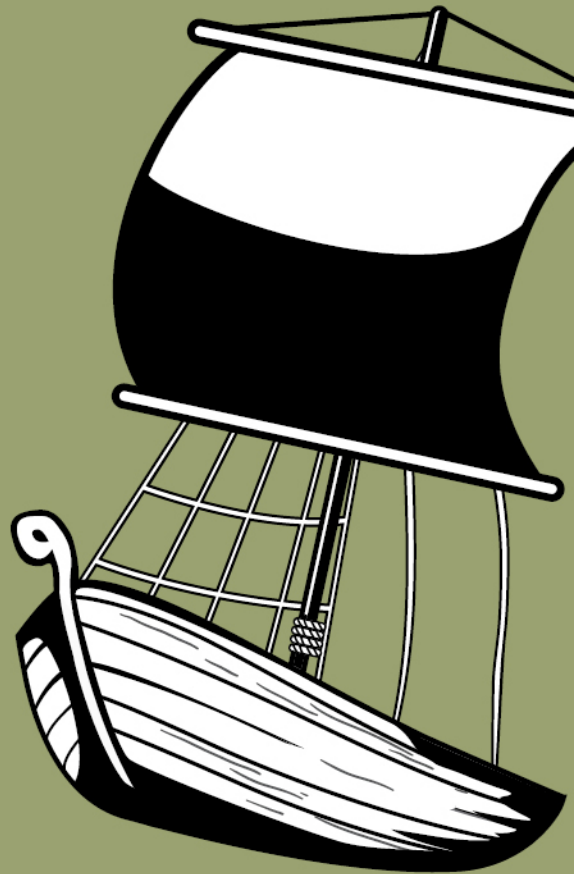


6 STUDIES
+ LEADER NOTES

JONAH

Salvation Belongs to the Lord



PATHWAY
BIBLE GUIDES



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JONAH

BY WENDY LIN



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Salvation Belongs to the Lord
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Before you begin

This series dives into the book of Jonah. As we unpack it, we'll discover numerous surprises, because Jonah contains some odd elements. Some actions of this disobedient and angry prophet seem so far-fetched that they are almost amusing: trying to physically run away from God, being swallowed by a fish, and getting angry about a plant. For many people, the only thing they know about this book is the fish, but it's just a minor character. As one writer has said, "Men have been looking so hard at the great fish that they have failed to see the great God".¹

It's also brief and succinct—the whole story can be read from beginning to end in less than ten minutes. There are few superfluous details, and things we would like to know more about (like the fish!) are not expanded on. What is recorded is included for a reason, and through these details we'll discover what God is teaching us through the prophet Jonah.

As we explore this short but important part of God's word, we will come to understand more of our great God. We will see how he is completely sovereign, how he extends his merciful salvation to all who will receive it, and how he deals graciously but firmly with his rebellious prophet. We will see afresh what God considers important, and we will be challenged about whether our hearts align with his heart. We will see how the Lord Jesus Christ compared himself to Jonah, and we will

¹ G Campbell Morgan, *The Minor Prophets* (1960), quoted in LC Allen, *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah*, *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*, Eerdmans, 1976, p 192.

discover what lessons he wanted us to learn from this enigmatic Old Testament prophet. God willing, we will proclaim, as Jonah did, that “salvation comes from the Lord” (Jonah 2:9).

1. Jonah: Full of surprises

JONAH 1:1-3



Getting started

When have you wanted to run away from God? How might you try to flee from the Lord?

Read 2 Kings 14:23–27

3. What do you learn about Jonah from this passage?

Read Jonah 1:1–3

4. What does God ask Jonah to do, and why?

5. What are the responses of other Old Testament prophets to God's call?

Passage	Prophet	Prophet's response
1 Kings 18:1-2		
Amos 7:12-16		
Exodus 3:10-15, 4:10-20		
Isaiah 6:8-9		
Jeremiah 1:4-8		



To finish

Read Psalm 139:1–12.

What do we learn about God in this psalm? How does this description of God's presence make you feel?



Give thanks and pray

- Give thanks that God knows us completely and is present with us.
- Pray that you will never be tempted to try to flee from the Lord's presence.