

JONAH



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Pastor Brian Robertson

INTRODUCING JONAH:

The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known stories in the Older Testament, probably because of Jonah being swallowed by a giant fish.

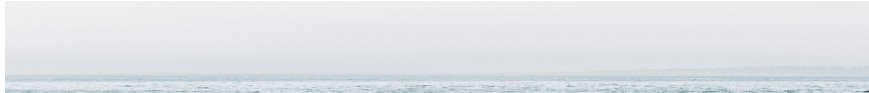
No doubt, some will dismiss this story because it tells us that Jonah was swallowed by a giant fish. How you answer this will determine how else you read the Bible. As followers of Christ, who believe in the incarnation, death and resurrection of the Second Person of the Trinity (a far greater miracle), there is nothing difficult in reading the story of Jonah.

Additionally, the author does not capitalize on the miraculous event in order to capture attention – like you would assume. The mention of the giant fish is only two brief verses with no added descriptive words. *Let's not get distracted by the fish!*

The book of Jonah is only four chapters long and is the story of a prophet who does not want to obey the word of God that he receives. Other books of prophets center on the message of the prophet. This book, however, centers on the character of the prophet himself.

And it presents a number of options to discuss and dive into:

- a.) It is about race and nationalism. Jonah seems more concerned with his nation's military security over a city of spiritually lost people.
- b.) It is also about God's call for missions – to share the news about him to the world.
- c.) It is also about the struggles everyday believers have in obeying the word of God.



While the story is short, there are layers of meaning that applies to much of human life. In the short weeks we have to dive into the story, we will only be scratching the surface. Therefore, the questions and resources here are for you to explore some of these layers/implications.

“The book of Jonah yields many insights about God’s love for societies and people beyond the community of believers; about his opposition to toxic nationalism and disdain for other races; and about how to be “in mission” in the world despite the subtle and unavoidable power of idolatry in our own lives and hearts. Grasping these insights can make us bridge builders, peacemakers, and agents of reconciliation in the world.” (Timothy Keller, Rediscovering Jonah)

The question that Jonah wrestles with is: how can God be merciful and forgive people who have done such violence and evil? It is not answered in the story of Jonah. But taken within the context of the whole of Scripture, we are invited to look forward to how God saved the world through the one who called himself the ‘ultimate Jonah’ (Matthew 12:41) so that he could be both just and justifier of those who believe (Romans 3:26).

As we encounter Jonah’s story together, reflect on your own willingness to see the mercy and love of God as demonstrated in Christ. How does this compassion shape and mold you to be Christ-like? Where do we need to heed the warnings of nationalism and isolationism that we see in Jonah?

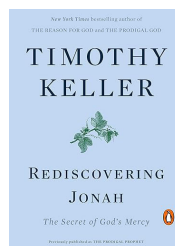
Resources:

An overview video on the book of Jonah
Scan the QR Code for the video:

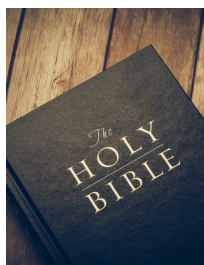


SPIRITUAL PRACTICES & RESOURCES:

Book recommended for further study:
Rediscovering Jonah by Tim Keller



Immersive Reading:



Immersive reading involves hearing a story and imagining yourself as present in the story. The point is to move from gathering information about the story to connecting with God through the story. As you read through the story of Jonah, pay attention to thoughts and feelings. Also pay attention to what you are learning about God through the story. The story of Jonah will take about 8-10 minutes to read. Try to read it over a couple of times during the week.

Cross-cultural Experience:

To help capture a growing heart for those outside our cultural norm, consider watching one of these movies and discuss them with others (you might find them streaming on YouTubeTV; Roku; Amazon; etc.):

End of the Spear



Cabrini



Amish Grace



COURTYARD CONCERT

**LIVE MUSIC FEATURING
MARTY ENNIS AND DAVE MOONEY**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12th

6 to 8pm

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS



SENIOR ADULT LUNCHES

***Thursday, August 14th - Leave church at 10am,
Henri's in Ottawa***

Please contact, Sharon Hooker,
419 - 303 - 2221 for any questions.



BAPTISM & BBQ 2025

One Service Sunday, August 31st @ 10:45am

Want to be baptized?

Baptism is an outward expression of
your inward decision to follow Jesus.



Baptism Class on Sunday, August 17th @ 12pm

ABLE TO HELP?

If you are able to help with set up/tear down tables and chairs
prep, cook, or serve food Email catie@limacrossroads.org



Looking for ways to grow in Christ together?

