

The image is a vertical poster with a teal and dark blue color palette. The top half shows a turbulent sea with white-capped waves under a dark, stormy sky. The bottom half is an underwater view, showing a hand reaching up from the depths towards the surface. The overall mood is one of struggle and hope.

OUT OF THE STORM

JOB & JONAH

JOB & JONAH: OUT OF THE STORM

TERM 3	PASSAGE	
Week 1	Job 1 and 2	Righteous Suffering
Week 2	Job 3	Righteous Sorrow
Week 3	Job 4-37	Why do we Suffer?
Week 4	Job 19	Is God Unjust?
Week 5	Job 38-42	Out of the Storm
Week 6	Job 42	God's Kindness
Week 7	Job 28	Wisdom
Week 8	Jonah 1 and 2	Jonah at Sea
Week 9	Jonah 3	Jonah at Nineveh
Week 10	Jonah 4	Jonah's Unjust Anger

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

INTRODUCTION: JOB

Why do we suffer? Why does God allow suffering to happen in His world? Is it right for God to let people suffer? Do only bad people suffer? Is our suffering our own fault?

Why has God done this to me?

This book introduces us to a man named Job, a "*blameless and upright man, who feared God and shunned evil*" (Job 1:1). Despite being clearly one of the good guys, Job experiences the most extreme suffering we could possibly imagine. He loses his wealth, his possessions, his health, his children, his wife, and his reputation... he is left with nothing. Why has God done this? Will Job lose his faith in God also?

In our life and experiences in the world, different questions may arise to do with suffering. We can categorise these questions into two different types. The first we can call "armchair" questions. These are the questions we ask in general when we are thinking about the world broadly and philosophically. The other questions we call "wheelchair" questions. These are the kind that relate to our own personal and painful suffering, the kind where we find ourselves crying out to God in anguish, desperate for answers.

In the book of Job, we see a bunch of wheelchair questions arise. Job takes us deep into a man's struggle. Job's very real and very human example pushes the boundaries of what we might think is appropriate. Despite this, Job is considered an example of godly perseverance for us to follow (James 5:11). Because of this, Job helps us wrestle with our own suffering and God, beyond a superficial level.

Many come to the book of Job seeking a definitive answer for their own suffering. Such people are largely left wanting and dissatisfied with God's eventual response. While the book has much to say on the topic of suffering, it doesn't seek to explain the purpose of suffering. Rather, the book of Job is written as a theodicy; a defence of God's justice in allowing suffering to occur, and a call to trust in His ways as good and right, regardless of what we might think and feel in our own limitations.

If you come to Job with the humility that Job himself ultimately displays, you will not be left wanting at all. The book of Job will teach you everything you need to trust God amidst your own suffering.

Day 2

Pray + Read Job 1:6-12

Before we start, it is important to note the presence of Satan in this heavenly scene may cause us to ask a lot of questions. However, the author isn't seeking to answer these questions in Job, (it's not the purpose of Job). It may be helpful to know these two things before reading the passage:

1. A more literal translation of 'the satan' would read 'the accuser.' The use of this language is to identify this character as playing the *role* of 'the satan' (being 'the accuser') rather than 'the satan' that we might call "the Devil".
2. There is still debate about whether 'the accuser' belongs as a member of the heavenly council, or whether he is an intruder.

What is clear is that 'the satan' is present in this heavenly scene and is bringing an accusation about Job to God.

1. What characteristics of Job have been mentioned again in today's passage?

2. What is satan's accusations?

3. Can you think of times in your christian life when it felt like God had a hedge (protection) around you? How did that impact your faith?

3. As you reflect through your life, what are some good things that God has given you?

Prayer: Thank God for all the good things he has given you. Ask for help when things get hard to fix your eyes on him.

Day 3

Pray + Read Job 1:13-22

1. How did this passage impact you? Write down all the different reactions you had after just reading the passage?
2. Now put yourself in Job's shoes... How do you think you would have responded?
3. How did Job react? What can you take away from Job's example here?
4. "In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing." Can you think of times where you have sinned in suffering?

Prayer: Ask God for help when you are suffering, not to blame him.

