

# TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

## EPISODE 2 – JOY IN GOD’S LOVE

### JOY IN GOD SERIES (BOOK OF JONAH)

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- Having joy in God means that you praise Him with your whole heart, even when it’s hard.
- **Romans 15:13**; *“May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in Him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.”*
- Having joy is trusting that God is in control and He will use the experiences in your life, both good and bad, to make His will known. Having joy for God comes from the Holy Spirit working in our hearts.
- This lesson focuses on having joy in God’s great love for us, His children. This lesson is found in the book of **Jonah**.
- Jonah was a prophet who delivered God’s messages to people. God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to the city of Nineveh. He was to tell the people there to turn away from their evil ways and look to God.
- Nineveh was a large city, and the people who lived there were not Israelites. God was commanding Jonah to go to a large, unfamiliar city that did not worship God and tell them to turn away from their sins.



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- Jonah was afraid, and instead of being obedient to God's command he tried to run away. He boarded a ship going to the distant city of Tarshish, which was in the opposite direction of Nineveh. Jonah thought he could run away from God.
- But no one can run from God's presence. God sent a storm so strong that everyone on the ship was in danger. All the sailors began to call out to false gods, pleading to be spared. It was soon discovered that Jonah was the cause of the storm. Jonah knew he had made a terrible mistake by disobeying God. He told the sailors to throw him into the sea. As soon as they did the storm stopped, and the sea became calm.
- God wasn't done with Jonah yet. He sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and for three days and nights Jonah was in the belly of the fish. During this time Jonah prayed to God and turned away from his sin of disobeying God's command. Then God had the fish vomit Jonah onto dry land. He commanded Jonah once again to go to the city of Nineveh and deliver His message to the people. This time Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh.
- Jonah went into the city. He told the people to turn away from their sins and turn to God. If the people did not do this, God would destroy the city.
- The people of Nineveh immediately turned away from their evil ways! They believed in God, were sorry for their sins, and cried out for God's forgiveness. This is called **repentance**. The whole city did not eat or drink anything, not even the animals. Everyone put on sackcloths, which was a sign of mourning back in those times. The whole city cried out to God and repented of their sins.
- What do you think God did? He had compassion on the people and forgave them! God showed His great love for the city of Nineveh through His forgiveness and mercy. He wanted the people to believe in Him and turn away from their sins. When they did, God showed how much He loved them by not destroying the city.
- This was incredible! God showed His great love for Nineveh through His forgiveness. The people must have been overjoyed to now be called children of God!

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- Sadly, Jonah became angry when God forgave the city of Nineveh. He went outside the city and waited to see if God would destroy it. God provided Jonah with a plant for shade. Even though Jonah was angry, God showed His love for Jonah just as He had shown His love for the people of Nineveh.
- Jonah was happy about the plant and its shade, but later God had a worm eat the plant. Jonah was so angry about not having the plant anymore that he wanted to die. God scolded Jonah, saying that he was more worried about the plant than he was about the whole city of Nineveh.
- Like Jonah, our love is limited. Instead of having joy, we can get angry or jealous when others experience God’s blessings. But God’s love is overflowing and abundant. He poured out His great love onto the city of Nineveh when they repented of their sins. He even showed His perfect love to Jonah, even when he didn’t deserve it.
- As sinners we don’t deserve God’s great love. But God wants us to be with Him always. He loves us so much that He sent His precious Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to take our sins upon Himself. It is through Jesus’ death and resurrection that we are now restored back to God.
- **John 3:16-17**; *“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world. He sent His Son to save the world through Him.”*
- We rejoice knowing that God, who is slow to anger and abounding in love, calls us His children. Because of His perfect love, as believers we will have eternal life with Him. God’s overflowing love is the very source of our joy!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### 1. Who gives you joy for God?

- Having joy in God comes from the Holy Spirit working in our hearts. We praise God with our whole hearts, even when it’s hard.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

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### 2. What did God command Jonah to do? Did Jonah obey God?

- God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and tell them to turn from their evil ways and look to God. Jonah did not obey God, he instead tried to run away by boarding a ship going to a distant city called Tarshish.

### 3. What happened to Jonah while on the ship?

- God sent a storm so strong that everyone on the ship was in danger. The sailors began to call out to false gods, pleading to be spared. They found out that Jonah was the cause of the storm. Jonah told them to throw him into the sea. As soon as they did the storm stopped, and the sea became calm.

### 4. What did Jonah tell the people of Nineveh to do?

- Jonah told the people of Nineveh to turn away from their sins and look to God. If they did not do this, God would destroy the city.

### 5. How did the people of Nineveh respond?

- The people of Nineveh believed in God, turned away from their sins, and cried out for God's forgiveness. No one ate or drank anything, not even the animals. Everyone repented of their sins.

### 6. How did God respond to the people's repentance?

- God had compassion and did not destroy the city. He forgave the people and showed His great love for Nineveh.

### 7. Was Jonah happy when God forgave the city of Nineveh?

- No, he was not. He became angry and went outside the city and waited to see if God would destroy it.

### 8. How did God respond to Jonah's anger?

- God responded with love. He provided a plant to give Jonah shade. Later God had a worm eat the plant and Jonah was so angry that he wanted to die. God scolded him, saying that he was more worried about the plant than he was about the whole city of Nineveh.

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## PERSONAL QUESTIONS

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### 1. How can you have joy in God's great love for you?

- Rejoice knowing that God calls you His child. Read His Word and learn about His love through Jesus' death and resurrection. Surround yourself with other believers in Christian community and share your joy for God's love.

### 2. What are some ways you can share your joy in God with others?

- Invite them to church or Friendship group. Introduce them to other believers in your Christian community. Tell them how much God love them and wants to have a relationship with them. Share how you have seen God's love in your own life.

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