

# Message Notes

## The Call of Jonah

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** - "Welcome to four weeks of Jonah"

**Why Jonah?**

**Who is Jonah?** (Jonah 1:1)

*Timeframe*

*Did the events in Jonah actually take place?  
(Matthew 12:38-42)*

**The Job Description for Jonah** (Jonah 1:2)

*Ninevah as a city (Genesis 10:11, Nahum 3:1-3)*

**Jonah's reaction to his calling** (Jonah 1:3)

**God chases Jonah** (Jonah 1:4-6)

**Meet the "unchurched" sailors** (Jonah 1:7-8)

**Jonah "worships" the Lord?** (Jonah 1:9)

**The terror of the sailors** (Jonah 1:10-11)

**Run-Away Attempt #2** (Jonah 1:12)

**The sailors worship God** (Jonah 1:13-16)

**You can't outrun God** (Jonah 1:17)

**Take Aways from Jonah 1**

**Gospel Application** - "Are you saying 'no' to God in any area of your life?"

## Jonah 1

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amitai: <sup>2</sup>"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

<sup>3</sup>But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."

<sup>7</sup>Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

<sup>8</sup>So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

<sup>9</sup>He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

<sup>10</sup>This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

<sup>11</sup>The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

<sup>12</sup>"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

<sup>13</sup>Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased." <sup>15</sup>Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup>At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

<sup>17</sup>Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.





SHOULD I NOT BE CONCERNED  
FOR THAT GREAT CITY?



A STUDY OF JONAH

# Who is Jonah?

## Jonah 1:1

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:

# Timeframe:

## 2 Kings 14:25

<sup>25</sup> He [King Jeroboam II] was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher.

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- Israel had just restored her Northern Borders
  - Jeroboam's Reign was [793-753 B.C.]

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- Jesus uses Jonah to describe another historical fact that was going to happen – his death and resurrection  
[Matthew 12:38-41]

## Matthew 12:38-42

<sup>38</sup>Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you.”

<sup>39</sup>He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the

sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup>For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup>The

men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.

<sup>42</sup>The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.”

# Did Jonah actually happen?

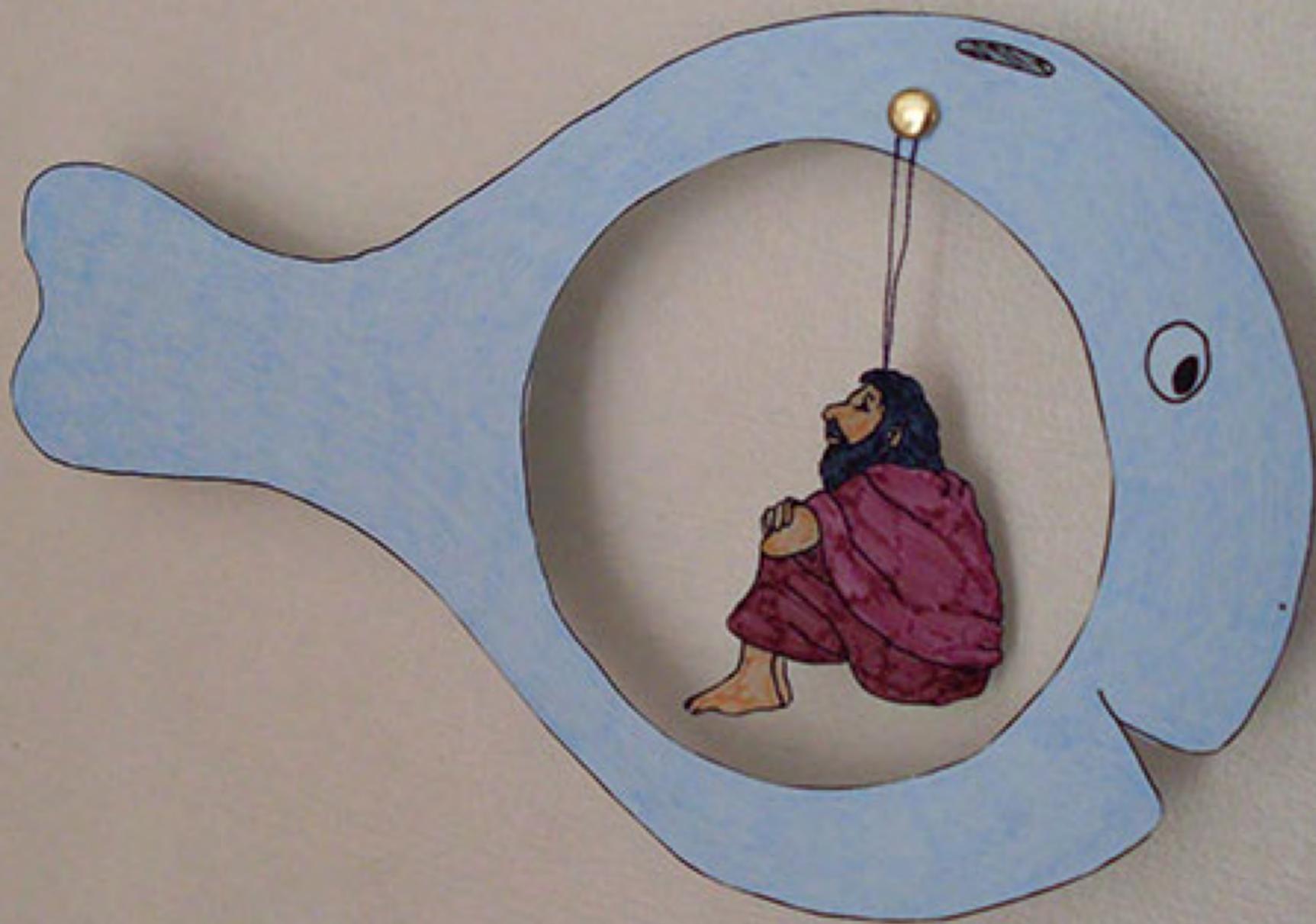
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[Matthew 12:38-41]
  - Personal witness...





