

Jonah: 4 of 6
"All In"

Sermon Teaching

Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
March 15, 2026

Big Idea: Being "all in" doesn't mean perfect obedience—it means complete surrender to God's authority.

"But the LORD provided a great fish to **swallow** Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights." **Jonah 1:17(NIV)**

To Discover If We Are All In We Must Ask:

1. How Deep Do We Have to Go Before We Surrender to God?

"From inside the fish **Jonah prayed** to the LORD his God. He said: "In my distress I **called to the LORD**, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and **you listened** to my cry. You hurled me into the **deep**, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God. When my life was **ebbing away**, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. **Jonah 2:1-7 (NIV)**

Do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness **leads you** toward repentance?" **Romans 2:4 (NIV)**

- God allows depth—not to destroy us—but to awaken us.

Notes: _____

2. Do We Have Anything in Place Of God?

"Those who cling to **worthless idols** forfeit the **grace** that could be theirs."
Jonah 2:8 (NIV)

"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a **craving** for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever." **1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)**

Modern Idols:

- Sensual pleasure – comfort without restraint
- Greed – security without dependence – just need more
- Pride – identity without humility – Accomplishments

Notes: _____

3. Where Do We Need to Make Changes To Express Our Devotion?

“But I, with a song of **thanksgiving**, will **sacrifice** to you. What I have **vowed** I will make good. **Salvation** comes from the LORD.” ¹⁰ And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.” **Jonah 2:9-10 (NIV)**

“I pray that you may be **active** in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”

Philemon 1:6 (NIV) Series remember verse

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must **deny** himself and take up his cross daily and **follow** me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.” **Luke 9:23-26 (NIV)**

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:1-2 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

➤ **What will it take for you to be all in?**

This week, I will take one step toward being “all in” by:

- Surrendering an area of control to God
- Removing or re-ordering something that has taken God's place
- Taking one step of obedience I've been delaying



Jonah: The God Of Second Chances
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Talk It Over

Leader Focus:

- ✓ Review questions beforehand so you are prepared
- ✓ Honor your time commitment as a group.
- ✓ Keep discussion relational, not reactive
- ✓ Reinforce grace, humility, and unity

Big Idea: Being “all in” doesn’t mean perfect obedience—it means complete surrender to God’s authority.

Welcome & Opening Prayer (2–3 minutes)

Invite someone to open in prayer, asking God to search our hearts and draw us into deeper surrender.

Icebreaker – “Hitting Bottom” (5 minutes)

Without oversharing, discuss:

What’s a time when a difficult season forced you to stop and reflect?

What did you learn about yourself during that season?

→ Transition: God often does His deepest work in the depths.

Group Discussion (20–25 minutes)

To discover If We Are All In We Must Ask:

1. How Deep Do We Have to Go Before We Surrender to God?

Read Jonah 2:1–7

Q1. Jonah didn’t pray until he reached the depths.

What words or phrases stand out to you from Jonah’s prayer?

Why do you think surrender often comes after resistance?

Q2. What does Jonah’s prayer reveal about his emotional and spiritual condition?

→ Reflection: **God uses depth not to destroy us, but to awaken us.**

2. Do We Have Anything in Place Of God?

Read Jonah 2:8 and 1 John 2:15–17

Q3. Jonah speaks of “worthless idols.”

Why are idols often harder to recognize today than in biblical times?

Q4. Which of these feels most tempting in our culture?

- Comfort or pleasure
- Security or success
- Control or pride

→ Follow-up: How can even good things become idols if they replace God?

3. Where Do We Need to Make Changes To Express Our Devotion?

Read Jonah 2:9–10

Q5. Jonah commits to obedience before he is delivered.

Why is this significant?

Q6. How is saying “thank you” to God different from surrendering to God?

→ **“All in” is not emotion—it’s direction.**

Personal Heart Check (5–7 minutes)

Quiet reflection, then share if comfortable:

Is there an area of my life where I want God’s help but not His authority?

What might full surrender look like for me right now?

Application & Commitment (5 minutes)

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- Removing or re-ordering something that has taken God’s place
- Taking one step of obedience I’ve been delaying

→ Which step is God inviting you to take?

Closing Prayer

“Lord, thank You for meeting us in the depths.

We surrender again—not out of fear, but trust.

Help us live fully devoted lives, because salvation comes from You alone. Amen.”