

# Study Guide

*This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Message manuscripts are available at [www.spwired.com](http://www.spwired.com).*

**Monday – Read Jonah chapter 1.** How do you identify with Jonah? Has there been a time when you took your life purposefully in the opposite direction from God? In what ways are you still running in some aspect or part of your life? Have you experienced a nudging from God to do something or to serve God’s mission but you just don’t want to?

**Tuesday – Read Jonah chapter 2.** What Jonah finds is that he can run away, but he can’t outrun God. God even encounters him in the belly of the fish! At the end of our running or the end of our hiding, we realize that God is present...that God has been with us all along! When have you had that kind of experience in your life? Can you think of a time when God used the circumstances of your life to stop your running? Do you think God meets us in those moments for anger and judgment or for forgiveness and love?

**Wednesday – Read I Kings 18:16-40 and 19:1-3.** Today and tomorrow we will look at the story of another runner. Today is the set up. Elijah confronts and takes on the King of Israel and 450 prophets of a false god, a task that required great courage and faith. Upon the dramatic completion of that mission, Elijah gets news that Queen Jezebel (staunch believer in the false god) has him in her sights and this frightens him and he runs! It’s like his great faith suddenly disappears and fear wins. Does this ever happen to you?

**Thursday – Read I Kings 19:1-16.** Even in Elijah’s fear and running, notice what God is doing (sustained him and met him in his hiding place). The stories of Elijah and Jonah both tell us that God doesn’t abandon us when we run, although we may feel like God does at the time. God remains faithful and renews the call, empowering us to overcome our fear and follow God’s will...to do something we have fears about doing and in so doing, discovering the life that really is life!

**Friday – Read Luke 15:11-32.** This is a famous parable about a runner. What do you think Jesus wants us to see about God? About how God handles the younger son – runner? How is the older son also a runner (not doing something his father asks him to do) and how does God handle that relationship? How is the God revealed in this story like or unlike the God we see in the stories of Jonah or Elijah? Like or unlike the God you have encountered in your running?

## Prayer Concerns

### Serving in the military:

Deric Croan  
Summer Garner  
Cyle Haywood  
Jesse Smith  
Nathan Lawellin  
Matthew Peak  
Stephen Leadbetter  
Richard Hurst  
James & Simone Lesmeister  
Kayla & Kourtney Lesmeister  
Jon Arnold  
Chris Palmer  
Jeff Foust  
Michael Norvell  
Wally Warber  
Kristin Carter  
Grant Meador  
Greg Addington

Kurth Roland  
Brett Mardis  
Mitchell Kent  
Josh Walker  
Ian Hammons  
Roger Koehler, Jr.

### Health & Healing

Tim Green, Jr.  
Estell Maloney  
Dee Barnes  
Nakia Osborne  
Tiffany Osborne  
Marge Lewis  
Joyce Pace

### Cancer Treatment:

Jerry Martin  
Easton Murdock  
Joey Walker  
Dottie Maloney

### Other Concerns:

Dale Palmer  
Kathleen Cupp  
Mary & Mario Soriano  
Tammy Hodgdon & Family  
Quinton, Keaton, Natasha &  
Travis Renfro