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# LETTER FROM PASTOR DANIEL

Dear Fellow Travelers,

There are so many ways to look at life, but one of them is to see ourselves as being on a journey, traveling to some glorious destination and hoping to do what was intended along the way. However, in reality, as each of us make the journey, if we were honest, we often find ourselves somewhere we'd rather not be, being drawn into something that wouldn't be our first choice and having to exercise our faith in God that there's a greater, grander purpose or plan. How we respond in those times of challenge can either put us squarely in the middle of God's plan, postured to fulfill His purpose; or can find us fighting against Him in fear or rebellion. If we don't learn to trust Him and don't discipline ourselves to grow in our faith in Him, we very likely might miss out on some of life's greatest divine moments.

Jonah was a man whose life didn't really go anything like he planned, but in the end fulfilled God's very best plan for him. It was a journey much like ours in that it certainly had times when life was tough, much seemed unfair, he was forced to push through personal prejudice, but learned to see God as much bigger and greater than he ever imagined. His life was forcibly swallowed by God's call, but in the end he was used to accomplish awesome things for the Lord.

This series of studies is really about ensuring we don't miss out on God's very best plan. It's about seizing our divine moments. It's about learning to trust the Lord even when things make no sense at all. It's about being courageous and standing firm when we feel 'swallowed' by life's circumstances. It's about hearing God's call and living out our faith in Him, even when it seems we're being overthrown.

This is the journey of our life. We are blessed to make it together. I invite you to join me as we get 'swallowed' together in a deeper understanding of what it means to be 'overthrown by God's call'.

On the journey,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Lambert". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "On the journey,".

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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# Week One

## *Group Memory Challenge*

He answered them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea so it may quiet down for you, for I know that I’m to blame for this violent storm that is against you.”

**Jonah 1:12**



**WEEK ONE - DAY ONE**

**OBSERVATION**

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Read: Jonah 1:1-17**

**WHO**

People are the easiest **FIRST** detail to observe when reading the Bible. List all of the people (and inferred pronouns) mentioned in Jonah 1:1-17. Add any facts you can glean about each one from the passage.

**THINK:** Who were the people of Nineveh, and why was Jonah so opposed to going to Nineveh and preaching against it? (You may want to take a look at Jonah 4:1-2)

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Spend a couple of minutes on Google and search maps of "Nineveh to Tarshish" . Using what you wrote above, and what you saw on the map, write down your first impressions.

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**WEEK SIX - DAY FIVE**

**APPLICATION**

**Read: Jonah 4:6-11**

What is this passage asking us to BELIEVE?

What is the most import part of the book of Jonah?

Out of all the people involved in the story....who do you identify the most with?

What would/should the next steps of growth look like for that character?

**WEEK ONE - DAY TWO**

**OBSERVATION**

**Read: Jonah 1:1-17**

**WHAT**

(Sample) What did God send in this story?

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**COMPARE/CONTRAST**

Compare the actions that God expected with Jonah's own actions.

**WHERE**

(Sample) Where did Jonah go?

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**THINK:** The sailors were facing possible death. But Jonah's statement in verse 9 makes them "even more afraid" (vs 10). I'm confused.....why would that make them more afraid?

and a fish! Seriously.....a fish?

## WEEK ONE - DAY THREE INTERPRETATION

### Read: Jonah 1:1-17

God has given Jonah specific instructions, but then ... there it is....that word...HOWEVER. This isn't going to turn out well, is it? Have you ever had one of the "however" moments like Jonah had? You know.... the "I know that this is what you want me to do Lord ...HOWEVER....." kind of moments?

As you look back on your example, what did you learn about yourself since that time?

What have you learn about God because of it?

How have you become more obedient since that time?

Given Jonah's reaction and open defiance (vs 10), elaborate on why God does not just pick someone else.

## WEEK SIX - DAY FOUR INTERPRETATION

### Read: Jonah 4:6-11

Jonah lacked love it seems ... Read what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13 ... How can you show love towards others today?

Mark 2:17 ... Did Jonah misdiagnose God's heart and care for others? Are you?

Psalm 119:105 – How would Jonah's attitude and response towards them, been different if he had hidden God's word in his heart?

- How would your attitude/response to others be different if you hid God's word in your heart?

