



PASSION for OTHERS

loving others the way God loves



Name:

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

SPRING 2019



wentzville
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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LETTER FROM KEITH

Jonah is one of those guys from the Bible that almost everyone seems to know. He's the guy who was swallowed by a "great fish" which is often represented as a whale in children's books. Jonah is the guy who God told to go to the wicked city of Nineveh and "preach against it." But instead of obeying God, he runs away...why? Jonah knew that they would repent or turn away from their sin and worship God, and he didn't want that. To put it bluntly, he didn't care about the people of Nineveh. He was more passionate about his own people, his own safety, and his own comfort than the Ninevites.

At WCC, we want to ignite a passion for Jesus, the Bible, the Church, and Others, and we are committed to igniting a passion for all of these, not just a couple. Having a passion for Jesus means you will have a passion for the Bible, the words of God. Having a passion for the Bible means we obey it and everything it says about God's Church AND reaching out to Others. A passion for others is not just the people we live with, go to church with, or the people we see often. It means we have a passion for everyone to hear about Jesus and his great love for us.

Let's face it, sometimes we are more passionate about our own people, our own safety, and our own comfort. Just like Jonah, we run away from what God has called each of us to do. We are going to be challenged in our passion for others over the next four weeks [leading into Easter]. We will see God's desire for us to reach, love, serve, and welcome those who may or may not know the story of Jesus and how he saves us from our sin. Jesus changes everything through the crucifixion and the resurrection, and everyone should get to hear this Gospel! We are key components in God's plan for this world to hear about Jesus. The story of Jonah isn't really about Jonah, disobedience, or even a big fish...**this story is about God and His desire for everyone to be saved** [1 Timothy 2:4].

God is on a mission for people to know Him, trust Him, turn away from this world, and choose to follow Him. This is the story of Jonah and it is also our story. Throughout this series, we are going to spend time growing our passion for Others by answering the questions of Why? What? Who? and When? as it relates to sharing God's love with others. As we journey through the story of Jonah, my prayer is that we would **love people the way God loves people!**

Blessings,

Keith Comp

Senior Minister

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

The purpose of this guide is to ignite a passion for the others in your daily life. If we have a passion for Jesus, the Bible, and the Church, then we should naturally want to share these great things with others. This guide will help you develop a heart for others as you learn what needs to change in your heart first.

SERMON NOTES:

Bring this workbook to church each Sunday. As you listen to the sermon, make a note when you hear something that surprises you, intrigues you, bothers you, challenges you, or encourages you. Use this as a starting point for your group discussion and personal study through the week.

CONNECT QUESTIONS:

These questions will help you and your group members become more comfortable with talking and sharing with each other. Not only will you learn more about one-another, the questions will help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION:

These questions are the “meat” of the discussion and will point back to the sermon each week. Feel free to read and answer these questions before your group meets. They will also help you dig deeper into the Scriptures during your group discussions.

CHANGE QUESTIONS:

Passion leads people to significant actions. At the end of Jesus’ most famous sermon, he says that if you do not put his words into practice then you are a fool [Matthew 7:24-27]. Life transformation is the ultimate goal of a follower of Christ. This happens through personal reflection and a genuine response to what you have heard from God. Feel free to answer these questions out-loud when your leader reads them or you can quietly reflect and write a response in your workbook. This is the time to go deep and make it personal!

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER:

Please focus this time on your own personal praises and requests instead of listing all of the bad things that happened to someone you know. We challenge you to get “deep” with one-another relationally, which means becoming a little bit vulnerable as you are honest with one-another.

PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF THE WEEK:

WCC supports many wonderful missionaries and organizations all over the world. We are committed to support them with our finances as well as our prayers and encouragement. Ask God to work in their lives and through their ministries to ignite a passion for Jesus in others.

