

A Study of Jonah 3

What is R.E.A.P.?

R.E.A.P. is a method of studying the Bible together to prepare for a group discussion. We highly encourage everyone to keep an ongoing journal and bring it to Monday nights, Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and any Bible study to engage well in our discussions together.

R.E.A.P.

1. Through **Reading**, people can circle and journal what they found noteworthy in each day's reading.
2. Through **Examining**, people can answer three major questions to prepare for discussion (What does this text teach us about God? What does this text teach us about humanity? What does this text teach us about Jesus?).
3. Through **Asking**, people can journal one or more significant questions they have about the text (Questions about events, people, places, situations, etc.) The goal is not to find answers to these questions themselves. Rather, the goal of asking significant questions is to think critically about the text and to bring thoughtful questions to pastors and teachers.
4. Through **Prayer**, people can take a moment to pray to God concerning things they read, examined, and asked.

Why do we REAP?

We believe that this method is helpful in reading God's Word at every level. From beginners to advanced readers, we know that the Bible is infallible (error-free) and God's revelation of Himself. We REAP to learn more about God, who He is and what He's done; and to know Him personally as Savior.

How do I use REAP?

1. Goal: Our purpose is not to collect information, trivia, or self-help tips, but to know and love God.
2. REAP the passage before Sunday's worship service, before the Wednesday night Bible Study, or before your Sunday School class. Don't allow the sermon or the Bible study to be the first time you face the text. Marinate in the text before we gather.
3. What do I do with my questions in the Ask section?
 - a. The big/main questions of interpretation should be answered by the sermon and preceding Bible study. If there are significant questions about how to understand the text after the sermon, we would encourage you to email me or Pastor Matt.
 - b. Join a growth group so that you can discuss the questions and how we should live out the applications of the text.

3 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

⁶The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.”¹

REAP the text:

1. Read aloud together
2. Explain by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about _____?
 - a. **God:**

b. **Man:**

c. **Christ:**

¹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jonah 3. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

3. Ask- What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?

4. Pray- Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God.

Background of the text:

1. Review:
 - a. Who is Jonah?
 - i. Prophet-

 - ii. The reluctant prophet-

 - b. What makes Jonah unique?
 - i. One of the most unique books of prophecy-

 - ii. A memorable story that often overshadows its overall message-

 - c. Who wrote Amos and when was it written?
 - i. Author:

 - ii. Date:

d. What is the purpose of Jonah?

2. Jonah's Responses to God's Sovereignty

Recipient of Command and type	God's Command	Recipient's Response
Jonah's first Commissioning	God commissions Jonah- "Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me" (1:1-2).	Jonah disobeyed to go East, rose, and attempted to flee from God. Jonah paid his way to voyage as far West as someone could possibly go- "But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. " (1:3).
Jonah's first opportunity to repent - The great wind	God commands a great wind and a mighty tempest to give Jonah a chance to repent- "But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up" (1:4)	The great wind and the mighty tempest obeyed, but Jonah disobeyed again. "Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep" (1:5)
Jonah's second opportunity to repent - The sailors	God worked in the hearts of the sailors and relented of His destruction of them to show Jonah his need to repent- "Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" [...] Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous." (1:8, 11)	Instead of repenting, Jonah continues to rebel, even if it means his death- "[Jonah] said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you" (1:12)

Jonah's third opportunity to repent- The great fish	God commands a great fish to deliver Jonah from death, and gave Jonah a third chance to repent- “And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights” (1:17)	The great fish obeys, and Jonah seems to repent with his words- “Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,”
Jonah's second commissioning	God commands the great fish to bring Jonah back and commissions him again- “And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land. Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you” (2:10-3:2)	The great fish obeys again and Jonah half-heartedly obeys- “So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. [...] Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” (3:3-4).
Jonah's fourth chance to repent- The response of the Ninevites	God worked in the hearts of the Ninevites and the king, and God relented of His destruction of them to show Jonah his need to repent- “And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. [...] When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it” (3:5-6, 10).	The Ninevites repent, the king repents, but Jonah continues to rebel. He was so enraged at God for extending grace to the Ninevites that he wanted to die- “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the LORD and said, [...] O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?” (4:1-4).

<p>Jonah's fifth chance to repent- the plant the worm, and the scorching east wind</p>	<p>God commanded a plant, a worm, and the scorching East wind to remind Jonah of his need to repent- "Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. ⁶Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint" (4:5-8a).</p>	<p>The plant, the worm, and the scorching East wind obeyed, but Jonah continued to rebel and continued to be so angry at God that he wished to die- "And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die. ¹⁰And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"" (4:8b-11).</p>
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- a. What recurring patterns do you see? Explain.

- b. How do these patterns help us understand the book of Jonah? Explain.

3. Was Jonah's prophecy false? And if so, will he not be judged accordingly?

4. Did Nineveh truly repent? Explain.

5. What are the marks of a true revival?
 - a. Rediscovery of God's Word (2 Kings 22:1-2, 8-10).
 - b. Restored sense of the fear of the Lord (2 Kings 22:11-17).
 - c. Return to God through confession and repentance (2 Kings 22:18-20).
 - d. Renewed spiritual commitment and accountability (2 Kings 23:1-3).
 - e. Results in sanctification (2 Kings 23:21-25).