

This week we will study about a prophet named
Jonah who ran away from God.



Torchlight

“Confused, humiliated and unable to understand God’s purpose in sparing Nineveh, Jonah nevertheless had fulfilled the commission given him to warn that great city; and though the event predicted did not come to pass, yet the message of warning was nonetheless from God. And it accomplished the purpose God designed it should.” – Prophets & Kings p. 272, 273



Jonah and the Big Fish



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for preserving the Bible down through the ages so we can read it today. Help me to understand what I read in the Bible today and how to apply it to my own life. I love you Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JOSHUA 22:5

“But take careful heed... to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 13:10-25



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

After King Jehoahaz of Israel died, his son Jehoash, or Joash as he was also known, reigned in his place. He was no better than his father and the Bible tells us again he 'did evil in the sight of the LORD'. There is one bright spot though. Even though Joash did not follow the LORD, when Elisha was sick and dying, he went to seek counsel from him regarding the king of Syria. Joash realized that Elisha had been such an asset to Israel, but after fifty years of ministry Elisha died. Verses 20-21 tell us about an amazing miracle that happened to another man that had died. The dead man's family, who were on their way to bury their loved one, saw some soldiers from Moab who had come into Israel to raid the land. The relatives quickly lowered the dead man into the tomb of Elisha, which was close by, but when the dead man touched the bones of Elisha, the dead man was raised to life! What a miracle! Elisha had been full of the



Holy Spirit. Remember, he had asked for a double portion when Elijah ascended to Heaven, so that God even gave power to his dead bones! After reigning for sixteen years, King Joash died. Think of all the miracles God performed through Elisha that we have studied about in the Bible. Elisha asked for a double portion of the Holy Spirit and because of this God worked in an extraordinary way in Elisha's life. Elisha was a very faithful and obedient man and God blessed him. We can also ask God to send the Holy Spirit to help us to live 'Christ-like' lives for Him. The Holy spirit is not only given to change us, but also to help us to share Jesus with others.

FIND A WORD

In our reading today, how many times did the word 'arrow/arrows' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for loving me so much. Help me to listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit as I read the Bible today. Come into my heart and change me, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JOSHUA 22:5

“But take careful heed... to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 14:23-29

& Jonah 1:1-3



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

After the death of King Joash from the northern kingdom of Israel, his son Jeroboam II came to the throne. The Bible tells us that he also 'did evil in the sight of the LORD'. It was during the reign of this king that Jonah the prophet lived. The first three verses of the book of Jonah, which we read today, reveal a lot to us. Jonah was a prophet who lived in Israel and God called him to go and minister to the city of Nineveh in Assyria. Nineveh, which you can locate in modern day Iraq, was around 800km from Joppa in Israel. Nineveh was a very wicked city and God wanted Jonah to go and teach the people about Him. Verse 3 tells us that Jonah, instead of obeying God, went to the seaport in Joppa and took the first ship sailing to Tarshish, which is in modern-day Spain, and was about 4,000km away. Jonah went the furthest he could in the opposite direction from where he was supposed to go.

Jonah was overwhelmed with God's call to go to Nineveh. He knew the city was wicked and he doubted that he could make a difference. Jonah became discouraged and fled.




FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading, how many times did the name 'Tarshish' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for my family who take good care of me. Help me to have wisdom so I can make good choices in my life. Please let my light shine for You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JOSHUA 22:5

“But take careful heed... to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Jonah 1:4-16



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

We discover in our Bibles today, that God sent a storm over the sea, and the boat, which was sailing to Tarshish, almost sank. The storm was so terrible the experienced sailors were frightened and threw cargo overboard to lighten the ship. When they went below deck to find more cargo they found Jonah down there fast asleep. They were amazed that he was sleeping during the storm. The captain told Jonah to start praying to his God to save them. The crew cast lots and they found out that Jonah was the reason for the storm. Jonah suggested to them that they throw him overboard but the crew did not want to do that, so they continued to battle on through the storm. The storm got worse and the crew cried out to Jonah's God to forgive them for what they were about to do. When the sailors threw Jonah into the sea the storm stopped immediately and the sea became calm. The whole crew believed in Jonah's God and worshipped Him.

Even though Jonah ran away from God and refused to do what God asked him to do, God used this experience to bring a knowledge of Himself to the whole ship's crew!