Day 4

Pray + Read Job 2:1-7

1. How is this accusation different from the first?
2. In this passage, who seems to be the one causing Jobs' suffering? (Compare 1:11-12, 1:15-17, 1:19, 1:21; 2:5-7, 2:9-10.)
3. What can we learn about God's power and sovereignty from this passage?
4. Imagine if Job could have had the insight that we do into these heavenly scenes (Job 1:6-12 and Job 2:1-6). How do you think the insight would have affected him? How might reflecting on these scenes help you in your own sufferings?

Prayer: Thank God that he has power over all things both on heaven and on earth.

Day 5

Pray and Read Job 2:1-10

1. What are the ways the satan tempts Job to sin in this passage?
2. How does Job's response to his wife in verse 10, challenge some of today's views on suffering?
3. Count how many times Job's righteousness has been affirmed so far in the book. Why do you think this has been repeated?
4. How has looking at Job so far encouraged you?

Prayer: Pray for help in times of temptation that God would help you not to sin.

Day 4

Pray + Read Job 3:1-26

1. This chapter is full of sorrow. Throughout all of this, what hope does Job hold onto?
2. How is the hope that we as Christians have today different from Job's (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)? How does this impact our view on suffering? (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).
3. Do you think the narrator could write "in all this Job did not sin" after this section of verses? Why/ Why not?

Prayer: Thank God that we can have hope in Jesus Christ. Pray that you would be able to remember this throughout all of life's troubles and sufferings.

Week 3 - Job 4 - 37

Day 1

We are going to read through a bunch of Job this week.

Today we will be looking at what is known as the "Mosaic Covenant." Understanding this covenant helps us read our Old Testament.

Pray + Read Deuteronomy 28:1-6 and verses 15-19

1. Summarise what is being said to Israel in these two chunks of the bible.
2. Read Psalm 37:9-11. According to these verses, how might someone 'inherit the land'?
3. Jesus makes it clear that His death on the cross is for all people. In Matthew 9:13, Jesus says *"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"*. How does this, and what you know of Jesus' life, challenge the retribution principle?

Prayer: Before you pray, read 1 Peter 3:18. Pray, giving praise to God for bringing you into relationship with Him through Jesus death. Give thanks to God for His love for us, that He would save us even though we are undeserving. Ask God that you would always remember that it is by Jesus alone we are saved, and not by anything we do.

Day 5

We've read through three arguments presented by Job's friends. Now a fourth person, Elihu, appears. His speech comes after the three cycles have concluded. Job doesn't respond directly to him like he does with the other three friends.

Pray

Read Job 32:1-5.

1. Elihu comes into the conversation quite heated. Why is he angry? Do you think his anger is appropriate?

Read Job 34:1-19 & 37:19-24.

2. Have a go at summarising Elihu's argument.
3. Does Elihu say anything that hasn't already been said by the others? Backup your answer.
4. From this argument, what did you learn about:
 - a) God?
 - b) Humanity?

Prayer: Pray out of what you have learned or been struck by.

Week 4 - Job 4-37

Last week we read a bunch of the arguments of Job's three friends and then finally Elihu. This week we will look at how Job responds and tries to make sense of his own situation.

Day 1

Pray + Read Job 9:1-20

1. Just as in chapter 1 and 2, Job continues to praise God in the midst of his suffering.
 - a) Make a list of all the things we learn about God from Job's praise in verse 1-13.

b) How does this humble us?

2. How do verses 14-20 link to the previous verses?

3. What does Job begin to accuse God of?

Prayer: Spend some time praising God for his majesty, power and justice. You may like to use some of Job's own words from verses 1-13. Pray that God would capture you more and more by his majesty and give you humility to respond to him rightly.

Day 2

Pray + Read Job 9:21-31

1. What things do you think Job rightly observes about his situation and the reality of life?
2. What things do you think he has misinterpreted? Why do you think he has?
3. How does Job's accusation of God from yesterday's verses develop in these verses?
4. Now let's read Job 9:32-35. How do these verses remind you of Jesus Christ and the Gospel?
5. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How does the Gospel make our situation different from Job's? How ought those differences affect the way we think and behave when we are going through suffering?

Prayer: Thank God for his goodness in the Gospel of Jesus Christ:
In providing us with a mediator in Jesus Christ as our perfect high priest.
In allowing us to come before him confidently in Christ.
In giving us solid hope in times of need.