Shayn





Fresh Fish. Mixed Vegetables.



BIG IDEAS'  
**Jonah**  
a VeggieTales Movie



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BIG IDEA'

# The Job Description for Jonah

## Jonah 1:2

<sup>2</sup>“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

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# What is this “great city” of Nineveh?

- Founded by Nimrod in Genesis (Genesis 10:11)
  - Principle City for Assyrian Empire during Jonah’s time
- Became capital of the empire and was eventually used to invade Israel
- Known in the region as ruthless, violent people without any compassion on captured people  
[Nahum 3:1-3]

## Nahum 3:1-3

Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder,  
never without victims! <sup>2</sup>The crack of whips, the clatter  
of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots!

<sup>3</sup>Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears!  
Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number,  
people stumbling over the corpses...

# Jonah's Reaction

## Jonah 1:3

<sup>3</sup>But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

# Jonah runs!





# Why Jonah really ran

## Jonah 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup>But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry.

<sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD, “O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

**QUIET!**



**KNOW YOUR PLACE**

**SHUT YOUR FACE!**

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

# God chases Jonah

## Jonah 1:4-6

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."

# Meet the “unchurched” sailors

## Jonah 1:7-8

<sup>7</sup>Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

# Jonah “worships” the Lord (?!?!)

## Jonah 1:9

<sup>9</sup>He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

# The terror of the sailors

## Jonah 1:10-11

<sup>10</sup>This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

<sup>11</sup>The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

# Run-Away Attempt #2

## Jonah 1:12

<sup>12</sup>“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”



Aboard ship, after he is awakened to face the storm with the others, Jonah still resists the will of Yahweh. He does not, after all, suggest that the sailors try to row back to shore so that he might now contritely fulfill the command of his God, having learned his lesson. That is *their* idea. His solution is death. He would rather face it than participate in a process that would possibly spare Nineveh. He would even die so that the sailors might be spared, but would not preach so that Nineveh might be. The contrast is evident in the way the story is told. The sailors are willing to do whatever Yahweh wants, as soon as they can find it out. Jonah already knows exactly what Yahweh wants, but tries to escape it. He would rather live in exile, or even die, than bring favor to Assyrians. What God wants, Jonah cannot stand to be part of.

~ Douglas Stuart, *Hosea–Jonah*, vol. 31, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 2002), 466.

# The pagan sailors worship God!

## Jonah 1:13-16

<sup>13</sup>Instead, the men did their best to row back to land.

But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.” <sup>15</sup>Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup>At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

# You can try, but you can't outrun God

## Jonah 1:17

<sup>17</sup>Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

LESSONS FROM COUNTRY #13

God is great, beer is good,  
and people are crazy

# 3 Take - Aways from Jonah 1

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1. God is interested in much more than your regional interests

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1. God is interested in much more than your regional interests
2. Who are you?

# 4 Take - Aways from Jonah 1

1. God is interested in much more than  
your regional interests

2. Who are you?

3. You can NOT outrun a sovereign,  
loving, involved God

# Gospel Application:

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Are you saying “no” to God in any  
area of your life?