

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Tom & Janice Crawford | INDONESIA

PRAYER REQUEST:

We ask you to pray about being able to establish a better presence in the apartment where we are meeting. The room we presently use is a common room for use by all the residents of the apartment building. Thus, we cannot leave any of our equipment set up or use the room for other purposes. Brother Bui encouraged me to look for other options in the building where we could have a more permanent presence. It seems there might be an opportunity to rent space that was formerly used by a store that has closed down. Please pray about this matter.

Deeper In Our Understanding of God’s Control

A lot of questions were being shouted at Jonah over the roar of the tempest and the howls of his shipmates.

Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you? (Jon. 1:8)

Five questions, like weighty boulders, all being hurled at him in quick succession. He probably felt pummeled under the burden of interrogation. Probably couldn’t even think fast enough to take them all in, to hear everything these men were asking for, much less to feed them the answers they were wanting so ravenously.

Yet, no doubt, the significance of these questions penetrated Jonah’s heart and head. The reality of who he was, where he was from, and what he was doing must have felt like a searing weight on his rebellious conscience as the truth began dawning on him again. He could only muster enough courage to whisper from the depths of his weakened, anxious soul, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven” (v. 9).

Not exactly a confession yet. Or was it? According to scholars this description he chose for himself—“a Hebrew”—was more than a simple declaration of nationality. It was a word “commonly used to distinguish the people of God from those of other nations.” In fact, even Gentiles would often use this term as a way of differentiating between themselves and those who served Yahweh, those who were the beneficiaries of covenantal relationship with Him. So in declaring himself a Hebrew, Jonah couldn’t help but be reminded of his connection to the one true God. This seemed to cause the ministry of God’s Spirit to wash over him. His heart was overwhelmed with conviction, and he could do nothing less than proceed to spill out a laundry list of adjectives to describe the God who governs His people—the God who governed this runaway prophet, even on the sea-lane to Tarshish.

“I fear the Lord . . .”

“. . . the Lord God . . .”

“. . . the Lord God of heaven . . .”

The God who made the sea. Oh, and the dry land too.

The change in Jonah’s path from the road of rebellion to the pathway of penitence was underway. And it all began with those first piercing questions. Are you listening? Do you hear God’s Spirit raising questions deep within you?

Source: *Life Interrupted* by Priscilla Shirer

KEY VERSE

Jonah 1:14 (NKJV)

Therefore they cried out to the Lord and said, "We pray, O Lord, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You."

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Jonah 1:4-17; Proverbs 16:25; Numbers 32:23

Introduction

1. The Book of Jonah demonstrates God's sovereignty. Why is it easy to be deceived into thinking you are in control?
2. Why is God being in control of your life a good thing?

Tuesday: Jonah 1:4-5; Psalm 107:23-31; Romans 14:7

The Distress Of The Mariners

3. Why do you think Jonah was able to sleep through the storm? As Christians, how do we sometimes miss the impact of our sin?
4. Jonah's sin impacted others on the ship with him. Describe a time when your sin impacted others.

Wednesday: Jonah 1:6-12; Proverbs 13:15, 28:13; Psalm 111:10

The Dialogue With The Mariners

5. The sailors asked Jonah a series of questions. Describe a time when a good question helped you see things more clearly?
6. What response did Jonah give to the sailors? Why do you think Jonah was able and willing to admit to the sailors that his disobedience caused the storm?

Thursday: Jonah 1:13-17; Psalm 119:65-68; Matthew 12:38-42

The Decision By The Mariners

7. The storm may have seemed out of control from the perspective of the sailors, but God was in control. What did God's control produce in Jonah's life?
8. What did God's control produce in the lives of the sailors?
9. Describe a time you have seen God in control of circumstances in your life? What was His purpose in that situation?

Friday: Jonah 1:1-17; Matthew 8:24-27; Isaiah 46:9-10

God Is In Full Control Of Your Life

10. List the things that God was in control of in our study of Jonah so far.
11. List things in your life that God is in control of.
12. How can God's sovereignty give us confidence in Him? How can it give us peace in life?