Day 3

Pray + read Job 14:1-22

1. How would you summarise Job's emotional state through this chapter?
2. What do you think Job is saying when he compares himself to a tree?
3. There is a glimmer of hope in Job's words - what is it? How certain do you think he is of this hope?
4. What are the ways in which our hope as Christians today is different and better than Job's?
5. How does this impact our experience of suffering?

Prayer: Praise God for the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Day 4

Pray + Read Job 19:1-29

1. What different kinds of suffering does Job speak about here?
2. What negative lesson can we learn from Job's friends?
3. What is unique to Job's situation which makes their contribution so frustrating to us as readers?
4. What is Job's hope here in these verses and how is it different to what we read in chapter 14 (yesterday)?
5. How can you see his words of hope here foreshadow the sure hope we have as Christians in the Gospel?

Prayer: Thank God for providing Jesus as our redeemer and mediator who pleads for us before God. Pray that God would help you to always trust in him and his righteousness, not your own.

Day 5

Pray

In Job 31, Job is confident of his innocence and uses many examples of possible sin to call God to judge him fairly.

Read as much of Job 31 as you are able to, leaving about 5 minutes to reflect and pray after.

As you read, think, "how would I feel saying these words to God?". Write your thoughts in the space below:

Pray:

Reflect on some areas of your life where you feel convicted of your sin.

1 John 1:8-9 says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Pray to God and repent of your sin, ask God for forgiveness.

Week 5 - Job 38-42

Day 1

Pray + Read Job 38:1-3

1. Are there times in your life where you have felt God is distant? Why do you think you felt like this?
2. Where does God speak to Job from? Why do you think this could be significant?
3. Flick back to Job 1 and make note of how much dialogue/time has passed to get to Job 38. We see that Job has been waiting for God to answer for a long time.
 - a) Why do you think God has waited until now to speak to Job?
 - b) What might Job have found surprising about God's first words to him?

Prayer: Thank God that he is sovereign, hears and answers our prayers. Thank God that he is with us always, even in the times of storm and difficulty. Ask God that he would help you to trust him deeper and that He would draw you closer to himself.

Day 2

Pray + Read Job 38:1-21

1. What does this passage show you about God's authority and sovereignty over creation?
2. What does God accuse Job of? (Check out vs 21)
3. What is God trying to say about Job's knowledge compared to His knowledge?
4. How do the words in this passage challenge the way you think about God and the world around you?
5. How would you feel if you were in Job's position?

Prayer: Praise God that is sovereign over everything! Pray that you would never forget his sovereignty and that you would be humbled before Him.

Day 3

Before you start reading today's passage, have a think about some ideas people have about God and his involvement in the world? Do you think many people see God as continually involved and present within our world? What do they think instead?

Pray + Read Job 38:25-41

1. According to this passage, what role does God play in our world and its continual existence?
2. How does this challenge the idea that 'God lacks involvement in our world'?
3. Look back over your notes from yesterday on how God is arguing his point against Job. How does God continue His argument through today's passage?
4. There is a lot in these verses about God's providence over our world, nothing happens without him causing it - every detail. Read Hebrews 1:3. How does this verse expand your view of Jesus?

Prayer: Praise Jesus for His sustaining power in creation. Ask God that He would help you to understand him deeper. Pray that you would follow Jesus every day.

Day 4

Pray + Read Job 41:1-34

Leviathan is mentioned several times throughout the Bible and is described as some kind of sea monster. Draw a picture – either mentally or in the space below – of Leviathan from the details given.

1. How are you left feeling after reading this chapter?
2. How do humans compare against Leviathan?
3. What is God's position and relation to Leviathan?
4. What point do you think God is making in these verses?
5. How do these verses humble you?
6. How do these verses comfort you in your faith?

Prayer: Thank God for His sovereignty over absolutely everything. Thank God for the way you have been able to think about his sovereignty this week. Ask that he would comfort you when you feel discouraged and overwhelmed.

Day 5

Pray + Read Job 40:6-14

Think back over last week's readings where Job was arguing with his friends and accusing God...

1. What kinds of questions did Job have for God?

2. What kinds of questions has the book of Job raised for you?

Think back over this week and all of the words that God has spoken to Job out of the storm.