DAILY DEVOTION:

Be consistent, honest, and intentional with this time and you will not regret it. The whole point of this workbook is to make the sermons and scriptures stick with you in your daily walk with Christ. Digging in to God’s Word and applying it to your daily life is perhaps the best way to solidify His truth into your heart and your life.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEK 1 - JONAH 1: WHY?

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, did you ever think about running away from home? Why?
2. What are some reasons that people want to run away from God?
3. What is the toughest thing someone has asked you to do?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. When you think of the story of Jonah, what do you think of? What are some of the key lessons found in the book?
2. Read Jonah 1:1-2. What do you think it would be like to hear the actual “word of the Lord”? Do you think you would listen and obey more than you do now?
3. Read Jonah 1:3. What do you think were Jonah’s reasons for fleeing from God’s instructions? What are some difficult instructions people today may be fleeing from?

4. **Read Jonah 1:4-10. What was the consequence for Jonah's disobedience? What are some consequences we can experience if we run from God's instructions?**

5. **What did you learn about Nineveh and Tarshish from the sermon? What are some metaphorical Nineveh's that people run away from today?**

6. **Read Jonah 1:11-17. What do you think about Jonah's request to be thrown in the sea? Was it heroic? Selfless? Or continued stubbornness?**

7. **Why do you think God chose Jonah for this task instead of someone else who would have been more willing?**

8. **OPTIONAL EXERCISE: Read Hebrews 12:4-11. How does this explanation of God's discipline relate to the story of Jonah?**

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What is the Nineveh that God may be calling you to respond to?
2. How can you be more attentive to what God is calling you to do on a daily basis?
3. Does your heart need to be softened for others? What could this mean for your daily life?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Team Expansion: Tim & Amy Maxson

The Maxsons work at Fellowship Dubai church in the Middle East and are making disciples of migrant workers. The Maxson family has five children. teamexpansion.org We have a small team from WCC going to visit the Maxons on Wednesday, January 9 and will return Saturday, January 19.

High Hill Christian Camp

High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center's goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God's wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus. highhillcamp.org

Show-Me Christian Youth Home

This faith-based organization seeks to improve the lives of children struggling because of circumstances in their current home environment. showmehelpingkids.com

Outreach International - Mexico | Josh & Susan Sanchez

This mission, called Me & My House Ministries, is a church plant in Colima City. Their goal is to begin a church planting movement within the region.

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”
[Jonah 1:2 NIV]

- ▶ What are some general “calls” that God gives to all Christians? What are some specific “calls” that you have seen God give in Scripture or to others you know?

- ▶ Have you ever thought about your “call” as a follower of Jesus? What do you think God may be calling you to do for his Kingdom?

DAY 2:

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ^aIf I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
[Psalm 139:7-8 NIV]

- ▶ Jonah tried to escape God’s call and presence. How did that work for him in the end? When have you tried to do something similar?

- ▶ Does this bring you hope or fear? How should this affect your daily thoughts and actions?

DAY 3:

He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”
[Jonah 1:9 NIV]

- ▶ Jonah ran from God, but he did not deny Him or forget about Him. What is the difference? When you ever done something similar?

- ▶ Jonah had a time of disobedience, but he never forgot his heritage or how powerful God is. How is this example important as we seek to lead others back to a relationship with God through repentance?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased."
[Jonah 1:14 NIV]

- ▶ Jonah gave up his life to save the others on the boat, but he was not willing to give up his comfort to preach to Nineveh! Have you ever been in a similar ironic situation?

- ▶ What/who does this verse remind you of? What does Jesus' sacrifice inspire you to do for others?

DAY 5:

At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.
[Jonah 1:16 NIV]

- ▶ Besides the change of heart in Jonah's life, what does this verse show us as a benefit for the suffering that God allowed Jonah to go through?

- ▶ When have you seen others glorify God through the suffering or sacrifice of another person? How does this encourage you to be an example for others in the midst of trials suffering?

