Pray together to enter the study
Read text aloud (2-3 verses per person)

FRAME *2 min to read aloud*

Jonah was a prophet sent to Ninevah, a land-locked city, was known for its violence and brutality. Tarshish is a port far in the opposite direction.

"Casting lots" was a common method to discern God's will.

Most people followed many gods. No one god controlled the sea, sky, etc.

OBSERVE

5 min to reflect alone, 5 min to all share

Imagine yourself in the story. What do you see, hear, and smell?

Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, and cause and effect.

Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, and reactions.

INTERPRET

3 min to gather q's, 12 min to discuss

Develop some questions based on your observations. What stirs your curiosity?

Imagine the perspective of the people in the scene.

Answer your questions from the text and context.

SUMMARIZE & SPOTLIGHT

1 min to read the summary aloud

Jonah was told to preach in Ninevah but goes the opposite way. God sends a storm and Jonah was thrown overboard. God calmed the sea and sky, so the sailors worshiped Him.

3 min to individually write a main point
2 min for all to share, end with leader

WEEK 3: INVITED TO HARD INVITATIONS

Jonah 1:1 – 16 (NIV)

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 "Go to the great city
of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before
me."
3 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.
4 Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose
that the ship threatened to break up. 5 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.
But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep
sleep. 6 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 so that we will not perish."
7 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. 8 So
they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us?
What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your
country? From what people are you?"
9 He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of
heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."
10 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.)
11 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?"
12 "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."
13 Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for
the sea grew even wilder than before. 14 Then they cried out to the Lord,
"Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us
accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you
pleased." 15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging
sea grew calm. 16 At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a
sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

INVITATION

5 min for individual reflection, 5 min to share as a group

Jonah was called to invite the Ninevites to experience God and does everything he can to avoid it. Who do you avoid inviting? Commit to praying for and inviting this person to a study. Write their name, and hold each other accountable:

CONCLUDE

5 min to pray for each other and your applications

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