

Epic Faith and the Rational Mind
Fish Stories: The One That Didn't Get Away
Jonah

1. Identify the **questions** about the Jonah account
 - A. Was Jonah **a real person**?
 - B. Did Nineveh, **as described**, exist?
 - C. How can you explain the collaboration of **nature**?
 - D. Is the outcome **believable**?

2. Explore the **more important** elements of the account
 - A. Sometimes, **spiritual** men aren't so **spiritual**
 - B. You can **run**, but you can't **hide** from God
 - C. God's **message** is always more important than His **messenger**
 - D. God's **mercy** *always* awaits the **repentant**

3. Provide answers for the **critics**
 - A. **Jesus** treated Jonah as real (Matthew 12:40; 2 Kings 14:25)
 - B. The archeologist's **spade** supports *that* Nineveh
 - C. Even **science** has to admit to the **inexplicable**
 - D. Historical evidence makes the outcome **plausible**

Conclusions

1. A god limited to man's understanding **isn't God**.
2. Faith begins as a willingness to **let God be God**.

Connect Group Study Guide

Read Jonah

1. What part(s) of the story were you not acquainted with? What stuck out to you? What makes the story unbelievable?
2. Who was Jonah? What did it mean to be a prophet? What did God ask him to do? Why do you think Jonah disobeyed?
3. How did God respond to Jonah running away?
4. Why would Jonah wait so long to pray to God? Can you relate?
5. When in the story does God come through for Jonah?
6. What was God's message to the Ninevites? What was their reaction? How do you account for God's response?
7. Why was Jonah angry at God for not destroying the Ninevites?
8. What are the lessons to be learned from the plant and the worm?
9. If you were to write an ending for this account, what would it be?