Day One

Read through chapter 1 of Jonah twice. Then answer the following questions.

1. What did the L ORD tell Jonah to do and why?
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2. What was Jonah’s response and why?
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   ___________________________________________________________________

3. Make note of the sentences in verses 1–5 that start with the word but. Summarize the back-and-forth progression below.
   The L ORD told Jonah to go to Nineveh.
   But Jonah ___________________________
   But the L ORD _______________________
   But Jonah __________________________

4. Also notice the repeated use of the word down in describing Jonah’s actions. It is found four times in verses 1–5. Do you think this has any spiritual significance?
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
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5. Contrast Jonah’s reaction to the storm with that of the mariners.
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
6. What happened in verse 7?

Terms and Definitions: Cast Lots

Casting lots is “a way of making decisions in Bible times, similar to drawing straws or casting a pair of dice to determine what course or direction to follow...Most of the occurrences were in the early period when little of the Bible was available and when God approved of this means for determining His will (Proverbs 16:33)...After the Day of Pentecost, the casting of lots gradually fell into disfavor because more direct access became available to God’s people in and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives. In spite of the many references to casting lots in the Old Testament, nothing is known about the actual lots themselves. They could have been sticks of various lengths, flat stones like coins, or some kind of dice.”

7. What was Jonah’s response, when they had questioned him (verse 9)?

8. What did Jonah tell the sailors to do, in order to calm the storm (verse 12), and what was their reaction (verse 13)?

Optional: Use a Bible atlas, the Internet, or other resource to locate Nineveh, Joppa, and Tarshish.

Scripture Memory: Your Scripture Memory passage for this week is Psalm 139:7–10. Repeat it out loud several times and ask the Lord to write it on your heart.

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.”

Psalm 139:7–10

Day Two

“But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD” (Jonah 1:3).

1. To flee from the LORD’s presence is an exercise in futility. What does your memory verse say about fleeing from the LORD’s presence?

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2. What questions does God ask in Jeremiah 23:23–24?

_________________________________________________________________
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3. We know that hiding from the LORD is a ridiculous thing, but we do it anyway, and have done so from the beginning. What happened in Genesis 3:6–10?

_________________________________________________________________
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4. You are already familiar with Psalm 139:7–10, but read a little further in that psalm. What do verses 11 and 12 say?

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5. The thought that we cannot “escape” from God can be suffocating, when we think He is out to punish us for our sins. But what do these verses remind us of?

Jeremiah 29:11–13

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Scripture Memory: Fill in the missing words from memory.

“Where can I go from Your _______? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into ____________, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the _____, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall _______ me.” Psalm _____:7–10

Day Three

“Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows” (Jonah 1:16).

1. Despite Jonah’s disobedience, the LORD was able to bring good from this situation. What do these verses say?

2 Timothy 2:13

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Genesis 50:20
2. God is the Great Pursuer of people. His love is boundless, and He draws men to Himself using whatever means necessary. From a still small voice to the belly of a great fish, He will use both tenderness and trials to get our attention and turn our focus to Him. What do these verses tell us about God’s gentle wooing?

Jeremiah 31:3

Hosea 11:4

Scripture Memory: Fill in the missing words from memory.

“Where can I go from Your ________? Or where can I flee from Your ________? If I ascend into __________, You are there; If I make my bed in ________, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the ________, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the _____, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall ________ me.” Psalm ______:__ – ___

Day Four
In his attempt to flee from the LORD’s presence, Jonah tried to travel incognito, lie low, and avoid interaction with others. But it doesn’t work that way. The devil would have us believe that our actions don’t affect others and that our decisions are ours alone, but as John Donne famously said, “No man is an island.” Like it or not, your actions and decisions affect others and, just like Jonah, you can’t take time off from being a godly example. What do the following verses say about your conduct and Christian witness?

1 Timothy 4:12

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____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

Titus 2:7–8

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

1 Peter 1:15–16

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James 3:13

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1 Peter 2:11–12

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Philippians 1:27
Scripture Memory: Fill in the missing words from memory.

“Where can I go from Your _________? Or where can I flee from Your _________? If I _________ into ____________, You are there; If I make my _______ in ________, behold, You are there. If I take the _______ of the ____________, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the ________, even there Your ________ shall ________ me, and Your right ________ shall _______ me.”

Day Five

“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights” (Jonah 1:17).


The phrase “three days and three nights” has caused concern for some, because Jesus died on Friday afternoon and was raised from the dead on Sunday morning—a time period closer to 36 hours, instead of the 72 hours that we would calculate from this expression. If you research this phrase, you will learn that by Jewish reckoning, any portion of a 24-hour period is counted the same as a whole day and night. By the same coin, “after three days” and “on the third day” could have the exact same meaning, and you will indeed find both expressions in the Gospels to describe the timing of Jesus’ resurrection. (Other uses of this type of wording are found in 1 Samuel 30:12–13 and Esther 4:16 and 5:1.) While these idioms are not logical to us, they were readily understood by the Jews of the time. If they had not been, you can be sure there would have been immediate criticism from Jesus’ enemies (who had all heard His prophecy) that His words were not fulfilled to the letter.
Therefore, while Jonah could have been in the belly of the fish for up to 72 hours, it is more likely that it was a period closer to 36 hours, based on Jesus’ own words: “As Jonah was…so will the Son of Man be…” This, of course, would make Jonah’s survival no less amazing and miraculous.

2. Spend the rest of the day contemplating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ by reading through the Gospel accounts. These events are the very core of our Christian belief, and no study of any book of the Bible is complete without spending time to examine them. They can be found in Matthew 27–28, Mark 15–16, Luke 23–24, and John 19–20. Use the space below to make notes of anything that comes to mind as you read: thoughts, questions, prayers, etc.

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Day Six: Personal Application

1. Jonah tried his best to run away from God. Can you give an example from your own life of when you have run from God’s will? Write a brief summary below. Maybe you are running from God right now. Maybe you have never accepted Jesus Christ to be the Lord of your life. If you would like to stop running from God, let your group leader or one of the pastors know, so they can pray with you.
2. God remains faithful, even when we are faithless. Write out a brief prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you be faithful. Be specific and sincere.

3. Like it or not, our Christian witness is on display all the times. Whether we realize it or not, others are watching our behaviors and our attitudes. Have you ever been made aware that your kids, your neighbor, a coworker, etc., has been studying you? Is there an area of your life that you have been regarding as “your own”? If so, invite the Holy Spirit to take control of this area, and help you to be a shining light for Jesus.

4. Maybe you know someone who is in a time of rebellion against the Lord, like Jonah was. Write their name(s) or initials below and then spend time praying for them. Pray that the Lord will draw that person back to Himself, either through the gentle beckoning of a still small voice, or a raging tempest and the belly of a fish.
Pray that God would surround them with people and circumstances that would make them cry out to Him.

Scripture Memory: From memory, write out the Scripture Memory verse.

“_________________________”

Prayer Requests:

Lecture Notes: