

# I Am Jonah

We often talk about our desire to pursue God, but what's easy to forget is that God is also constantly pursuing us! And nowhere in the Bible is this more evident than in the book of Jonah, whose story reminds us that we cannot outrun or outpace the relentless pursuit of God.



---

## INTRODUCTION

Pastor David concluded our study of the Book of Jonah and reviewed the ways that God relentlessly pursues us...even when we are spiritually erratic.

## STARTER QUESTION

Think about the people you have seen in the past week. Describe a time when you believed someone was acting in an erratic way. What did they do? What made their behavior erratic? Why do you think they acted in that way? How did you react to it or did you ignore it?

## INTO THE WORD

1. Pastor David mentioned the term "spiritually erratic." According to today's sermon what does being "spiritually erratic" mean? Refer to the book of Jonah, chapter 4, verses 1-3.
2. What does Jonah 4 teach us about God?
3. Compare and contrast the erratic behavior of Jonah in chapter 4 with the behavior of Elijah in I Kings 19? Can you identify with either one of them? What can you learn from them?

## APPLICATION

4. How can we apply the lesson of Jonah 4 to our lives?
5. God is forgiving towards us. Why is it so hard for us to be forgiving towards one another? What biblical proof can we find that says God wants us to be as forgiving towards each other as He is towards us?
6. Pastor David referenced in the message that the author or the creator of anything knows how it operates the best. As you look at your life, how does your operating system or view of the world align with God's (your Creator)? Are you able to see where there is synergy or misalignment?
7. Do you ever pray to ask God to make you more forgiving? What can we do to be more forgiving to others?

## PRAYER

God, we just want to come to You and thank you for being such a loving and forgiving God. Thank you for giving us second chances and third chances and more. We ask for Your mercy and Your grace. Forgive us for when we are spiritually erratic. As we are getting closer to Easter, we want to thank you for sending your Son to earth to pay the price for our sins so we could see heaven one day. Help us Lord to be more forgiving. Watch over all the first responders and those in the medical field for their jobs are dangerous with the pandemic. Please be with our nation's leader. We pray that they seek you and pray over their decisions. We ask that you provide them with

the wisdom they need to do the right thing. We pray for anyone who doesn't know You and pray that they will feel You knocking on their heart and that they will open their heart to you! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE / MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS:

**Question 1:** As Pastor David explained it, we are spiritually erratic when we:

- ...don't want God to be consistent with His mercy and grace (we may think certain people are more worthy and/or some people aren't worthy at all) – v. 1
- ...have good theology, but a bad heart – v. 2
- ...know there is a deeper purpose, but don't care – v. 3

**Question 2:** Refer to [studyandobey.com/inductive-bible-study/jonah-studies/jonah4-1-6/](http://studyandobey.com/inductive-bible-study/jonah-studies/jonah4-1-6/)

Suggested answers: God's plan is perfect. God doesn't need our approval. God is merciful. God is gracious. God is compassionate. God is slow to anger. God is abundant in lovingkindness. God often relents concerning calamity. God hears our complaints. God often teaches through asking questions and giving practical life lessons. God doesn't always give us what we ask for, and this is good. God is in control of nature. God is everywhere and we can't escape His presence.

**Question 4:** Refer to [studyandobey.com/inductive-bible-study/jonah-studies/jonah4-1-6/](http://studyandobey.com/inductive-bible-study/jonah-studies/jonah4-1-6/)

Suggested answers: Don't question God's methods or His plan. They are good, even if we don't agree or understand. He is right.

**Question 5:** Read Jonah 4:1-3. Then, read Jonah 4:10-11. Find other scriptures that encourage us to be compassionate towards one another (ex. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Matthew 18:21-22).

**Question 6:** Isaiah 55:8-9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He has a long fuse and great things in store for our good and His glory as we submit to Him.