Title of study - 'When We Pray'

13 week course for women (18+)

Thursdays 6:30-8:00pm

Cost is \$25

Register by Saturday, August 30th

Title of study - 'Discover: Essentials of Who We Are'

6-week course open to men/women (18+)

in the beginning stages of faith.

Explore essentials to Christianity

Cost/Date: TBD

Hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to grow in your faith this fall!

Scan the QR Code below or
email catie@limacrossroads.org



WEEK 1: RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S WORD

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

AUGUST 3, 2025

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Call to Worship:

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name."

1 Chronicles 29:11-13 NIV

Community Prayer:

Zion Lutheran - Dan Gutman
Echo Ranch - Randy and Allyson Alderfer

A Liturgy for Meditation on God's Word:

"Let us keep your Word in mind,
and meditate on it day and night,
standing firm, watching and praying.

Give us real knowledge of what we
read. Show us not only how to
understand it, but how to live it,
so we might live in Spirit and in truth.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Origen (185-254)

SERMON NOTES:

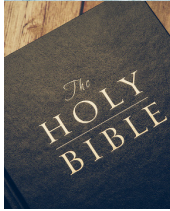
SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

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

What is one takeaway from this morning's service?

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper or a form designed for handwritten entries. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

IMMERSIVE READING:



As you read through the story of Jonah, pay attention to your thoughts, feelings, and what you are learning about God through the story. Try to read it over a couple of times during the week and write down what comes to your mind.

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REFUGE

Midweek Service

***Wednesday, September 3rd @ 6:30pm
in the Chapel with Childcare available***

Plan to come for an intimate atmosphere where we can explore how we use our mind, heart, and soul to worship God altogether.



SMALL GROUPS

**If you are interested in helping us
begin new small groups this fall,
email rachel@limacrossroads.org!**



UGANDA SHARING

Sunday, September 7th @ 6:30pm

God is doing amazing things when we get outside ourselves to serve others in His Name.

Come join us as we hear about our recent trip to Uganda and all that God did through the journey.

WEEK 2: RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S WORLD

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

AUGUST 10, 2025

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Call to Worship:

“The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.”

Psalms 145:17-21 NIV

Community Prayer:

Great Lakes Church - Katherine Smith
Heart To Honduras - Randy Bargerstock

A Liturgy for Meditation on God's Word:

“Let us keep your Word in mind,
and meditate on it day and night,
standing firm, watching and praying.

Give us real knowledge of what we
read. Show us not only how to
understand it, but how to live it,
so we might live in Spirit and in truth.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Origen (185-254)

SERMON NOTES:

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

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What is one takeaway from this morning's service?

Week 2: Relationship to God's World

1. In 1991, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on the

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COURTYARD CONCERT

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING PAUL & EMILY HOLLOWAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

6 to 8pm

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS



SENIOR ADULT LUNCHES

Thursday, September 11th @ 11:30am

China Buffet on Harding Hwy

Please contact, Sharon Hooker,
419 - 303 - 2221 for any questions.



COVENANT PARTNERS DESSERT

Sunday, September 14th @ 6:30pm, in the Chapel

Covenant Partners are those who want a deeper life with God in their spiritual formation at Crossroads.

All are invited to a special evening to hear about the church updates and to celebrate with a dessert of God's faithfulness and fellowship with others.

WEEK 3: RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S GRACE

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

AUGUST 17, 2025

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Call to Worship:

“Who, being in very nature God,
 did not consider equality with God something to be used
 to his own advantage;
 rather, he made himself nothing
 by taking the very nature of a servant,
 being made in human likeness.
 And being found in appearance as a man,
 he humbled himself
 by becoming obedient to death—
 even death on a cross!”

Philippians 2:6-8 NIV

Community Prayer:

In Faith Ministries - Michael & Kim Lyons
 International Justice Mission - Gary Haugen

A Liturgy for Meditation on God's Word:

“Let us keep your Word in mind,
 and meditate on it day and night,
 standing firm, watching and praying.

Give us real knowledge of what we
 read. Show us not only how to
 understand it, but how to live it,
 so we might live in Spirit and in truth.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Origen (185-254)

SERMON NOTES:

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced, horizontal blue lines across the entire width of the page. The lines are thin and consistent in color, providing a guide for letter height and placement. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

What is one takeaway from this morning's service?

Week 3: Relationship to God's Grace

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- This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the paper is otherwise completely blank.

