

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Jonah embodies all of the weaknesses of the people of God

Read and discuss Jonah 1:1-12(NIV)

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

³ 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.

⁴ Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.”

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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?”

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

¹⁰ 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.) ¹¹ 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?”

¹² “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.”

*What do these verses say about God? About people?

*Do you see a part of yourself in Jonah or his actions and response?

*When have you not wanted to do something God has asked you to do?

We shouldn't miss the truth of this story centered in the question: Why did Jonah run?

It seems as though he wants a God of his own making.

*Why is God so concerned about Nineveh? About Jonah?

*What does this teach us about the true nature and character of God?

God loved Jonah, but He was motivated by His plan to redeem the whole world

He is trying to drag us into His plans and preferences to help us find joy.

*Where have you struggled like Jonah to try to talk God into your biases?

*When have you allowed God to drag you into his redemptive work?

*How can you apply this in some area of your life? Where do you feel him chasing you down?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Jonah](#) by Dennis Mcgeary

Song for reflection [Chase Me Down](#) by Chris Tomlin featuring Raelynn

Bonus Content: [Jonah and the fish interpretation](#)