

Jonah and the Big Fish

Bible Stories – Part 3

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Jonah 1:1-2 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." ESV

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. ESV

God desires to give grace and mercy to people near and far

Jonah 4:2b "...That is why I made hast to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster." ESV

- **God's Grace: He gives us what we don't deserve**
- **God's Mercy: He doesn't give us what we do deserve**

Do I have any Ninevites in my life?

God patiently works to get His people back on track

(Jonah 1-2)

Jonah 1:8-12 Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?”⁹ And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.¹¹ Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.¹² He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” ESV

Jonah 1:17 And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. ESV

Jonah 2:9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to You; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!” ESV

Jonah 3:1-2 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ESV

Jonah 3:4b And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ESV

Jonah 3:5 And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ESV

Jonah 3:8b-9 "...Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." ESV

Jonah 3:10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that He had said He would do to them, and He did not do it. ESV

Jonah 2:8 Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. NIV84

My Next Step Today is to...

- For the first time, accept Jesus as my Savior and choose to follow Him as Lord
- Read the book of Jonah and ask God to change my heart
- Look for opportunities to share the message of God's grace and mercy this week