3. Spend some time seeing if you can summarise God's argument in your own words.

4. Does God answer Job's questions? Why / why not?

5. Does God answer all of your questions from Job's experience?

God's response to Job is the climax of the book.

6. How are you left feeling after it? What do you think God is teaching you in this?

Prayer: Thank God for the book of Job and what he has taught you through it (think of something personal here ☺). Pray that God would help you to grow in your trust in Him.

Week 6 – Job 42

Day 1

Pray + read Job 13:15, Job 10:2 and Job 23:3-6

1. What is Job's tone through these verses? How does he feel towards God?
2. How did Job expect his confrontation with God to go?

Now let's read Job 40:1-5 and 42:1-6

3. How is Job's response in these verses different from how he spoke in the ones you read earlier?
4. What has changed for Job? How does he feel towards God now?
5. Do you know some people that might respond to God in the same way that Job did at first?

Prayer: Spend some time now praying for those who may have false confidence and misunderstanding in God. Pray that God would use you to bring about their humility to respond to God rightly and be saved.

Day 3

Pray + read Job 42:7-9

1. What does God ask Job's friends to do?
2. Are there similarities between God's instructions for Job's friends and what Jesus did for us?
3. Read Hebrews 7:23-27. What are you thankful to God for in the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. What does Job do for his friends?
5. How does this show the importance of prayer?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for Jesus' sacrifice, and that he will always intercede for us before God.

Day 5

Pray + read Job 42:10-17

1. Why do you think God restored Job to such prosperity?
2. From all we've seen, do good works and righteousness mean a good life now? Or can you be righteous and suffer now? Why/why not?
3. Does your answer to question 2, help you answer or impact your answer to question 1?
4. Job's suffering ended, but God doesn't say that our suffering will also end in this life. Instead, Jesus promises quite the opposite for following Him (e.g., John 15:20). What hope then do we have to look forward to? Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, Romans 8:18 and Revelation 21:1-4.

Prayer: Thank God that he is good and kind. Thank him for the hope we have for eternal life in him.

Week 7 – Job 28

DAY 1

Pray + Read Job 28:1-12

1. What do these verses tell us about the lengths we go to search out valuable things?
2. Humans go to great lengths to get things of value. What are some things our world considers valuable that people chase after?
3. Have you ever found yourself chasing things in the list you made above? What are some things that your heart is easily captured by? Be honest, what takes up a lot of your time and thoughts?
4. How does verse 12 fit? What point is being made?

Prayer: Pray that you would see wisdom as precious and valuable.

DAY 2

Pray + Read Job 28:12-19

1. What does this passage say is one of the most valuable things?
2. How does this differ to what the world might say is the most valuable?
3. What are some of the things that don't come close to being equal with wisdom?
4. How should this shape what we long for and chase for?

Prayer: Ask God to give you the desire and the eyes for wisdom.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Job 28:12-28

1. "Where can wisdom be found?" (v12) has been the central question to this chapter. Look back over the chapter and make a list of all the people, places and things that are unable to locate wisdom.
2. In verse 23 the author finally tells us that only God knows where wisdom is. What reasons does the author give for only God knowing where it is?
3. How does this give you comfort and security in trusting God?
4. "I can't follow Jesus because of what He teaches on _____." How could what we've looked at today help you to obey all of Jesus' commands?

Prayer: Ask God to help you look away from earthly things, towards heavenly wisdom. Pray that He will show you wisdom through His word.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Job 28:12-28

1. We saw yesterday that to find true wisdom you need to look to God. The best place for us to learn wisdom is in God's word.

a) How does this show the importance of reading God's word?

b) How have you been going at reading God's word?

c) How can you spend time getting to know God's word better this week? What plans can you put in place to help you read God's word?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for the book of Job and the insights he has given you. Pray that you will have a desire to read God's word and that you will look to God for wisdom.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Job 28:20-28

1. What is God's definition of wisdom and understanding (verse 28)?
2. What do you think it means to fear the Lord? (see Job 1:1, 5, 8, 22; and Job 2:3, 10)
3. Can you think of areas of your life where you fail to shun evil and perhaps delight in it instead?
4. How might the rest of chapter 28 help you or motivate you to fear God and shun evil?

