



# JONAH: FAILING GOD

## Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JUNE 23, 2019

**1. PRIMARY STATEMENT:** Have you ever blown it big time? Ever felt like you were a total failure to God and to yourself? No matter how badly you messed up, Jonah probably has you beaten in the “failed God” category. And yet, the moment he had a change of heart, God put him right back to work.

## 2. BIBLE VERSE:

Jonah 1:17 [NLT]

*“Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah.”*

Jonah didn’t want to obey God’s instruction to preach to Nineveh. He ran, trying to sail to the opposite end of the world. Instead, he found himself swallowed by a fish. Make no mistake - you can’t outrun God’s call on your life... or His discipline.

Q. Have you ever felt God lead you to do something that intimidated you? Ever promised to do something for Him, but then backed out when things got difficult? How did those situations turn out?



Q. Have you ever felt like you were in spiritual “time-out” with God - like He was distant? Whose decisions put you there? What had to change in order for you to feel connected again?

## 3. DISCUSSION:

Jonah 1:17-2:1 [NLT]

*“Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish.”*

It took Jonah 3 days, but he finally made the decision to change and submit to God’s plan. How did God respond? He gave him the exact same command and put him back to work.



Q. Think of a pastor or church leader who’s had a moral failure. Did the talent and spiritual gifts God planted in that person change when they sinned? Did His mission for them change? Is it God who has a hard time restoring people from sin, or is it people?

Q. What are some things God has called you to do or be? Have you ever failed to live up to them? Did God fire you, or does He want you to get back to work like Jonah?



## 4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes and talk to God (thankfully, not from inside a fish!) Thank Him for being patient with you when you’ve made sinful choices and fallen short of His plans for your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you put the past behind you and get back to work living for Him.



# “SPY KIDS: WHAT’S YOUR NAME?”

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JUNE 23, 2019

### 1. POWER VERSE: Isaiah 62:2 *“And the Lord will give you a new name.”*

**What’s up: “God’s Gonna Give Me A Brand New Name!”**

**This week, we start a brand new series called, “Spy Kids”. In this series, we’ll learn from the story of Daniel and his friends about remaining faithful to God no matter what!**

### 2. ACTIVITY:

Tell your children to imagine they’ve moved to Germany for the rest of their lives. Give each of them a German name such as Gerda, Franziska, Ingeborg, or Sigrid for girls or Gustav, Engelbert, Helmar, or Volkmar for boys. Call them by that name for the rest of the devotion. Then talk about the changes you’d have to make if you moved to Germany.



Q. How hard do you think it would be to learn a new language? Do you think you would like learning new customs?

Q. Do you think you would miss your American name and the American way you do things?

Q. Would you eventually forget what it was like to live in America?

### 3. READ/DISCUSS:

Pull out your Bible and read: Daniel 1

God has a plan for our lives, but Satan wants to destroy that plan. He does that by tempting us to sin and do things God doesn’t want us to do. Satan hopes that we’ll eventually forget what it’s like to follow God and instead learn to enjoy our sins. What he doesn’t tell us is that eventually we have to pay a huge price for those sins—our relationships with each other and ultimately our relationship with God will be destroyed.



### 4. PRAYER FOCUS

**Pray together, asking God to help you resist temptation so you can always be the person God created you to be.**