FIND A WORD

In today's reading, how many times does the word 'sea' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for looking out for me and protecting me. Help me to trust and love You more. Help me to remember to pray to You always, not only when I get into trouble.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JOSHUA 22:5

“But take careful heed... to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Jonah 1:17 & 2:1-10



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

God is always one step ahead of us when we get ourselves into trouble. God had prepared a great big fish to save Jonah. We don't know if it was an enormous fish that swallowed Jonah or if it was a whale. The Bible only indicates a 'great fish'. The story of Jonah happened over two and a half thousand years ago so there were probably many more marine animals in the sea at that time which we don't see today or the fish could have been just very big back then! The main thing about our reading today is that Jonah found himself in the belly of a fish and that's where he stayed for three days and three nights. It would have been very dark and smelly, and probably very cramped. There wouldn't have been room to move around! It would have been a very scary situation and chapter 2 of Jonah records his prayer when he cried out to God. Verse 10 tells us that, after three days and nights, the



fish vomited Jonah up on the beach somewhere on the coast. I imagine that Jonah would have spent some time recuperating after his ordeal. He wouldn't have looked or smelled good after being in the belly of a fish for three days! Even though Jonah ran away from God, God did not leave him. God did everything He could to get Jonah's attention and bring him back to Him and the mission He needed to have Jonah complete.

FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading, how many times did the word 'fish/fishes' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for Jesus and the sacrifice He made for me on the cross. Please forgive me for my sins and help me to grow to be more like Jesus. Thank You for my Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JOSHUA 22:5

“But take careful heed... to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:
Jonah 3:1-10



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our Bible reading today reveals to us that God gave Jonah a second chance and this time Jonah was obedient and went to Nineveh. Nineveh was a big city, so big, it took three days to walk through it. God gave Jonah a message to warn Nineveh that, if the people didn't repent of their wickedness, in forty days the city would be destroyed. The people and the king believed the message and repented. God saw that the people repented and He did not destroy Nineveh. Praise the LORD! This is why God sent Jonah to Nineveh. He wanted to warn the people of their sins so He could save them. He is a merciful and loving God!

Jonah was a reluctant prophet but his amazing experience was spoken of by Jesus when He came to this earth. Have a look at *Matthew 12:38-41* and *Luke 11:29-32*.



FIND A WORD

How many times was the name 'Nineveh' mentioned in our Bible reading today? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for Your great mercy towards us. Help me to be kind and forgiving to others, just like You are to me. Help me to prepare for the Sabbath and thank You for this past week.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JOSHUA 22:5

“But take careful heed... to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Jonah 4:1-11



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today is an interesting one. You would have thought that Jonah would have been joyful that the people of Nineveh repented and that God spared that great city. But Jonah had a different reaction. He was not happy with the outcome at all, as he was more worried about his reputation as a prophet. Jonah lost sight of the fact that 120,000 people learned about God, repented and didn't die—they were saved! Jonah doubted his work, became overwhelmed again and became discouraged. Our torchlight for this week tells us that, despite Jonah's personality, God used him anyway and an entire city that didn't know about God surrendered their hearts to Him and repented through Jonah's preaching. God's grace, mercy and love shone through Jonah in this evil city.

The story of Jonah, a reluctant prophet, shows us that if God can use Jonah, He can also use us to share His love, forgiveness and mercy to others. God is so good!



FIND A WORD

In today's reading, how many times did the word 'plant' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for the blessing of the Sabbath. Help me to understand what I read in my Bible today. Please send the Holy Spirit to me to help me keep the commandments and to be faithful to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JOSHUA 22:5

“But take careful heed... to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 17:5-23



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our reading today is a sad one. After King Jeroboam II, six more kings came to the throne in Israel and they all 'did evil in the sight of the LORD.' During this time God sent two more prophets, Hosea and Amos, to warn the kings of what would happen if they continued in their idolatry. It was during King Hoshea's reign that Assyria defeated and carried the people of Israel away as captives. After two hundred years and twenty kings, the northern kingdom of Israel ceased to exist. Our reading today sums up what went wrong and why they lost their nation and land. They chose to worship idols, stone and wooden statues, instead of the living God. God sent prophet after prophet to warn them of their evil course. We have studied before in Deuteronomy that God warned the Children of Israel before they entered the Promised Land, about what would happen if they did not obey the commandments of God. God warned them that He would dispossess them from the land and that is what happened. Our memory verse for this week is a good reminder to us to stay faithful to God.



SABBATH QUIZ

1. Which king visited Elisha on his death bed? _____
2. Which king reigned during the time of Jonah? _____
3. Where was the boat that Jonah boarded going when he ran away from God? _____
4. How long was Jonah in the stomach of a big fish? _____

5. Who was the last king to reign in Israel before it was taken into captivity? _____