

**Jonah 3:1-5,10**

**How we respond to God's call**

After a perilous journey, running away from God, Jonah finally does as God has asked of him and goes to Nineveh to deliver God's call to repent. Surprisingly (to Jonah), the people do repent and God forgives them.



**Bible notes**



A lot has happened in Jonah's life when God calls him a second time to go into Nineveh. The focus of this part of the story is on the grace and mercy of God: when people respond positively to God's call to repent, God quickly forgives. In fact, what the text suggests is that when the Ninevites repent, so does God; God has a change of heart and mind, and stops threatening to bring calamity on the city.

The story is told without fanfare. Jonah goes partway into the city, begins to share his message, the people hear it and change their ways, so God relents from threatening to bring calamity. End of story! Except we know what preceded these verses (Jonah and the 'whale') and what comes after it in chapter 4 (Jonah and the plant). In particular, we know that Jonah is a reluctant prophet. He didn't want to go because he knew this is what God would do and he was afraid that he'd look a fool. I wonder how often we shy away from telling people about God because we are similarly afraid of the reaction and how we'll look.

**First impressions**

- Why might this young man have stopped like this?
- The end of a long journey, a special moment – how do you describe your response to God's call?
- Is there something you feel you should be doing, but are not?



**WALK**

It took Jonah three days to walk across Nineveh. Plan three prayer walks that you are able to take. Look out for evidence of God at work as you journey. Think about where God may be leading you in life.



Set up an obstacle course and challenge family members to complete it for a small prize. Afterwards think together about what can get in the way of responding to God's call. What is the reward when we do respond?

**A sending out prayer**

Lord, some things you ask us to do are right up our street. Some are tricky. Some can be downright difficult. Help us to grow in love for you, and in confidence and trust, so that we really want to do them for you – and do! Amen.

**Pray**



Play the hymn 'Master, speak, thy servant heareth' then spend some time listening to God.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raPJHiezEhw>

*Write*

Make an acrostic using the letters and theme of: 'To do what', as you ponder God's call.