

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Recurring Sermon Series

Study Guide

Sermon Series

John Weaver

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - Run Jonah Run - Jonah Series

Part Two of Four

December 01, 2024

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-22.

Major Themes

The Historical Reality of Jonah

Weaver insists that Jonah was a real person and the book is historical, validated by Jesus' reference in Matthew 12, and that rejecting Jonah implies rejecting Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'when someone rejects the prophet Jonah and doubts the book of Jonah, at the same time, he must reject the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.'

God's Sovereignty Over Life and Death

Weaver teaches that God has appointed the day of our death, and no one can die before God's ordained time, using Job 7:1 and 14:5 as proof.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'life and death are in the hands of the Lord. And God has just sovereignly appointed the day of our death.'

The Human Will to Live

Weaver argues that even those who claim to want death actually desire life when faced with it, as seen in Jonah's shift from wanting to drown to praying for deliverance.

Lecture support: Weaver notes: 'Jonah, in chapter 1, wanted to die... But when you get to Jonah chapter 2, wow, now Jonah is wanting to live.'

God's Disciplinary Methods to Produce Obedience

Weaver emphasizes that God knows exactly what circumstances are needed to tame and redirect His servants, using the fish to bring Jonah to submission.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'God knows exactly what it's going to take to get our attention... God has Jonah exactly where He wants him, in the position that He exactly wants him in.'

The Danger of Running from God's Commission

Weaver highlights Jonah's initial refusal to preach to Nineveh because of his hatred for the Assyrians, and how God overruled his disobedience.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'Jonah did not want to preach to the Assyrians because he knew the prophecy of Nahum... He wanted them destroyed because they were mortal enemies to his people.'

Key Arguments

Jonah's Historical Validity Is Tied to Christ's Testimony

Weaver argues that because Jesus referenced Jonah as a sign of His own resurrection, denying Jonah's historicity undermines the truth of Christ's words.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Jesus: 'As Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, even so must the Son of man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.'

God Righteously Judges Nations He Uses as Instruments

Weaver explains from Isaiah 10 that God sent Assyria against Israel, but judged Assyria because they acted from pride and cruelty, not obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Isaiah 10:7: 'Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so, but it is in his heart to destroy and to cut off nations, not a few.'

The Experience Inside the Fish Was a Divine Appointment for Jonah's Correction

Weaver contends that the fish was specially prepared by God not to kill Jonah but to bring him to repentance and renewed obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'the only reason that Jonah did not die was because of God's sovereign protection and preservation. God was teaching Jonah a particular lesson.'

Suicide Does Not Guarantee Immediate Death or Escape from Suffering

Weaver argues that even self-inflicted harm does not ensure death at one's chosen moment, because God alone determines the timing of death.

Lecture support: Weaver recounts a man who shot himself but lived three days: 'You can't kill yourself and die when you want to die. You may kill yourself, but you're not going to die until God allows you to die.'

Submission to God's Will Is Learned Through Hardship

Weaver parallels Jonah's taming with Saul's conversion, showing that God uses dramatic interventions to break self-will and produce willing servants.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'What God did to Jonah was to tame him. What God did to Saul of Tarsus was to tame him.'

Scripture References

Jonah 2:1-10

Weaver reads the entire chapter at the beginning of the sermon as the primary text.

Matthew 12:39-41

Weaver cites Jesus' reference to Jonah as a sign of His own death and resurrection, affirming Jonah's historicity.

Isaiah 1:1

Weaver uses this to show Isaiah's ministry during the reign of Uzziah, placing him as a contemporary of Jonah.

Jeremiah 1:2

Weaver references Jeremiah's ministry beginning in the days of Josiah to establish the timeline of the prophets.

Jeremiah 25:3

Weaver notes Jeremiah's lengthy ministry to further connect the prophetic contemporaries.

Hosea 1:1

Weaver points out Hosea's ministry during the reigns of Uzziah and Jeroboam, linking him to the same era as Jonah.

Amos 1:1

Weaver shows Amos prophesied during Uzziah and Jeroboam, confirming the overlapping ministries.

Zephaniah 1:1

Weaver includes Zephaniah as another contemporary prophet during Josiah's reign.

2 Kings 14:21-25

Weaver reads this passage to connect Jonah directly to the reign of Jeroboam II and the historical setting.

Zephaniah 2:13

Weaver cites this verse to show God's prophesied judgment on Assyria and Nineveh.

Isaiah 10:5-7, 12-19

Weaver expounds this passage to explain how God used Assyria as a rod of anger but then judged their pride.

Jonah 1:12, 15, 17

Weaver references Jonah's willingness to be thrown overboard and the great fish prepared by God.

Job 7:1

Weaver quotes this to support the idea that man's days are appointed by God.

Job 14:1-5

Weaver reads this passage to emphasize that God has determined the number of man's months and set bounds he cannot pass.

Acts 9:10-16

Weaver uses the conversion of Saul to illustrate how God tames and redirects a rebellious servant.

Matthew 11:28-30

Weaver references Jesus' invitation to take His yoke as a picture of submission and rest.

Psalms 32:8-9

Weaver concludes with this passage, urging believers to be teachable rather than needing a bit and bridle.

Micah 6:9

Weaver briefly mentions this verse about hearing the rod and Him who appointed it as a warning.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Jesus' reference to Jonah in Matthew 12 affect your view of the book's historicity and authority?

Consider: Weaver argues that rejecting Jonah's historicity is tantamount to rejecting Christ's words.

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2. In what ways might we, like Jonah, run from God's manifest presence or specific calling in our lives?

Consider: Weaver explains that Jonah ran from the temple and his commission to Nineveh.

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3. How does the truth that God appoints the day of our death (Job 14:5) change the way we think about life, suffering, and suicide?

Consider: Weaver uses Job to argue that we cannot die before God's ordained time.

- 4.** Can you share a time when God used a difficult or 'whale-like' experience to get your attention and redirect your path?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that God knows exactly what it takes to tame each of us.

- 5.** What does Jonah's prayer from the fish teach us about turning back to God in desperate circumstances?

Consider: Weaver highlights Jonah's shift from running from God to praying toward the temple.

- 6.** How does the example of Saul's conversion (Acts 9) encourage us that no one is beyond God's ability to tame and use?

Consider: Weaver parallels Saul's dramatic encounter with Christ to Jonah's ordeal.

7. What are practical ways we can 'take Christ's yoke' (Matthew 11:29) and learn submission without needing the 'bit and bridle'?

Consider: Weaver concludes with the call to willing obedience rather than forced discipline.

Applications

Trust God's Sovereignty in Life and Death

Believers should rest in the truth that God has appointed the boundaries of their days, freeing them from fear and the illusion of controlling their own death.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'None of us are going to live one day or one minute or one second longer than God has ordained, period.'

Respond Quickly to God's Discipline

Rather than resisting, we should recognize God's corrective measures and quickly return to obedience, as Jonah eventually did.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'I believe he's running back to God far more quickly than he ran from God. Because he realizes he's in a very desperate situation.'

Submit Willingly to God's Instruction

Weaver urges believers to be teachable and obedient like a well-trained child, avoiding the need for harsh discipline.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 32:8-9 and says: 'God said, Don't make me put a bit and bridle on you.'

Do Not Presume Upon Tomorrow

Because death does not end suffering for the unsaved, Weaver implies the urgency of being right with God now.

Lecture support: Weaver warns: 'if he's unsaved and he dies, that physical suffering is not going to be anything compared to the spiritual suffering.'

Embrace God's Unique Shaping Process

Accept that God may use unusual or painful circumstances to break our self-will and conform us to His purposes.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'God has a very unique way of breaking us and making us submissive and obedient.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Run Jonah Run - Jonah Series - Part Two of Four

Lecture JW01768

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01768&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01768&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.