## WEEK SIX - DAY THREE INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 4:6-11**

Why should we care about those who are lost and separated from God?

Why didn't the people of Nineveh turn to God before Jonah came?

- What does that say about those you encounter and the need for you to go and share the Gospel to those around you?

## WEEK ONE - DAY FOUR INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 1:1-17, Matthew 12:39-41, Luke 11:29-32**

In Matthew 12:39-41 Christ referred to the "sign of Jonah". To what does he compare Jonah's time in the belly of the fish?

(Looking back over the story in chapter 1, what other parallels do you see?)

In Luke 11:29-32 Christ referred to Jonah as a sign to the people of Nineveh. How would you answer someone who would argue that he could only be a "sign" because of his disobedience? And that disobedience is necessary to be a relevant sign to some people.

Look again at the Luke 11:29-32 passage. Christ says that "something greater than Jonah is here!"

- Is there anything "great" about Jonah in the story so far?
- Who/What is greater?

**WEEK ONE - DAY FIVE      INTERPRETATION**

**Read: Jonah 1:1-17**

What does this passage ask us to BELIEVE about God’s goal?  
His followers?

What is this passage asking us to OBEY?

What part of this story sticks out to you as a principle you could be  
ready to SHARE with a moment’s notice.

**WEEK SIX - DAY TWO      OBSERVATION**

**Read: Jonah 4:6-11**

**WHAT**

*Sample: What do we see as God’s main concern throughout this whole mission and call on Jonah’s life?*

**HOW**

*Sample: How has God miraculously cared for Jonah?*

**THINK:** The story of Jonah has shown us that God’s power is unlimited and nothing is impossible for HIM ...How does a story of Him turning a pagan city, impact the way you view the challenges before you today?



**WEEK SIX – DAY ONE**

**OBSERVATION**

**Read: Jonah 4:6-11**

**COMPARE/CONTRAST**

*Sample:* Jonah’s reaction to the plant’s arrival and premature demise.

*Sample:* Jonah’s reaction to the plant, verses the people of Nineveh.

**WHAT**

*Sample:* What did God want Jonah to understand, by providing a plant that was quickly taken away?

**THINK:** How would you answer some who said, “Based on this story, stubbornness/disobedience are motives that make no difference. God accomplishes His plan.”

**SERMON NOTES:**

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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# Week Six

## Group Memory Challenge

Should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"

**Jonah 4:11**



**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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# Week Two

*Group Memory Challenge*

...but as for me, I will sacrifice to You  
with a voice of thanksgiving.  
I will fulfill what I have vowed.  
Salvation is from the LORD!

**Jonah 2:9**



**WEEK TWO - DAY ONE**

**OBSERVATION**

**Read: Jonah 2:1-10**

Jonah prays a vivid prayer in this chapter. Spend a few minutes breaking it down with two lists.

**NOUN**

**VERB**

**SERMON NOTES:**

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**REWORD:** In Jonah 2:6b, he makes a pivotal swing. Describe it in your own words.

**WEEK FIVE - DAY FIVE**

**APPLICATION**

**Read: Jonah 4:1-5**

What is this passage asking us to BELIEVE about?

- **Obedience and motives**
- **Sin**
- **God**
- **Deep seated contempt toward certain people**
- **Selfishness**

If you had an opportunity to have coffee with a spiritually minded, but obviously prejudice person....what would you say in light of this passage?

**WEEK TWO - DAY TWO**

**Read: Jonah 2:1-10**

**WHY**

**WHERE**

**HOW**

How does Jonah react to his current state?

**WHAT**

What was different about Jonah in this passage compared to last week?

**THINK:** What did it take to get Jonah to this point of a heart change? Why do you think that it took this situation to get Jonah's attention? How does Jonah react to his current state?

## WEEK TWO - DAY THREE INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 2:1-10, Psalm 42:1-11**

What thoughts do these passages share in common?

We see both fear and hope in these passages. How can that be?  
List the phrases from Jonah's prayer, which display his fear.

List the phrases from Jonah's prayer, which display his sense of hope.

Are there times in your life when you experienced both hope and fear at the same time? What helped you most during those times?

## WEEK FIVE - DAY FOUR INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 4:1-5**

Compare this to Exodus 34:5-7 and Joel 2:13 – What does God want us to see about who He is through these passages?