Prayer: Ask God to give you understanding of the true value of wisdom. Pray for his help in giving up sinful habits that are stopping you from fully pursuing wisdom.

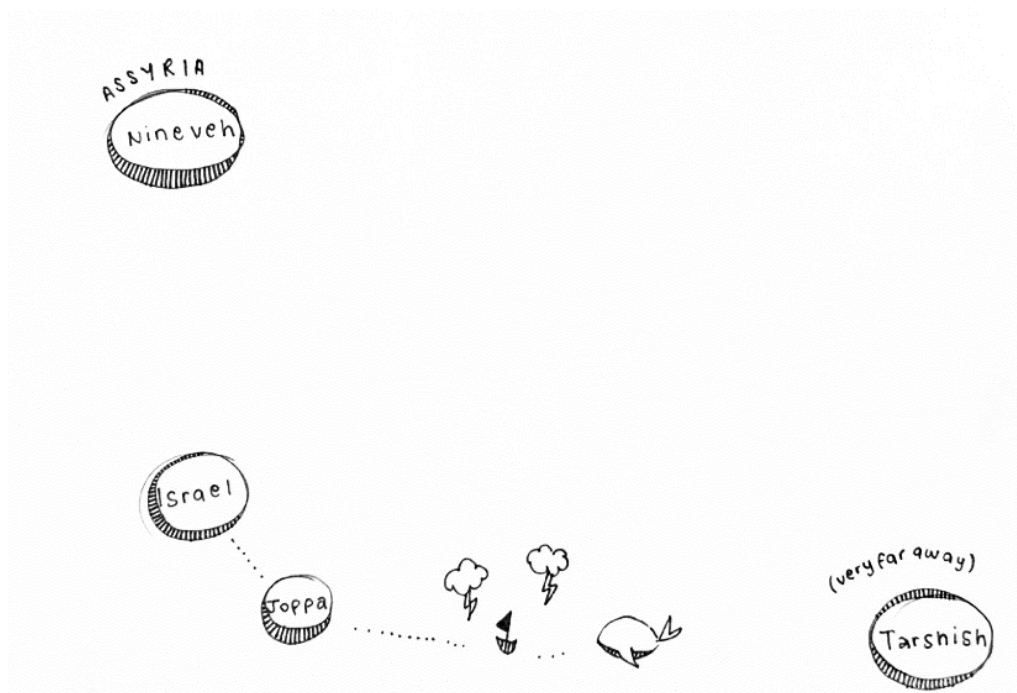
INTRODUCTION: JONAH

And now begins our journey in Jonah, best known for fish-swallows-man. (Spoiler alert: It's only one verse). Jonah is one of the most unique books in the bible, and can often be very misunderstood! Usually when we think of the prophets, we think they are the good guys! Well, not in this case. Jonah is a bad prophet. But through his disobedience, racism and stubbornness, we see God's incredible goodness highlighted all the more. Throughout this book, we are encouraged to reflect on our own flaws, particularly when it comes to who we share the gospel with. God's compassion to the Ninevites reminds us that He is mighty to save – even those who seem impossibly far – and He loves to do it!

Jonah is a Minor Prophet in the Old Testament. History tells us that Jonah lived in the 8th century BC (3000 years ago) and was a prophet from Gath Hopher, Galilee (2 Kings 14:25). God instructs Jonah to travel to Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, to preach there. But Jonah refuses! He doesn't want God to give any opportunity to the Ninevites to repent (4:2). What?! Why?! This makes context crucially important for understanding the Book of Jonah. How could Jonah possibly *not* want God to show compassion to the Ninevites? What's going on?

To understand, we need to know that Israel had a tense history with Assyria. Prior to Jonah's lifetime, Assyria had been the superpower and regularly invaded Israel. Plus Assyria were famous for dealing particularly violently and gruesomely with their enemies. So to say that Israel didn't like Assyria is a huge understatement.

As you read the Book of Jonah, enjoy seeing God doing what He knows how to do best - showing mercy to those who don't deserve it. Soak up the incredible reality that God loves to show compassion, and reflect on the fact that He loves to show this compassion to even the most unlikely of sinners.