DAY 6:

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
[Matthew 29:19-20 NIV]

- ▶ What parallels do you see in this command with the life of Jonah? What Jesus call us to do for others?

- ▶ What do you think God may be asking you to do for others? What step can you take this week toward doing this?

WEEK 2 - JONAH 2: WHAT?

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What was your favorite hiding place as a child?
2. Would you feel claustrophobic if you hid there today?
3. Have you ever had a near death experience? Explain.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Jonah 1:17. Why do you think God allowed Jonah to stay in the fish for 3 days? Why not save him sooner?
2. Read Jonah 2:1-2. When have you cried out to God for help in your distress?
3. Read Jonah 2:3-7. What scene is Jonah describing? How does this scene give more significance to verse 7?

4. According to 2:3, who threw Jonah into the sea? According to Jonah 1:15, who threw Jonah into the sea? How do you explain the apparent discrepancy?
5. Read Jonah 2:8-9. Who is Jonah talking about in verse 8? What is the vow that Jonah makes to God in verse 9?
6. How did Jonah's near death experience impact his heart for others? Why is it important that his prayer comes before verse 10?
7. What do we learn about God in the first 2 chapters of Jonah? What do we learn about ourselves through Jonah's experience?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What promises or vows have you made to God? How can you work toward honoring those promises this week?
2. What would it take for you to have a heart for others ignited?
3. How should God's gift of salvation impact the way you treat others?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Jireh India Missions

This ministry in India shares the good news of Jesus with those who have never heard His name. They provide homes and education for orphans at House of Peace, teach widows to sew so they can provide for their children, provide bread for much of their community through Five Loaves Bakery, and work with a leper colony. They strive to fulfill Psalm 82:3 — *Defend the poor and orphans; do justice to the afflicted and needy.*

HOPE Ministries Food Pantry

HOPE provides families in St. Charles county assistance with food and physical needs. You can donate non-perishable food items to this ministry by visiting the food cart in the WCC café. Take home a bag and bring it back with the items requested for the month.

Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch

Located in Kahoka and Clarence, MO, Shiloh is a safe haven for abused and neglected children, and includes six homes for children, two relief homes, and an onsite school. shilohranch.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. [Jonah 2:1 NIV]

► Where is the weirdest place that you have prayed to God? When is the weirdest time that you have prayed to God?

► At what times and in what places will you pray to God this week? How can you make prayer a regular part of your daily life?

DAY 2:

Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. [Hebrews 4:16 NIV]

► When have you cried out to God in a time of need? What got you to that point?

► God is always here for us, and he is always willing to offer mercy and grace. How will you “receive mercy and find grace” in your relationship with Him this week?

DAY 3:

He said: “In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.” [Jonah 2:2 NIV]

► Jonah thanks God for answering his previous cry for help, not for deliverance from the belly of the fish. Do your prayers tend to be filled with thanks or requests? Why?

► God always hears our prayers! Jesus said so [See John 11:41-42]! How should this change the way you talk with God today?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

'Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; ²Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. [Psalm 130:1-2 NIV]

- ▶ Jonah cried out to God from the depths, again... and God heard him! Do you ever doubt that God hears your prayers?

- ▶ How does this Psalm encourage you to pray? At what times and in what places will you make prayer a priority today? This week?

DAY 5:

You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas. [Jonah 2:3 NIV] Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. [Jonah 1:15 NIV]

- ▶ Look at the different perspectives above. Who was responsible for Jonah being thrown in the ocean? Why would Jonah say this to God?

- ▶ Jonah was thanking God for his situation, not blaming Him. When have you blamed God but later realized that it was a blessing in disguise? Ask God to keep your perspective on His eternal purpose instead of your limited understanding this week.

DAY 6:

But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.' [Jonah 2:9 NIV]

- ▶ When was the last time that you literally shouted to God with a grateful praise? What sacrifices have you given to God?

- ▶ What vows have you made to God? Have you “made good” on them? How will you praise, sacrifice, make good on vows, and proclaim God’s truths this week?

PASSION for OTHERS



Week 3 - Jonah 3: Who?

WEEK 3 - JONAH 3: WHO?

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What is the largest crowd you have ever been in? How did you feel with all of those people around you?
2. What is the largest city that you have visited?
3. When have you been given a second chance? When have you given someone else a second chance?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Jonah 3:1-2. How would the impact of Jonah's story be different if it began chapter 3? Why do you think God chose Jonah instead of someone who would have obeyed the first time?
2. What do we learn about God in the first 2 chapters of Jonah?
3. Read Jonah 3:3-5. How did the Ninevites respond to Jonah's message? How does this impact your perception of how people will respond to the Gospel message?

4. What do you think it would take for an entire nation or city to repent and turn to God today?
5. Read the King's decree in Jonah 3:6-9. What does the king's decree teach us about what God wants for us?
6. What do we learn about God in verse 10?
7. What do we learn about second chances through Jonah's experience? How does this relate to following Jesus?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What second chances has God given to you? Who do you need to give a second chance to?
2. How can you show God's compassion to others this week?
3. Who in your life needs to hear a message of repentance and forgiveness? How will you speak with them this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

LOVetheLOU

LOVetheLOU is a community development initiative that connects resources to the needs of St. Louis. During the constant process of growth and development, they strive to see St. Louis restored through transforming actions. LTL is proud of the progress in St. Louis and are excited about what will continue to happen as they grow and develop. lovethelou.org

Team Expansion: Allen & Cherry Messimer – Taiwan

The Messimers have served as missionaries in Taiwan since 2004. Their mission is to evangelize, disciple, and provide training so every believer can use his or her gifts in a simple church ministry. This also means every church can start new, indigenous churches. Over 90% of Taiwanese people still worship idols. teamexpansion.org

Haitian Island Ministries: Steve & Terry Smith, WCC members

This organization operates medical programs providing free vitamins, medicine, and medical care and feeding programs which provide a daily meal for thousands of Haitian children each month. They also build schools and churches in some of the most remote areas of Haiti. Their medical program has served hundreds of thousands of Haitians. haitianislandministries.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

***2**“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” **3**Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. [Jonah 2:2-3a NIV]*

- ▶ Why do you think God spoke to Jonah the second time? After the events in chapters 1-2, do you really think Jonah needed to hear from God again?

- ▶ When have you ignored God’s prompting only to later realize you should have listened? What has God’s Word commanded you to do that you are ignoring now?

DAY 2:

***How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?** [Romans 10:14 NIV]*

- ▶ What happens if people are not sent out to preach the Gospel of Jesus? Have you ever shared with someone else about Jesus?

- ▶ Who in your life needs to hear this message? How can you tell them about it so that they can “call on the one they have not believed in”?

DAY 3:

***Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”** [Jonah 3:4 NIV]*

- ▶ Why do you think God gave a deadline for the people of Nineveh to repent?

- ▶ What are some reasons to be urgent about sharing the Gospel with people today? Do you have an urgency?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.
[Jonah 3:7 NIV]

- ▶ In what situations would you consider fasting and/or giving up physical comfort, like the Ninevites, in order to seek God?

- ▶ Have you ever fasted and prayed for the salvation of another person or people group? Please consider fasting one day or one meal this week for the salvation of others.

DAY 5:

But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.
[Jonah 3:8 NIV]

- ▶ When have you urgently called on God? What did you do and what did it look like?

- ▶ The people of Nineveh genuinely repented and turned to God. What evil ways do you need to give up this week in order to turn to God?

DAY 6:

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.
[Jonah 3:10 NIV]

- ▶ What does this show you about God? What was the reason for God to not bring destruction? [Hint: it was not just because of prayer!]

- ▶ God sometimes withholds calamities because of repentance and genuine devotion to Him. How will you seek God’s compassion through prayer and repentance today?

