

**Jonah: The God of Second Chances**  
**“Is My Faith Asleep?” 3 of 6**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**March 8, 2026**

**Big Idea:** When we ignore God’s call, our faith doesn’t disappear—it falls asleep, and others are affected.

### How do I know if my faith is asleep?

#### 1. Has My Disobedience Created Storms That Affect Others?

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God. I know your **deeds**; you have a **reputation** of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> **Wake up! Strengthen** what **remains** and is about to die, for I have **not** found your deeds **complete** in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup> **Remember**, therefore, what you have received and heard; **obey it**, and **repent**. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. <sup>4</sup> Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. <sup>6</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **Revelation 3:1-6 (NIV)**

"But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each **cried out to his own god**. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship." **Jonah 1:3-5 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Am I Available For The People Around Me?

"But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, '**How can you sleep?** Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish.'" **Jonah 1:5b-6 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

<sup>8</sup> So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" **Jonah 1:7-8 (NIV)**

He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I **worship the LORD**, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." <sup>10</sup> This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" **Jonah 1:9-11 (NIV)**

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### **3. Am I Willing To Sacrifice For The Good Of Others?**

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become **calm**. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before." **Jonah 1:12-13 (NIV)**

"Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased." Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the **raging sea grew calm.**" **Jonah 1:14-15 (NIV)**

"At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they **offered a sacrifice** to the LORD and made **vows** to Him. But the LORD provided a **great fish** to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the **fish three days and three nights.**" **Jonah 1:16-17 (NIV)**

Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:45 (NIV)**

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

**Romans 13:11-14 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Is my faith asleep—or actively shaping my life?**

### **Next Right Steps**

This week, I will:

- Pray daily at **1:00 PM** for one person who doesn't know Jesus
- Examine and surrender areas where I've grown spiritually comfortable
- Share the hope I have in Jesus when God opens the door



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**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

**Welcome & Opening Prayer (2–3 minutes)**

Invite someone to open in prayer, asking God to help us honestly examine our hearts and respond to His Word.

Text: Jonah 1:3–17; Revelation 3:1–6; Romans 13:11–12

**Big Idea:** When we ignore God’s call, our faith doesn’t disappear—it falls asleep, and others are affected.

**Icebreaker – “Asleep at the Wrong Time” (5 minutes)**

When have you fallen asleep at the worst possible time (meeting, class, movie, etc.)?

What happened because you weren’t fully alert?

Group Discussion (20–25 minutes)

**How do I know if my faith is asleep?**

**1. Has My Disobedience Created Storms That Affect Others?**

Read Revelation 3:1-6

Q1. What details stand out to you about the church in Sardis?

Q2. If we find ourselves lacking, what steps should we take?

Read Jonah 1:3-5

Q3. What details stand out to you about Jonah and the sailors?

Q4. Jonah’s private disobedience created a public storm.

Why do you think our spiritual choices rarely affect only us?

Q5. Where do you see “collateral damage” today when believers drift spiritually (family, work, church, community)?

## 2. Am I Available For The People Around Me?

Read Jonah 1:5b–11

- Q6. Jonah was asleep while everyone else was desperate for help.  
What are some ways believers today can be spiritually asleep but physically present?
- Q7. The captain had to tell Jonah to pray.  
What does that say about Jonah's spiritual condition?
- Q8. What would it look like for us to be spiritually available to people around us?

## 3. Am I Willing To Sacrifice For The Good Of Others?

Read Jonah 1:12–17

- Q9. Jonah was willing to be thrown overboard, but he still didn't repent.  
What's the difference between surrendering to God and simply wanting consequences to end?

### Read Mark 10:45

- Q10. How does Jonah's story point us to Jesus in contrast?

### Personal Heart Check (5–7 minutes)

Read Romans 13:11–14

- Q11. Where might my faith be drifting toward comfort instead of obedience?

In what area might God be calling me to "wake up"?

This week, I will take one step by:

- Praying daily at 1:00 PM for one person who doesn't know Jesus
- Examining and surrendering areas of spiritual comfort or disobedience
- Being ready to share the hope I have in Jesus when God opens a door

→ Which step feels most realistic for you this week?

### Closing Prayer

"Lord, wake us up where we've grown comfortable or complacent.

Renew our compassion, restore our obedience,

and make our faith alive again—for Your glory and for the good of others. Amen."