



## REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

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Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at [www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc](http://www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc).

**February 17-23, 2025**

**Sermon Series: "Jonah and Jesus" | Sermon: "The God Who Weeps"  
by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon**

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

### **Questions for families, small groups, and individual reflection:**

1. We say the words easily. God is compassionate. But what does that really mean?
2. Have you ever enjoyed being angry? Be honest! Describe a time.
3. Nationalistic tendencies are embedded into the story. Nationalism and love of his country drove Jonah. In an interesting way, Jesus was also a nationalist. He wept over his city. He too loved his country and city. What was the difference between the two?
4. Sometimes you will hear the phrase "Oh, that is the God of the Old Testament." How does the book of Jonah refute that statement?

### **Monday, February 17: Read Jonah 4:1-11**

It's hard to admit, but sometimes we rejoice over others' suffering and get upset by others' good fortune. When someone has wronged us, we cry out for justice, not mercy. We cheer in movies when the villains get their due, the hero gets in that final punch, and the mean girls are put in their place. It is therefore probably easy for us to empathize with Jonah in today's scripture. Jonah is furious when Ninevah, the dreaded capital of the Assyrian empire and bitter enemies of the Jews, repents of its sins and is forgiven by God. It's not fair! And that is the point of our lesson this week. We have a God who isn't "fair" and we should be so grateful for that. Instead, we have a God who is compassionate and merciful. A God who forgives and saves. A God who looks beyond our shortcomings and allows us to be redeemed, even when we do not deserve it. Today let us examine our own hearts to see where we might be struggling to see people through God's eyes, and where we are holding back from giving others the compassion and grace we have so liberally been given.

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Identify the one person or group of people you most need to see through God's eyes, rather than through Jonah's eyes. Pray for them and yourself.*

## **Tuesday, February 18: Read Luke 19:41-44**

Notice the contrast in our reading from Jonah and today's reading from the gospel of Luke. How are they similar? How are they different? This time, we are in our beloved Jerusalem, not the dreaded Ninevah, yet unlike Ninevah, Jerusalem is unrepentant and has turned away from God, not only refusing to accept God's only son but preparing to crucify him. Rather than call for the wrath of God to rain down, Jesus weeps for the city. Jesus weeps for the pain it will soon suffer and the lost opportunities for redemption and grace. How often has God wept for us the same way?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Research the history of what happened to Jerusalem within a few decades of Jesus's life on earth. How does this affect your reading of today's scripture?*

## **Wednesday, February 19: Read Matthew 18:21-35**

It is easy to become righteously indignant when reading the story of the ungrateful servant. How can someone be so hypocritical when clearly they have received so much mercy and grace from their own debts? Then we realize we are reading about ourselves. It's hard to face our own sin and hypocrisy, but we must. In a nation and world that seems more divided than ever, it has never been more important to offer grace and forgiveness. In a nation and world where so many people are struggling with fear, loneliness, poverty, and depression, it has never been more important to show compassion and empathy.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Consciously lay down a "debt" you believe you are owed by someone today. Not because they deserve it, but because you didn't deserve it either when it was done for you.*

## **Thursday, February 20: Read Luke 11:29-32**

Grace and forgiveness are available to us all, but it is our responsibility to recognize them, accept them, and repent. We need to be aware of the signs that we are in the wrong, headed down a bad path, and hurting those around us. In today's rather unusual and (let's face it) scary gospel reading, Jesus warns of his generation's "evil" and its failure to recognize God's call to repent and be saved. We know from Tuesday's lesson that Jesus is not relishing in this fact; he is weeping over it. Today let us all recognize our own responsibility to see the signs of our own sin and repent. All of us have sinned and fallen short, and we can use the example of Ninevah to show us the power of facing this fact and the glorious grace that comes from laying down our guilt before God.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Let us confess and lay down the "debt" we owe God today. Feel the burden being lifted from us. Feel the wind at our backs as we walk our new path.*

## **Friday, February 21: Read Lamentations 3:19-24**

"Lamentations" doesn't sound like it would be uplifting and renewing, but today's passage shows us the healing power of facing our own sin, sorrow, and regret, and accepting God's healing grace and deliverance. We are not called to pretend that everything is great and perfect; we are called to find joy in the redemptive power of facing our shortcomings and the goodness of a God that can continually make us new. We are called to give this same grace and forgiveness to others and feel the joy of having the burden of anger, bitterness, and resentment lifted from our shoulders. Today let us all pray for a world where we do this for ourselves, for others, and for God who weeps for us in our time of strife and pain.

- **Study Opportunity:** *Research other scripture passages that express pain and sorrow. Where do you find beauty and healing in them?*

## **Saturday, February 22: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Lamentations 3:22-23**

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

**Sunday, February 23: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of Common Confession:** *Holy and merciful God, forgive us, for our anger reigns. Like Jonah, we desire for you to be an agent of our wrath. We ignore your compassion, turning to the poorer angels of our nature. But you God, are a God of mercy. Extend that same grace and compassion to us this day. Lead us back into that wondrous place of your compassion, hope and forgiveness, for we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*