



**Hill Cliffe Study Guide
 Sunday 18 Sept 2022
 Jonah Introduction**

1. How are you feeling about studying the Book of Jonah together?

Please read Jonah 1.1; 2 Kings 14.23-25

- 2. What does this tell us about Jonah?
- 3. Is the story about Jonah a true story or an ancient myth or a parable? – what would influence your conclusion?

Please read Matthew 12.39-41

4. How does Jesus compare and contrast the story of Jonah with his own?

Please read Jonah 1.1-2

- 5. What do we know about the Assyrian Empire?
- 6. How might we have expected an Israeli prophet called on this mission to have responded to God?

Please read Jonah 1.3; 3.10; 4.1-2



- 7. How did Jonah respond to God, and why?
- 8. What is wrong with this response?
- 9. How is Jonah like the prodigal son and the elder brother in the parable told by Jesus?

One of the intensions of the story of Jonah is to hold up a mirror to the people of God and have us ask – am I like Jonah? Are we like Jonah? – read the following quotes and reflect on these personal questions together.

Tim Keller – Prodigal Prophet

‘Jonah wants a God who will be like what Jonah wants him to be like, and will do what Jonah wants him to do. When the real God – with his different views of the world – shows up, Jonah angrily rejects him and his ways in favour of his own. He fundamentally disagrees with God and this made him feel Justified in questioning the goodness and wisdom and justice of God.

Our anger can similarly be provoked by God’s call to mission on our lives, or our disagreement with God’s instructions about his views on our holiness, our relationships, our sexuality,....

Tim Mackie – Bible Project says...

“When the bible teaches truths the we, or society, find uncomfortable, unpalatable or unacceptable We face a choice, like Jonah – Do we trust God or become angry with God – Trust God’s Wisdom or trust our own?

Tim Keller – “We can be fickle in our trust of the Father. If we’re seeking to comply with God, but then God appears not to be treating us, or giving us, what we feel we deserve, then we can feel entitled to mistrust God, becoming angry at God, even feeling justified in walking away from God.’