

Jonah 1

What does the name/word Jonah mean? What might that mean in this story? What do you know of this story? Maybe you remember from children's stories about chapter 1 and the beginning of chapter 3. We will dig a little deeper into the rest of the story.

Not much is known about Jonah, what can you glean from verses 1-3? Why do you think that Jonah fled from the Lord? What do you know about the three places that are named here?

In verses 4-6 things change quickly (as they often do!) What happened and then what happened in your own words. Anything like that happen to you?

What other Bible story does this remind you of? What connection do you see?

In verses 7-10 they cast lots. Have you ever done that? Share your story.

In verse 9 Jonah briefly tells his story. In your own words and in one sentence what might you say?

In verse 10 is there a revelation in the story by the use of the word LORD verses god in verse 6?

In verses 11-17 we have the dramatic conclusion to this part of the story.

We see a problem and possible solution not taken in verses 11 and 12. When has that ever happened for you? And what was the futile plan B they tried instead?

In verse 14 the sailors seem to abandon their own gods and pray to the LORD! From the words here and in verse 16 do you think that became believers or just tried whatever worked?

Why do you think they had to throw him overboard? Why didn't Jonah just jump himself?

What's the problem with verse 16?

We remember verse 17. What meanings do you make from it? For the Christian church this is tied into the story of Jesus in the tomb.

To prepare for chapter 2 for next week, what if we see this for Jonah as a "time out." Take a time out and reflect on when you have not obeyed God. When you have chosen the wrong way. When you have been overwhelmed or stuck. Dare to take three days to contemplate (or the whole week!) Come next week to share what insight you have gleaned.