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WEEK 4 - JONAH 4: WHEN?

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that make you so angry you cannot think straight?
2. When have you gotten angry at others for doing something you have done before?
3. When was a time that you did what you were supposed to do, but you had a bad attitude about it?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Have three volunteers briefly describe the events in each of the first three chapters of Jonah.
2. Read Jonah 4:1-3. What do you think Jonah hoped would happen in Nineveh? Why was he so angry?
3. What types of people do some Christians today have trouble forgiving or ministering to?

4. **Read Jonah 4:4. Why is it ironic that Jonah is upset that God showed compassion to the Ninevites?**

5. **Read Jonah 4:5-8. Why do you think God caused these events to happen?**

6. **Scripture tells us that God never tempts us. How is this different from the trials and tests that God puts Jonah through?**

7. **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. What does God want? What does he want from us? How does this bring the whole story of Jonah into context for us today?**

8. **OPTIONAL: Read Matthew 20:1-16. What parallels do you see in the attitude of the workers with the attitude of Jonah? When have you had selfish thoughts like this?**

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. **Who are 3 specific people in your life who need to hear God's truth and experience Jesus' love?**
2. **Do you honestly have a passion for the others? How can you grow and show this passion?**
3. **What can and will you do to help others know God's truths and Jesus' love this week?**

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Central Christian College of the Bible

The goal of Central Christian College of the Bible is to raise up servant leaders for the church and to do so as affordably as possible. CCCB believes so completely in what their students will do for Christ that they want to not only equip them with a quality education, but an affordable one so their future ministry will not be burdened by financial stress. That is why CCCB offers a Full-Tuition Scholarship and will continue to do so as long as there are means. cccb.edu

St. Louis Christian College

SLCC seeks to educate Christians and to graduate leaders who are equipped for service to God. They seek learners who are committed to Christ and highly motivated to serve God and the church; students who are capable of completing the academic rigors of a college education; adults who are willing to acquire both knowledge and skills through service and off-campus learning experiences; and men and women who are drawn from a diversity of geographic, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. stlchristian.edu

Christian Prison Ministry of Mid-America

Missouri is home to 29 prisons and 2 county jails in 5 states. CPM's goal is to evangelize, encourage, and equip the believers in all of these prisons. To date, over 400 inmates have been baptized!

christianprisonministryofmissouri.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.
[1 Timothy 2:1 NIV]

- ▶ What percentage of your prayers are for yourself compared to your prayers for others?

- ▶ List the types of prayers in the verse. Take some time right now to pray each of these types of prayers for others.

DAY 2:

³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
[1 Timothy 2:3-4 NIV]

- ▶ Why do you think it pleases God when we pray for others? How do these verses affect the way you feel about others?

- ▶ God wants everyone to be saved, but those who do not hear his truth will not experience heaven. What does it inspire you to do?

DAY 3:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
[2 Peter 3:9 NIV]

- ▶ What is God not slow at? When is He patient?

- ▶ God wants everyone to repent and live eternally with him. What role does God have for the repentance and salvation of others? What role do you play?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?
[Matthew 20:15 NIV]

- ▶ In this story, Jesus rebukes those who are jealous about God's generosity to others? When have you felt this way?

- ▶ Jonah was angry because of God's compassion for the Ninevites. Do you fully understand the compassion and forgiveness God has given you? How should this affect your heart for others?

DAY 5:

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.
[1 Peter 1:6 NIV]

- ▶ Peter talks about the wonderful inheritance of Heaven, but then says we have to wait. How do his words here give you strength? Encouragement? Hope?

- ▶ Why would God allow us to go through grief, tests, and trials here on earth? What do you think God wants you to learn through your trials this week?

DAY 6:

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
[1 Peter 1:7 NIV]

- ▶ Jonah's life was full of tests and trials. How would you have responded in each of his situations?

- ▶ After reading the verse above, why do you think God allows us to go through tests and trials? How do you think God wants you to respond to trials this week?

