



Listen to His Leading

April 19-25, 2026

READ [JONAH 1:1-2.](#)

We know very little about the prophet Jonah. He is identified in verse 1 only as the “son of Amittai.” He also is mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25. According to the 2 Kings passage, Jonah had experienced past success as a prophet. He had heard and delivered God’s message to King Jeroboam II of Israel. As a result, Israel’s territories had been expanded. Jonah most likely was highly popular and respected among the people of God because of this. God gave a specific command to Jonah: *Go to Nineveh and preach against it.*

When you struggle to obey God, what are the most common reasons why?

Is there anything you think God is asking you to do that doesn’t make sense to you?

READ [JONAH 1:3.](#)

Jonah’s response to God’s call may have been something like: “Lord, You know I love You, but faith has limits. I will go anywhere You send me—just not to Nineveh.” For some of us our personal Nineveh might actually be a place. For others it may be a task. Our personal Nineveh may be whatever God is requiring us to do right now.

Is there something you would have a hard time doing if God asked it of you? Why?

People today attempt to run from God in a variety of ways. Jonah’s disobedience was an expression of a cold heart, a heart that did not beat in sync with God’s. While some believers run from specific tasks God calls them to, many more simply refuse to run with God in everyday life. We fill our lives with so many activities that time for God and ministry to people gets squeezed out.

READ [JONAH 1:4-10.](#)

What are some consequences we experience today when we run from God’s will?

Any believer attempting to run from God eventually will come to face the consequences of that disobedience in the hope that they might turn back to God. Sometimes it may be months or even years before the consequences surface. For Jonah, it was a matter of hours or days. Though it may not happen immediately, we will always face the consequences when we do not obey God. God does not quickly give up on His people who fail to do His will.

READ [JONAH 1:11-17.](#)

Jonah had a better theological understanding of God, but he lacked compassion for others, as chapter 4 will make clear. The sailors showed greater concern for one physical life than Jonah displayed for a multitude of spiritual lives. Jonah learned the hard way that you can run, but you can’t hide from God. Jonah also learned that God will spare no expense in pursuing those who run away from Him. God will pursue us to bring Him back to Himself. The greatest evidence of this truth is seen on the cross (Rom. 5:8).

Why do you think God didn’t raise up someone else to do the task Jonah refused?

Why do you think obeying God is always in our best interest?