



OLD TESTAMENT • MINOR PROPHETS

Jonah

God's compassion beyond our preferred boundaries

AUTHORSHIP · Anonymous; named for the prophet Jonah

DATE & CONTEXT · Setting in the eighth century BC; writing date debated

The big picture

Jonah runs from a call to preach in Nineveh. A storm, a great fish, and a second commission bring him back to the task, and the city responds. Yet the prophet resents God's mercy toward people he considers enemies. The closing question leaves readers examining their own limits on compassion. The surprising center of the book is not the fish but God's generous concern.

Words to carry

"Salvation is of the LORD."

Jonah 2:9 · KJV · excerpt

Live it

01 Pray for someone you find difficult to wish well.

02 Respond to a clear responsibility instead of avoiding it.

03 Notice where you value personal comfort above another person's wellbeing.

Pause & reflect

Whom have I quietly placed outside the reach of God's mercy?

Original SELAH37 introduction. Read the text in context; historical dates and attributions are approximate.

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