Week 8 - Jonah 1-2

Day 1

Pray + Read Jonah 1:1-3

1. Use the boxes below to draw what happens in this passage. Split your drawing up into two sections: God telling Jonah to go to Nineveh but Jonah not listening and running away from God.

Go	Gone

2. Based on your drawings and what we see in these few verses, what do we learn about Jonah?
3. Why does God tell Jonah to preach to Nineveh?
4. What does this tell us about God?
5. Are there ways that we are acting like Jonah and avoiding things God wants us to do?
6. How can you change how you listen to God today?

Prayer: Pray for the rest of the time in Jonah and for what we learnt today

Day 2

Pray + Read Jonah 1:4-10

1. What happens in this passage? Make a quick summary in a few sentences.

2. Read Psalm 139:7-8. What does this show about God?

Read Proverbs 16:33 and compare it to Jonah 1:7

3. How does this show you God's sovereignty and His commitment to his plans?

4. How does this make you feel? Does it provide comfort or security or reverence?

5. What is one thing that stood out to you? What is something you want to remember today and every day?

Prayer: Thank God for his complete control over all things, in all places.

Bonus: Listen to '139' by Kings Kaleidoscope

Day 3

Pray + Read Jonah 1:11-17

1. Some see Jonah's willingness to be thrown overboard as heroic; others see it as cowardly. What do you think of Jonah's willingness to be thrown overboard? Good or bad? Why?
2. Are there things that God calls Christians to do that you've not wanted to do?
3. Why do you reckon God didn't just let Jonah die and raise up a new and willing prophet to get the job done? What might God be trying to show about Himself in doing this?
4. How does this chapter grow your reverence for God? And how might that help you with the things you find hard to do in Christian life?

Prayer: Thank God that He loves to show mercy to the nations! Thank God for the richness of His Word and pray for increasing knowledge of and love for His Word.

Day 4

Pray + Read Jonah 2

1. In this passage, list all the things we see about:

Jonah	God

2. What does Jonah want to change/do after his reflection time in the fish?

3. Which parts of Jonah's prayer do you particularly love? Why?

4. How does this encourage you? How could this change the ways we act today?

Prayer: Pray that through our trials this week, we praise God.

Week 9 - Jonah 3

Day 1

Pray + Read Jonah 3:1-4

1. What do you learn about the city Jonah is preaching to?
2. Why do you think Jonah would have wanted to run the other way?
3. Why do you think Jonah obeyed? (eventually)

Prayer: Ask God for courage to obey him

Day 2

Pray + Read Jonah 3:5-10

1. How do the Ninevites respond?
2. What does this show you about God's ultimate desire for people?
3. The Ninevites were not good people. Why might some find it a hard pill to swallow that God would decide to *not* punish them?
4. On the flipside, why is it incredible that God would decide to not punish people like the Ninevites?

Prayer: Thank the Lord that His mercy is extended to all people. Ask God that this would give you confidence in your salvation because of his great mercy.

Day 3

Pray + Read Jonah 3

1. Reflect for a few minutes on your life. Have there been times when you have initially rebelled against God like Job but by God's grace come to repent?
2. Putting on "sackcloth" was a physical symbol that represented inward grief. What do you think it might look like for someone today to show appropriate grief over their sin today?
5. Consider now an instruction from God's Word that you find hard to obey/believe. What would it practically look like for you to work on obeying/believing God's Word?

Prayer: Ask God to help you be someone who genuinely loves the Lord and seeks to obey Him in everything. Thank God for the times He has enabled you to overcome sin. Thank God that He is first and foremost a God of mercy and that that would give you great confidence and peace.

Day 4

Pray + Read Jonah 3:5-10

1. Do you think the Ninevites' repentance is genuine? Why?
2. How could you know their repentance was genuine?
3. How can you know your repentance is genuine?
4. Is there unrepentant sin in your life?

Prayer: Spend some time praying, repenting of that sin in your life. Thank the Lord that He loves to show mercy - even to people as depraved as the Assyrians! Thank God for the truths in 1 John 1:8-9 that give us confidence in God's forgiveness of our sin.

Day 5

Pray + Read Jonah 3:10

1. Sometimes repenting from sin can feel like it goes unnoticed and that it's just a battle we face in and by ourselves. How might this verse help you when you're feeling this way?

