

JONAH!

GOD'S GRACE TO A PROPHET IN DISGRACE

When God Says "Go"

...And We Say "No"



GROWING *together* *in* GOD'S WORD

FRANCONIA MENNONITE CHURCH

SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

IN OCTOBER

WED OCT. 9 *What is the Word?*

SUN OCT. 13 *Learning the Word*

WED OCT. 16 *How should we read the Word?*

SUN OCT. 20 *Loving the Word*

WED OCT. 23 *How does the Word change us?*

SUN OCT. 27 *Living the Word*

WED OCT. 30 *Piercing Word (Mark); Memorization Workshop*



What is the Word of God?

Word of God: The revelation of God to mankind.

“By revelation we mean the whole self-disclosure of God to man, whatever forms that disclosure may assume.”

Harold S. Bender. *Biblical Revelation and Inspiration*.

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“In the fullest sense the expression, *Word of God*, applies strictly to Jesus Christ, for He was the living embodiment of God. He was in His very person the incarnation of Deity. All that God is, Christ is.”

J.C. Wenger. *God's Word Written*.

What is the Word of God?

Hebrews 1:1

¹ In the past **God spoke** to our ancestors **through the prophets** at many times and in various ways,

The word of the
Lord came to **Jonah**
son of Amittai...

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**Prophet: “one who speaks
forth,” a proclaimer and
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Jonah (*yona*):
Dove

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Prophet: “one who speaks forth,” a proclaimer and interpreter of the divine revelation.

Jonah (*yona*):
Dove

Amittai (*'aman*):
True; Faithful; (amen)

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- I. Jonah Runs from God**
- II. Jonah's Prayer**
- III. Jonah Goes to Nineveh**
- IV. Jonah's Anger at the Lord's Compassion**

GOD COMMISSIONS JONAH

Jonah's message is a prophecy, not a parable.

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Jonah's message is a prophecy, not a parable.

- 1. It is presented as a prophecy, not a parable.**
- 2. Jesus affirmed Jonah as a sign.
*A type of His Crucifixion and Resurrection.***

GOD COMMISSIONS JONAH

God entrusts Jonah with a *mission* and a *message*.

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The Mission:

1. “**Go** to the great city of Nineveh”
2. “and **preach** against it,”

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The Mission:

1. “**Go** to the great city of Nineveh”
2. “and **preach** against it,”

The Message:

A **declaration of judgment** against Nineveh for their great wickedness.

GOD COMMISSIONS JONAH

*God is perfectly holy and perfectly loving,
full of both justice and mercy.*

*In Him there is no contradiction—
His deeds perfectly match His character.*

JONAH FLEES FROM GOD

Instead of choosing to lean *into* God's sovereign will, Jonah made the decision to run *away* from the God who had spoken to Him.



JONAH FLEES FROM GOD

Why did Jonah run from God?

1. Fear for his life

*Jonah wasn't willing to lose his life
on mission for God.*

JONAH FLEES FROM GOD

Why did Jonah run from God?

- 1. Fear for his life**
- 2. Hatred of outsiders**

*Jonah wanted God to hate God's enemies
as much as he did.*

JONAH FLEES FROM GOD

Why did Jonah run from God?

- 1. Fear for his life**
- 2. Hatred of outsiders**
- 3. Objection to God's sovereign mercy**

Jonah wanted to be the one to decide who God would show mercy to.

JONAH FLEES FROM GOD

Why did Jonah run from God?

- 1. Fear for his life**
- 2. Hatred of outsiders**
- 3. Objection to God's sovereign mercy**
- 4. Greater love for Israel than for God**

Jonah wanted to protect Israel's chosen status, even if that meant defying God's commission.

JONAH FLEES FROM GOD

“Satan always provides transportation for the soul running away from the Lord.”

James Burton Coffman, *Minor Prophets*.

JONAH FLEES FROM GOD

God calls every person and grants them the freedom to choose how they'll respond.

GOD'S DISCIPLINE DISRUPTS JONAH

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.

- Were the consequences of Jonah's sin limited to Jonah, himself, or did they affect others?**

GOD'S DISCIPLINE DISRUPTS JONAH

JONAH	SAILORS
▪ A Hebrew (insider)	▪ Gentiles (outsider)
▪ Believed in the God of Israel	▪ Pagans/Idol worshippers
▪ Rightly related to God	▪ No relationship to God
▪ Spiritually indifferent	▪ Spiritually sensitive
▪ Running away from God	▪ Moving towards God
▪ Rebellious to God's will	▪ Concerned to please God

GOD'S DISCIPLINE DISRUPTS JONAH

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Who Jonah knows himself to be—even while actively *fleeing* from God—has everything to do and is completely wrapped up with who God is.

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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.”

GOD'S DISCIPLINE DISRUPTS JONAH

¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.

GOD'S DISCIPLINE DISRUPTS JONAH

¹⁴ 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.”



CHRIST REVEALED IN JONAH

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

CHRIST REVEALED IN JONAH

Matthew 12:39-41

³⁹ He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ 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.

CHRIST REVEALED IN JONAH

Matthew 12:39-41

⁴¹ 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 something greater** than Jonah is here.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS FROM JONAH 1

- 1. Is my understanding of who God is exclusively shaped by God's own Word, or has it become skewed by society's self-centered expectations?**
- 2. What are the thoughts, things, places, or people that / use to try to keep away from God's presence?
— Am / running from God?**

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS FROM JONAH 1

- 3. Who are the outsiders whom I have deemed unworthy of God's mercy and compassion?**
- 4. Are there storms brewing around Me?
Is God trying to get my attention that I have in some way fled from Him?**

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