IMMERSIVE READING:



As you read through the story of Jonah, pay attention to your thoughts, feelings, and what you are learning about God through the story. Try to read it over a couple of times during the week and write down what comes to your mind.

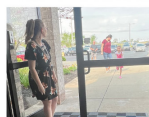
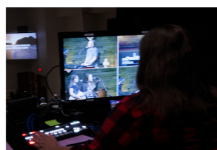
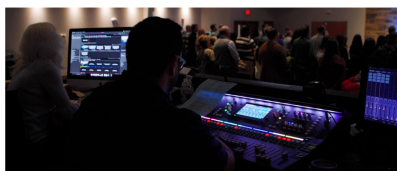
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DINNER ROUNDS

Want to know and be known while in the company of others in a connecting way? Dinner Rounds is a casual monthly gathering of a group with about 8 others. Scan the QR Code to sign up.



Ways to Serve



If you would like to volunteer for
any of the following areas:
worship, tech, hospitality, greeting, kids, and students
email catie@limacrossroads.org.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Friday Mornings from 6:30 to 7:30am
in the conference room**

Discuss notes and questions from Sunday's sermon
Optional breakfast is afterwards at Lulu's or
one of the Eastgate area restaurants.

WEEK 4: GOD OF COMPASSION

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

AUGUST 24, 2025

WORSHIP RESOURCES**Call to Worship:**

“I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
 before the “gods” I will sing your praise.
 I will bow down toward your holy temple
 and will praise your name
 for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
 for you have so exalted your solemn decree
 that it surpasses your fame.”

Psalms 138:1-2 NIV**Community Prayer:**

Cable Road Alliance - Eric Stevenson
 Heartbeat of Lima - Chelsea Sunderland

A Liturgy for Meditation on God's Word:

“Let us keep your Word in mind,
 and meditate on it day and night,
 standing firm, watching and praying.

Give us real knowledge of what we
 read. Show us not only how to
 understand it, but how to live it,
 so we might live in Spirit and in truth.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Origen (185-254)

SERMON NOTES:

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue lines spaced evenly across the page, typical of notebook paper. The lines are thin and light blue, set against a plain white background. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

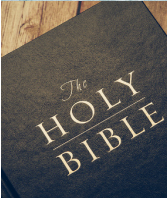
What is one takeaway from this morning's service?

Week 4: God of Compassion

1. Read Romans 3:22-26. Why is it important to keep in mind our own sin?
2. Does the story of Jonah mean that God does not deal aggressively with sin?
3. God uses pagan people to point Jonah towards mercy. How has God used someone (or something) you did not expect to remind you of his love/mercy for you?
4. When was the last time you were in awe at the mercy of God?

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IMMERSIVE READING:



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FALL PICNIC & FESTIVAL

The ENTIRE FAMILY is INVITED to Fall Picnic & Festival
Sunday, September 21st from 4-7pm

CORN-HOLE
TOURNAMENT

GAMES

LAUGHTER

FACE
PAINTING

DUNK TANK

CRAFTS

BINGO

BRING
A SIDE
TO SHARE

NEW for 2025 ... Join other families to enjoy an old-fashioned picnic. We provide the main dish. You bring a side to share. Bring the whole family to participate in various games and activities.

**More information to come.
Mark your calendar for a day of fun!**



Need a New Rhythm?



A good place to start is to set up a meeting with Pastor Brian! Pastor Brian would love to help evaluate where you are and get a new rhythm in your Spiritual life. Schedule a meeting with Pastor Brian by emailing rachel@limacrossroads.org.



3 Ways To Give



IN PERSON

Drop in the
Giving Boxes
or the Plate



ONLINE

limacrossroads.org
or
Scan the QR Code



TEXT

Text the word
COMMANDS to:
(419) 909 - 3696

Our giving reflects a compassionate heart
2 Corinthians 9:6-7

In an act of compassion, learning to steward our resources well, we give. In an act of understanding we are a part of the broader movement of God, we give.

MONDAY NIGHT VOLLEYBALL

From 7 to 9pm

Stay up to date by scanning the QR Code:



CONSULTATION & COUNSELING

Through partnership with Cornerstone of Hope we offer consultation on our campus and help with counseling services.


Contact the office for more information



DAY AWAY RETREAT

Come join us as we learn to practice
silence, prayer, solitude,
and create space to hear God

Date & Time TBD



“Inviting people to **apprenticeship** to Jesus”

Sundays: 9 & 10:45 am

Online: 10:45am

Follow Us:



Address: 775 S Thayer Rd. Lima OH 45806

Phone: 419-229-4074 | **Website:** LimaCrossroads.org