"When God saw what they did..." (v 10)

2. How do you find this truth that God "sees" what we do encouraging for your own life?

3. How do you find this truth to also be challenging for your own life?

Prayer: Ask God that you would always remember that you are in a personal relationship with the God of the universe. Pray that you'd remember that He sees your every move and is delighted when you turn from your sin. Pray you'd remember that your God is a Father who deeply loves His children.

Week 10 - Jonah 4

Day 1

Pray + Read Jonah 3:10-4:4

1. Think back on the reasons that you thought Jonah may have had for not wanting to go to Nineveh. What do we finally learn about exactly why Jonah didn't want to obey God and go to Nineveh?
2. What does Jonah accuse God of? What does this say about Jonah's heart?
3. What does God's question in verse 4, show what He thinks about Jonah's response?
4. Do you find Jonah's reaction shocking? Or do you relate to Jonah? What might your response say about your own heart?

Prayer: Ask God to make you be a man/woman whose natural tendency is to be humble when it comes to wrestling with God, His Word and what He chooses to do. Pray that you'd never think your ways are higher than God's.

Day 2

Pray + Read Jonah 4:1-9

1. What do you think Jonah is hoping will happen? What does that reveal about his heart?
2. In verse 4, God asks Jonah a question. How do the following verses show Jonah's response?
3. What do you think God might be trying to teach Jonah with this leafy plant episode?
4. Can you think of any times in your own life where you've heard God's word - whether through another person or straight from the Bible - and you've ignored it and continued in your ways?
5. God could have then and there rightly destroyed Jonah for his hardness of heart, but He doesn't. What does this show you about God?

Prayer: Pray for a heart that loves mercy and not judgement. Pray that you would be soft to God's voice in His Word and that you would always be ready to be corrected by it - not hardened but instead ready to listen.

Day 3

Pray + Read Jonah 4:5-11

1. In verse 10, what does God seem to claim about where the plant came from?
2. What then does this also suggest about where the city of Nineveh and the people in it came from?
3. How might the fact that God gives and takes away life, correct Jonah's anger?
4. Have you ever been angry/upset with God for taking something away that He has made? How does this passage speak into that thinking?
5. How is God's gentle patience with Jonah in this passage a comfort for those who are dealing with anger/sadness over things that have been taken away by God?

Prayer: Thank God that He makes awesome things! Spend some time thanking God for some of the specific things/people He has made. Pray also for a humble heart in acknowledging that the Lord has the right to take away the things He has made.

Day 4

Pray + Read Jonah 4:10-11

1. Yesterday we saw that God is the Giver of Life and therefore the God who has the right to take life away. How do you see God's love and care for the things He has made in these verses?
2. What do you think God is saying by comparing humankind and the plant?
3. Are you surprised by the end of verse 11 - "and also many animals"? What does this show about God's relationship to animals (and non-human created things in general)?
4. How could this passage shape the way you relate to the things/people God has made? e.g. how you speak about people that you don't naturally get along with, how you treat animals, how you treat the environment, etc.

Prayer: Thank God that He deeply loves the things He has made - particularly humankind. Ask God that His priorities would be yours. Ask God that you would share in His intimate care for the things and people He has made.

Day 5

Pray + Read Jonah 4:10-11 & Micah 7:18

1. Having spent a couple days now in these verses, have a go at summarising what you think God is trying to teach Jonah in this chapter.
2. What does God's comment "*people who cannot tell their right hand from their left*" mean? What do you think He is saying spiritually about the Ninevites?
3. How does this further address Jonah's hatred of the Ninevites?
4. Are there times you can think of in your life when you've perhaps secretly not wanted someone to receive salvation? Or maybe times when you've felt bitterness towards a non-Christian who just doesn't understand Christian things? How does seeing God's heart in the Book of Jonah help you in this?
5. How could what you've seen in Jonah shape stir your heart to be open about being a Christian or to invite people to Youth or to share with people what you believe about Jesus?

Prayer: Thank God that He loves to show mercy!! Thank God that His work of judgement is His alien, foreign task (Isaiah 28:21). Thank God that He prefers to forgive and show compassion. Pray now for people in your life that don't yet trust in Jesus.