

**The Bible Tells Me So  
Week 4: Jonah and the Whale**

**Jonah quick facts:**

- A prophet at the same time as Amos (about 750 BC)
- Jonah is written as a narrative
- It covers one specific prophetic mission
- Jonah fits a long story into 40 verses
- It is general forth telling prophesy

**The Story of Jonah**

**Chapter 1 - Jonah runs from God**

**Chapter 2 – Jonah in the fish**

**Chapter 3 – Jonah fulfills his mission**

**Chapter 4 – Jonah’s anger toward God**

**Why the story matters**

**God’s message is for the \_\_\_\_\_**

**God does not \_\_\_\_\_ to punish and destroy**

**Jonah 4:2 (NLT) I knew that you were a gracious and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. I knew how easily you could cancel your plans for destroying these people.**

**God has a specific \_\_\_\_\_ for you**

**Jonah 1:2 (NLT) “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh! Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.”**

**\_\_\_\_\_ to God’s plan is the biggest deal**

**Jonah 1:3 (NLT) <sup>3</sup>But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction in order to get away from the LORD.**

**God knows \_\_\_\_\_ than we do what needs to happen**

**Jonah 4:1 - 4 (NLT) <sup>1</sup>This change of plans upset Jonah, and he became very angry. <sup>2</sup>So he complained to the LORD about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you were a gracious and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. I knew how easily you could cancel your plans for destroying these people. <sup>3</sup>Just kill me now, LORD! I’d rather be dead than alive because nothing I predicted is going to happen.” <sup>4</sup>The LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry about this?”**

**Final Thought: God is in control and can see the \_\_\_\_\_ . We need to be \_\_\_\_\_ to His plan and hold up our end of the deal when He \_\_\_\_\_ us to.**

The Bible Tells Me So Week 4

Jonah Discussion Questions

What did you learn for the first time by studying this popular story as an adult? What was surprising in the biblical text? What wasn’t in the biblical text that you thought was? Explain.

Why do you think such a short and obscure story gets so much attention? Does it surprise you that the big fish is only mentioned in 2 verses (2:1, 10) of the entire book? Why or why not? How much influence does the fish have on the spiritual lesson Jonah teaches? In your own words, what is the spiritual lesson we need to learn from Jonah? Share yours with the group.

Read Jonah chapter 2. Outline the prayer that Jonah gives from the belly of the fish. What does this prayer show about his heart? Can you identify with any of his feelings? Explain.

Read Jonah chapter 4. What surprises you about this exchange between Jonah and God? How does his attitude here compare to his prayer in chapter 2? Why do you think his emotions swing to such extremes? Have you ever experienced emotional swings like this? Explain.

How does the plant and the worm illustrate God's point to Jonah? How does this book affect your faith journey? What actions does it prompt in your life? How can this group help to accomplish these steps of faith?