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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,

Jano Az bot

PRAYER REQUESTS:



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

Read: Jonah 1:1-17

WHO

<u>People</u> 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.

SERMON NOTES:

WEEK SIX - DAY FIVE

APPLICATION

Read: Jonah 4:6-11

What is this passage asking us to BELIEVE?

WEEK ONE - DAY TWO

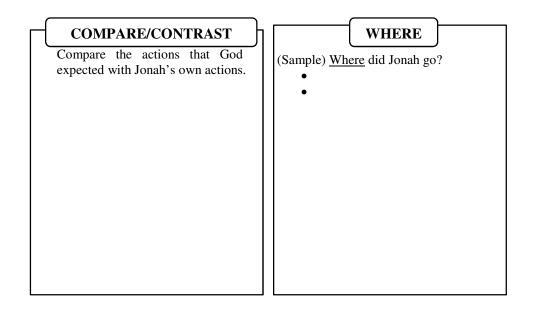
OBSERVATION

Read: Jonah 1:1-17

WHAT
(Sample) What did God send in this story?
•
•

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?

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?

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?

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), <u>elaborate</u> on why God does not just pick someone else.

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?

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?)

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?

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
<i>Sample:</i> <u>What</u> do we see as God's main concern throughout this whol call on Jonah's life?	e mission and
Sample: How has God miraculously cared for Jonah?	IOW

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.

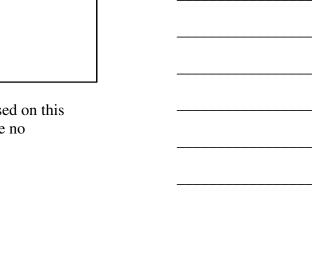
Sample: Jonah's reaction to the plant, verses the people of Nineveh.

WHAT

Sample: <u>What</u> 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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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:



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



11

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

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

SERMON NOTES:

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ribe it in	

WEEK FIVE - DAY FIVE

APPLICATION

WEEK TWO - DAY TWO

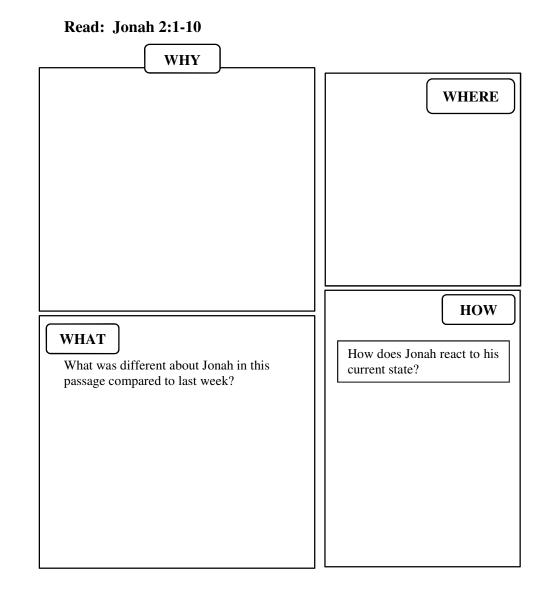
OBSERVATION

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?



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?

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?

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

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?

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

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

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.

hope.

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:

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?

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?

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

WEEK FIVE - DAY TWO

OBSERVATION

Read: Jonah 4:4-5

	(WH in verse 4?	IY

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 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.)

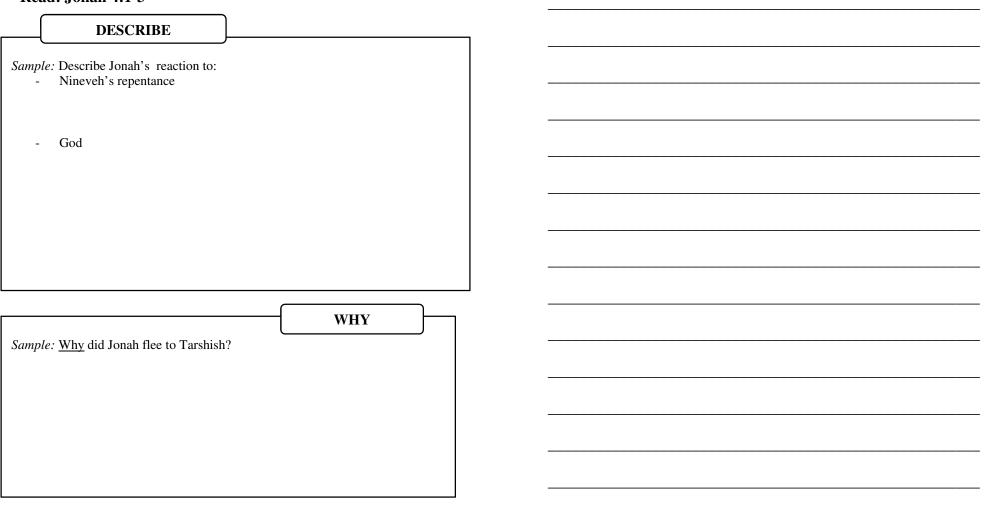
How can I go out and SHARE the main idea of this passage? Um, what was the main idea again?

