

## Reading Jonah

In preparation for the sermons on Jonah beginning on July 14, you may like to use this guide to help you read through the book.

1. **Read** through the book in one sitting first.
2. Then read it again and **look for**:
  - a. What the LORD says
  - b. Who responds positively to the Lord
3. **Jonah**
  - a. What could you say in appreciation of Jonah?
  - b. Why is he angry?
4. **The LORD**
  - a. To whom does God show kindness?
  - b. Jonah thought God's action was wrong (4.1). Was it? Why?
  - c. Is this an anti-nationalist story?
5. **The Ninevites:**
  - a. Were they converted?
  - b. Why did God show mercy to them?
6. **The Story**
  - a. Who is the story about?
  - b. Could Christians feel the way Jonah felt in Chapter 4?
  - c. The story seems unfinished. How would you complete it?
7. **Us**
  - a. What do you make of Jesus' references to Jonah (Matthew 12.38-42)?
  - b. In what ways is this story relevant to us?

### Jonah Sermons Outline

July 14: ***Who Fears the Lord?*** Jonah 1

July 21: ***A Watery Prayer*** Jonah 2

July 28: ***The Surprise Turning*** Jonah 3

Aug 4: ***Mercy Grace and Anger*** Jonah 4

## Thinking and Praying Through Jonah

### July 14: Who Fears the Lord? Jonah 1. 1-16

1. What other examples in the Bible are there of people running away from God? How did they fare?
2. The storm was connected to Jonah's sin but it affected other people. Is this generally true? What about God's help?
3. What was good and bad about the sailors' actions?

### July 21: A Watery Prayer Jonah 1.17 - 2.10

1. How does 1 Kings 8.27-53 provide a foundation for Jonah's prayer? What basis do Christians have to call out to God in distress?
2. How does Jesus' comment in Matt 12.38-42, help us understand this passage?
3. 1.17 and 2.10 form a fish sandwich. What is the purpose of the fish?

### July 28: The Surprise Turning Jonah 3.1-10

1. How does Jesus' comment in Luke 11.29-32 help us apply this passage?
2. Were the Ninevites converted?
3. Why did God relent? (Compare Amos 7.1-9)

### Aug 4: Mercy Grace and Anger Jonah 4.1-11

1. How does Luke 15.11-32 shed light on the book of Jonah?
2. Was God's action wrong (4.1)? Why?
3. Could Christians feel the way Jonah felt?
4. How should the story end?