



**LESSONS  
FROM  
JONAH**

*THE FUTILITY OF RUNNING FROM GOD*

**SANDRA BIVENS SMITH**

# LESSONS FROM JONAH

The Futility of Running From God

Sandra Bivens Smith





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*Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. (Psalms 139:7-10)*

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Lessons From Jonah

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Thank you to my family for your constant encouragement, love, and support.

## LESSONS FROM JONAH

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### INTRODUCTION

*Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. (Psalms 32:9)*

As a would-be author, it's my habit to scratch down notes of "inspired moments". For instance, I have a whole file of nothing but titles - no narrative, just titles. A thought will come to mind and I think, "that would be a good subject for a devotion, a message or a book", so I write it down and stick it in my "under construction" folder. One title that came to me some time back was "God Uses Pop-Ups". By pop-ups I'm talking about those mostly annoying messages you get when you're searching for a certain thing on the internet. They come out of nowhere at the most inconvenient time. They get in the way of what you want to search for because you can't ignore them and you can't move on until you deal with them. I don't know about you, but I get pop-ups, not only virtually, but in real life as well. I'll be going along and God just keeps "popping up", reminding me in dozens of different ways what He wants me to search for, showing me what He wants me to know.

Recently I've been getting a lot of pop-ups concerning the prophet Jonah. If you'll bear with me just a little longer, I'd like to tell you about them.

*It all started on a Monday morning (I think).* As I was looking for a word of encouragement to share with my grandchildren, I recalled how my granddaughter and I used to do our own version of bible drill on the story of Jonah. Thinking that might be where I could find a word for the children, I began to read the book of Jonah.

## INTRODUCTION

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*A little later that same day.* I went for a physical therapy appointment. Teresa, my therapist, was telling me about a 60 Minutes episode she had seen on Sunday night. The episode included a piece on the burial site of, guess who?

Jonah

*Tuesday morning.* I called my daughter to ask about how a new bible study she started on Monday night had gone. I asked her about the name of the study, which she told me and which sounded great. As we continued talking, she happened to mention that the study was from – you guessed it, the book of

Jonah

*Tuesday afternoon.* During a visit with my cousin, we were sharing about the bible studies each of us were currently in. Somehow, (*I've yet to figure out how*) our discussion led us to my cousin telling me about the sermon her pastor had preached on Sunday night. Know what his sermon was on? Surprise, surprise. it was

Jonah

*Wednesday evening.* Church service/bible study. Our pastor was doing a wonderful series on prayer. During his sermon, he gave us a number of related passages to study. Included in the list –

Jonah

Chapter 2.

While I didn't find a passage in Jonah for the kids, as I read, God impressed on my heart, that there is a lot to be learned from the life of Jonah.