Read James 4:17 ... Many times our problem is not a lack of knowledge, but a lack of OBEDIENCE:

- How does God want us to show His mercy and compassionate heart to others?

2 Peter 1:3 – Jonah was angry because the people of Nineveh took their problems and laid them before God and HE FORGAVE them ... take some time to write your pressing problems and give them to God who forgives.

## WEEK FIVE - DAY THREE INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 4:1-5**

Despite Nineveh's ruthlessness and sinfulness God extended His mercy towards them ... take a moment and describe God's mercy:

Jonah became angry when God's response was not what he had wanted and hoped for ... How do you respond when God's response isn't what you had planned on?

How have you personally seen God's mercy and compassion in your life?

Who is most like the people of Nineveh in your life? How do you act toward them?

## WEEK TWO - DAY FOUR INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 2:1-10, Psalm 88:1-7**

What words/phrases/ideas are common to both of these passages?

How would you describe what Jonah is feeling at the moment?

How does Jonah express his hope in this prayer?

What can we learn from this prayer?

**WEEK TWO - DAY FIVE**

**APPLICATION**

**Read: Jonah 2:1-10**

What does this passage ask us to BELIEVE about our relationship with God?

What is this passage asking us to OBEY?  
(Ponder this all day if needed.)

How can I go out and SHARE the main idea of this passage? Um, what was the main idea again?

**WEEK FIVE - DAY TWO**

**OBSERVATION**

**Read: Jonah 4:4-5**

**WHAT**

*Sample: What was Jonah hoping to see when he went and sat overlooking the city?*

**WHY**

*Sample: Why would God ask His question to Jonah in verse 4?*

**THINK:** Which is better – To be angry over a person separated from God OR to be angry that God’s mercy has brought victory to them? How angry are you over those separated from God? List 3 specific things you’re doing in response to that “anger”...



Read: Jonah 4:1-3

DESCRIBE

Sample: Describe Jonah's reaction to:

- Nineveh's repentance
  
- God

WHY

Sample: Why did Jonah flee to Tarshish?

**THINK:** Jonah's mission ended with a success story, yet he wanted to end his life and give up all hope ... just because he disliked the people God was willing to show mercy to. Let that sink in and consider your own heart towards the people around you.

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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# Week Five

## *Group Memory Challenge*

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious.

**Jonah 4:1**



**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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# Week Three

## *Group Memory Challenge*

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you.” So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the LORD’s command. Now Nineveh was an extremely large city, a three-day walk.

**Jonah 3:1-3**



**WEEK THREE - DAY ONE      REVIEW - WEEK 1**

Review the following outline and re-read Jonah chapter 1.

**A** Yahweh *hurls* a wind on the sea; the storm *begins*; sailors *fear* and cry to their gods v. 4-5

**B** Jonah sleeps; *cry* to your god; we shall not *perish*; divine *sovereignty*; v. 5b-6

**C** that we may know on whose *account* v. 7

**D** the sailors *question* Jonah v. 8

**E** I *fear* v. 9

**E**<sup>1</sup> the sailors *fear* v. 10

**D**<sup>1</sup> the sailors *question* Jonah v. 11

**C**<sup>1</sup> I know that it is on my *account* v. 12

**B**<sup>1</sup> sailors strive for land; sailors *cry* to Yahweh; let us not *parish*; divine *sovereignty* v. 13-14

**A**<sup>1</sup> sailors *hurl* Jonah into sea; the storm *ceases*; sailors *fear* Yahweh and sacrifice v. 15-16 \*

A number of writers have drawn attention to the apparent *mirroring structure* above. Authors use this to emphasize the main point in their writing.

After reviewing this structure against the actual text, where does this lead you in identifying the authors intended main points?

Why does the main point have such potential power over us that it can cause us to be disobedient?

**SERMON NOTES:**

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\*Baker, David W., *Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah: An Introduction and Commentary*. Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity ;, 2009. 120. Print.

**WEEK FOUR - DAY FIVE**

**APPLICATION**

**Read: Jonah 3:3b-10**

What is this passage asking us to BELIEVE about sharing the message God has given us?

What is this passage asking us to OBEY?

**STOP:** Are you bold enough?....Pray that God would bring people into your life to tell His story to THIS WEEK!

**WEEK THREE - DAY TWO      REVIEW - WEEK 2**

**Read: Jonah 3:1-3a**

Why on earth would God have given Jonah this opportunity a second time?