WEEK FIVE - DAY ONE

OBSERVATION

SERMON	NOTES:
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Read: Jonah 4:1-3



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.

PRAYER REQUESTS:



Group Memory Challenge

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. Jonah 4:1





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.

<u>A</u> Yahweh *hurls* a wind on the sea; the storm *begins*; sailors *fear* and cry to their gods v. 4-5
<u>B</u> Jonah sleeps; *cry* to your god; we shall not *perish*; divine

sovereignty; v. 5b-6 <u>C</u> that we may know on whose account v. 7 <u>D</u> the sailors question Jonah v. 8 <u>E</u> I fear v. 9 <u>E¹</u> the sailors fear v. 10 <u>D</u>¹ the sailors question Jonah v. 11 <u>C¹</u> I know that it is on my account v. 12 <u>B¹</u> sailors strive for land; sailors cry to Yahweh; let us not parish; divine sovereignty v. 13-14

 $\underline{A^1}$ 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?

*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?

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

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!

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:
 - 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.

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?

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?

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.

WEEK FOUR - DAY TWO

OBSERVATION

Read: Jonah 3:5-10

HOW

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

WHEN

Sample: <u>When</u> did the people/animals start fasting/covering themselves in sackcloths?

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?

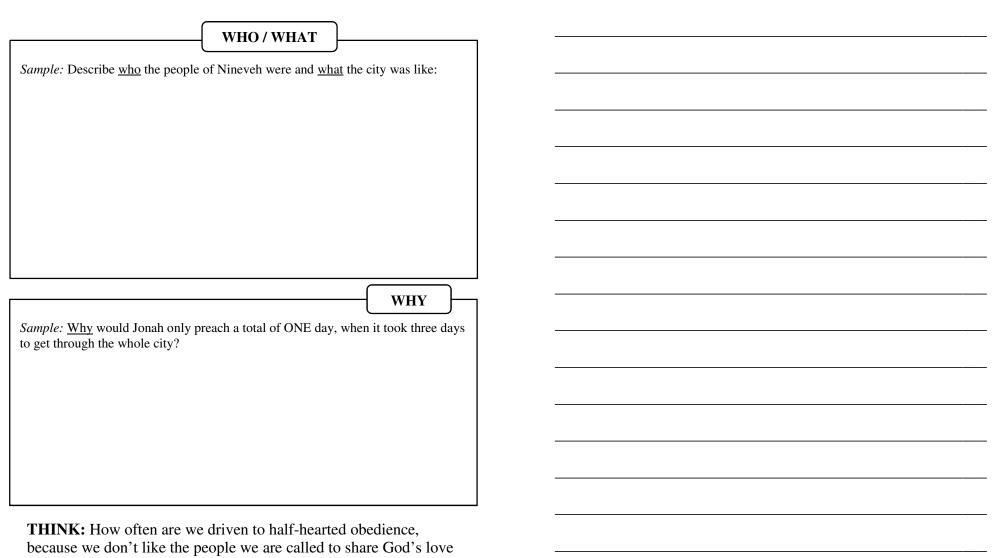
THINK: The king believed Jonah's message and the result was the whole city/people repented and were forgiven ... so what *will* happen when we willingly/prayerfully share God's message of love and hope?

WEEK FOUR - DAY ONE

OBSERVATION

SERMON NOTES:

Read: Jonah 3:3b-4



to?





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

