

# *Bibles at the Beach*

## *Summer Series*

worship | prayer | bible study



*July 11-August 8, 2011*

**RELUCTANT | TAUGHT BY NATARSHA N. WRIGHT**



**RELUCTANT**  
BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JONAH

**NATARSHA N. WRIGHT**

## Objective

The purpose of this bible study is to encourage personal bible study and to develop a personal relationship with God through quiet time, prayer, study, and journaling.

James 4:7-8 reads, "*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you...*" Just as Jesus defeated the devil with the word of God after His wilderness experience we too must stay girded with the word...the truth to resist the devil and as the scripture says, he must flee. If we do not know the word then we are already defeated because we don't know how to fight back with our spiritual weapons of mass destruction. *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* -Ephesians 6:11-12

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### GOD OF SECOND CHANCES

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### LORD, TAKE ME NOW

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## Questions

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS THROUGHOUT THE STUDY PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND ME AN EMAIL AT [NATARSHANWRIGHT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NATARSHANWRIGHT@GMAIL.COM) OR JOIN DAILY DISCUSSIONS ON TWITTER @NATARSHANWRIGHT. LET'S GROW TOGETHER IN THE WORD OF GOD.

## Background

God gave Jonah specific instructions on what he was supposed to do and Jonah headed in the opposite direction (Jonah 1:3).

## Read

Jonah 1

## Apply

- Can you recall a time when God spared you from the consequences of your disobedience? What is it that you are running from that he is telling you to do?
- What effect did Jonah's decision cause on the sailors? Compare verses 4-5 and 6. If you were a sailor on the ship what would your reaction be?
- Who were the sailors calling on before they met Jonah and who are they calling on now after their encounter with Jonah? What changed?
- Jonah is also mentioned in a parallel scripture in the gospels. Where is this found? Do you find yourself responding like the Pharisees after the Lord has already spoken to you?

## Act

Jeremiah 1:9, "Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

If God called you to it He will see you through it. He will give you the provision and open doors no man can shut. Period. Now, go forth in what the Lord has called you to do to the glory of God. All God's promises are "Yes" and "Amen."

## Background

Jonah finds himself in a dark place due to his disobedience (Jonah 2:1).

## Read

Jonah 2

## Apply

- After reading Chapter 2 do you think this situation could have been avoided? If so, how? What would you have done differently?
- In Jonah's prayer the verbs are in past tense implicating that the Lord has already answered his prayer. Was Jonah in or out of the whale while he was praying (hint v1)? Can you pray the prayer of Jonah in your situation and believe that the Lord has already provided a way out for you even though you can't see it? Was this the defining moment for Jonah to finally accept what God was calling him to do?
- When have you felt far from God? Like Jonah did you pray through your situation? Why or why not?
- What is the great fish in your life that has swallowed you (i.e., unhealthy relationships, job, etc.)?
- Have you spent time in fellowship with God concerning what it is he wants you to learn from your situation? Why or why not?

## Act

1 John 5:14-15, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. "

Jonah prayed in the midst of his situation and had relentless faith. Commit to praying bold prayers as if it is already answered. It is so! Do you believe it? I do.

## Background

Jonah submits to God (Jonah 3:1-3).

## Read

Jonah 3

## Apply

- Compare Chapter 3 to a situation in your life. Do you believe God is the God of a second chance?
- Why did God have a change of heart in verse 10?
- If you had to deliver the message Jonah had to deliver in verse 5 what would your response to God be? Why or why not?
- In Chapter 1 Jonah runs away from God after receiving instructions from him. In Chapter 3 Jonah submits to His will. Do you feel Christians are afraid to talk about their faith because they don't know how peers would receive it? Do you feel obligated to share the word of God? Why or why not?
- Compare Jonah 3 to Nahum 1-3. Was this the outcome you expected after reading Jonah 3? Why or why not?
- Have you experienced a situation where the outcome was not what you expected?

## Act

1 Peter 2:13-17, "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, and honor the emperor. "

Submit to God. That is all.

## Background

Jonah gets angry with God because he feels that Ninevah does not deserve God's compassion (Jonah 4:1-3).

## Read

Jonah 4

## Apply

- Have you ever been selfish in sharing God with others because you feel that they don't deserve his compassion? Read Matthew 7:1-6. Do you feel Jonah was justified in his thinking and tantrum towards God?
- Why is Jonah angry with God? Do you think your response to a situation has a negative or positive impact on what He is calling you to do? Did it impact Jonah?
- In Chapter 1-4 compare the characteristics of Jonah and God. Now, make a list and see how they compare to some of the characteristics you possess.
- Read Matthew 25:14-30. Define *Purpose*. Define what it means to be "called" by God. Is there a difference? Why or why not?

## Act

Hebrews 12:14-15, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

Despite how you feel about a situation because of the past outcome don't let your flesh stand in the way of the deliverance of someone else. Commit to moving forward in obedience. Your decision not only affects you, but the lives of others.