Should a second chance be expected? List below examples of when God did or did not give a second chance.  
(Bonus points if you include the scripture reference.)

SECOND CHANCE	NO SECOND CHANCE

**THINK:** How would you explain this apparent inconsistency from a fair and just God?

## WEEK THREE- DAY THREE INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 3:1-3a, Jonah 1:1-3**

What was different about God's instruction for Jonah this time?

What was different about Jonah's response to God's instructions this time?

Do you think that Jonah had a total change of heart regarding the people of Nineveh? Explain your answer.

Put yourself in Jonah's soggy shoes. List your possible motives for complying with God's command this second time.

**THINK:** What lesson do you think that Jonah learned between the first and second encounters with God?

## WEEK FOUR - DAY FOUR INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 3:3b-10**

3:4 – Within the Bible “Forty” often refers to a period of testing or judgment (Luke 4:2 and Hebrews 3:9-10) ... How much time did the Ninevites use before they repented? ... How much time do you take before you repent and seek forgiveness?

3:9 – Nineveh's King says, “Who can tell? Who knows?” ... read Joel 2:11-14.

- What do these passages show us about God's attitude and interest towards all people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- The missionary mindset and desire of God, to draw all people to himself, extended all the way back into the Old Testament ... The question is:
  - o Does it extend into your life? If so, describe how you strive to live that out?

## WEEK FOUR - DAY THREE INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 3:3b-10**

3:4 – Jonah says that Nineveh will be “haphak” Hebrew for demolished/destroyed/overthrown ... but ironically that word also means CHANGED and CONVERTED.

- Describe how your life has been “haphak” by turning to God and experiencing salvation? IF there is not a point in your life where this has happened, take this time to talk with your small group leader.

The Ninevites admission of their sins and repentance was expressed in the form of them crying out to God and humbling themselves by putting on sackcloth and fasting.

- Take some time in prayer to share with God, sins in your life that you need to repent from.

**THINK/ACT:** God’s love knows no boundaries and extends to all including those who need a second chance... How can you show that to others today?

## WEEK THREE - DAY FOUR INTERPRETATION

**Read: Jonah 3:1-3a**

What does God’s second call upon Jonah, to preach to the Ninevites, say about us when we “missed the mark” the first time?

Look back at the text carefully. What *tense* was used when speaking of what Jonah was to talk to them about.

How would you feel if you were instructed to go to a specific location, but then had to wait for further instructions?

Why would God leave him hanging regarding the details of what to do?

Write down an example from your own life when God gave you just enough instruction to “get up”, but not everything that you needed/wanted to know.

**WEEK THREE - DAY FIVE**

**APPLICATION**

**Read: Jonah 3:1-3a (In a different version.)**

What does this passage ask us to BELIEVE?

- About Gods desires/motives
- About man

How are you compared to Jonah? Brainstorm and write some specifics.

What can you go out and SHARE this week?

What is preventing you from actually sharing it? How does what we studied the last three weeks influence that?

**WEEK FOUR - DAY TWO**

**OBSERVATION**

**Read: Jonah 3:5-10**

**HOW**

*Sample: How did the city respond to the message Jonah shared?*

**WHEN**

*Sample: When did the people/animals start fasting/covering themselves in sackcloths?*

**WHY**

*Sample: Why did God not destroy Nineveh?*

**THINK:** The king believed Jonah’s message and the result was the whole city/people repented and were forgiven ... so what *will* happen when we willingly/prayerfully share God’s message of love and hope?



**WEEK FOUR - DAY ONE**

**OBSERVATION**

**Read: Jonah 3:3b-4**

**WHO / WHAT**

*Sample:* Describe who the people of Nineveh were and what the city was like:

**WHY**

*Sample:* Why would Jonah only preach a total of ONE day, when it took three days to get through the whole city?

**THINK:** How often are we driven to half-hearted obedience, because we don't like the people we are called to share God's love to?

**SERMON NOTES:**

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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# Week Four

*Group Memory Challenge*

Jonah set out on the first day of his walk in the city and proclaimed, "In 40 days Nineveh will be demolished!" The men of Nineveh believed in God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth—from the greatest of them to the least.

**Jonah 3:4-5**