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 29:19-20 [NIV]

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 [NIV]

³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 [NIV]

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Romans 10:14 [NIV]

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

1 Timothy 2:1 [NIV]

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.

Jonah 1:2 [NIV]

Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.

Jonah 2:2 [NIV]

He said: "In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry."

Jonah 2:9 [NIV]

But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'

Jonah 3:10 [NIV]

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SALVATION:

BELIEVE:

John 3:16 [NIV]

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 [NLT]

For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

CONFESS:

Acts 19:18 [NIV]

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.

Romans 10:9 [NLT]

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

REPENT:

Acts 3:19-20 [NLT]

¹⁹Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. ²⁰Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord.

BE BAPTIZED:

Acts 2:38 [NIV]

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:4-5 [NLT]

⁴For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. ⁵Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.

REMAIN FAITHFUL:

1 Corinthians 15:2 [NIV]

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

Revelation 2:10 [NLT]

Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

SUMMER IDEAS FOR GROUPS:

• SPIRITUAL:

- Begin a reading plan through the YouVersion Bible app
- Read a book or do a study together [talk with Kurt for ideas]
- Stay connected through Facebook by posting prayers each week
- Take a class together like Financial Peace, marriage, parenting, etc.
- Plan an overnight retreat where you can have fun and grow together

• FUN:

- Plan 1 fun event each month
- Go to a Cardinals or Rascals game
- Have a picnic at a park, home, or WCC
- Plan a game night with another Life Group
- Go to the Zoo, Science Center, museum, etc.

• OTHERS:

- Go to sporting events of kids in the group
- Serve at Love the Lou or another WCC mission
- Complete a work project at WCC or High Hill Camp
- Volunteer at a Wentzville city event www.wentzvillemo.org

SUMMER EVENTS AT WCC:

- Hello Dolly! Spring Musical [May 3-5]
- Run For the Wall [May 20-21]
- Family Camp at High Hill Camp [May 31-Jun 1]
- Kids Summer Drama Camp [Jun 8?]
- CIY Move for Teens [June 9-15]
- Camp 45 [June 16-20]
- Middle School Camp [June 23-28]
- STEM Camp [July 8-12]
- High School Mission Trip [July 21-27]
- Vacation Bible School [July 29-Aug 2]

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1 | JONAH 1: WHY?

Jonah 1 | God commands Jonah; Jonah flees; God gets Jonah's attention; God saves
Matthew 28:19-20 | Jesus gives the Great Commission to make disciples in ALL nations
2 Corinthians 5:17-21 | Jesus is the message of reconciliation so ALL may be reconciled to God

2 | JONAH 2: WHAT?

Jonah 2 | Jonah prays; Jonah praises God; Jonah repents; Jonah vows; God saves
Matthew 12:38-42 | Jesus says that Jonah was a sign: judgement, repentance, and resurrection
Acts 2:37-38 | Peter tells the crowd to repent and be baptized for salvation

3 | JONAH 3: WHO?

Jonah 3 | God commands Jonah again; Jonah preaches; Nineveh repents; God saves
John 17:20-26 | Jesus prays for everyone to believe in Him and make His name known to all
2 Timothy 2 | Paul tells Timothy to entrust the message to reliable people to spread to others

4 | JONAH 4: WHEN?

Jonah 4 | Jonah gets angry; God rebukes; Jonah gets angrier; God explains Jonah's irony
Luke 6:27-42 | Jesus says to love everyone and treat them like you would want to be treated
Matthew 20:1-16 | Parable of the workers who were jealous that God is generous to others

RESOURCES:

- *Conversational Evangelism: Connecting with People to Share Jesus* by David Geisler, Norman Geisler
- *Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out: Evangelism the Way You Were Born to Do It* by Alvin Reid
- *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself* by Steve Corbett, Brian Fikkert
- *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door* by Jay Pathak, Dave Runyon