

Jonah 1:7-10

⁷“Come!” said the sailors to one another. “Let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity that is upon us.”

So, they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸“Tell us now,” they demanded, “who is to blame for this calamity that is upon us? What is your occupation, and where have you come from? What is your country, and who are your people?”

⁹“I am a Hebrew,” replied Jonah. “I worship the LORD, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land.”

¹⁰Then the men were even more afraid and said to him, “What have you done?” The men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Berean Study Bible, UK

1

Ready, willing, and able. Jonah 1:7-10

Are you able to take responsibility for your mistakes? 1:7

My mistakes will demean me. 7a

My mistakes can harm others. 7b

Are you willing to tell the story of your faith. 1:8-9

My story has unanswered questions. 8

My story has a robust foundation. 9

Are you the stupidest person on the planet? 1:10

My choices impact on others. 10a

My journey is always with God. 10b

2

Recovery from wrong. Jonah 1:7-10

Identify the problem. 7

Consult all stakeholders. 7a “said the sailors to one another”

Be specific, not vague. 7b “the lot fell on Jonah”

Analyse the rationale. 8

Be diligent in timing. 8a “Tell us now”

Be thorough in scope. 8b “who... what... where... what... who...”

Identify the resources. 9

Identify our human resources. 9a "I am... I worship..."

Identify our Divine resources. 9b "the God of the heavens"

Apply the process. 10

Be honest. 10a "the men were even more"

Be transparent. 10b "because he had told them"

3

It's time to step up. Jonah 1:7-10

Own up. 1:7

I am a witness for God. 7a "the sailors to one another"

I am a partner with God. 7b "who is responsible"

Stand up. 1:8-9

This is who I am. 9a "I am a Hebrew"

This is what I do. 9b "I worship the LORD"

This is what I believe. 9c "The God who..."

Grow up. 1:10

See what is behind me. 10a "What have you done?"

See what is before me. 10b "the presence of the LORD"

4

Mediterranean take out / take away. Jonah 1:7-10

Take responsibility for my past. 1:7

I make my own choices. 7a "who is responsible"

Others bear consequences. 7b "this calamity that is upon us"

Take responsibility in my present. 1:8-9

Know me, from the outside, in. 9a "I am a Hebrew"

Know me, from the inside, out. 9b "I worship the LORD"

Take responsibility for my future. 1:10

I am on a physical journey. 10 "he was fleeing from"

I am on a spiritual journey. 10 "the presence of the LORD"

5

What I need when I am needy. Jonah 1:7-10

I need to know who. 1:7 “who is responsible”

Identifies the one/s who needs help.

Mend the weakest link.

I need to know why. 1:8 “Tell us... who... what... where... what... who...”

Identify the factors in the lead-up.

Patch the broken steps.

I need to know how. 1:9 “the LORD... who made the sea”

Identify the Big Picture.

Clarify our place with perspective.

I need to know what 1:10 “What have you done?”

Identify specific issues.

Seek the way forward.

Other possible titles

Choices have consequences

Your choice, my consequences

Get me off this roller coaster

How can you be so stupid?

Life on the run

God isn't finished yet

How not to witness

Voted out

We are all in the same boat

God wants you back

Call to action

When life is out of control

How good is your testimony?

Quotes and illustrations

Quotes about blame

When we assign blame, we are pointing the finger to who or what is responsible for a fault or for a wrong doing. We are trying to make others accountable. Blaming does not solve a problem it usually only makes people defensive. Catherine Pulsifer

Blame is the demonstrated lack of self-respect choosing to deposit one's negative actions onto others to reinforce one's view of being of good, fair, and approved. Byron R. Pulsifer

To develop a belief in their own personal capability, young people need a safe climate in which they can explore the consequences of their choices and behaviour without judgments about success or failure - without blame, shame, or pain. Jane Nelsen

If you are looking to inspire people then blaming is the last thing you want to do. To inspire others, focus your attention on the solution not the blame. No good comes from blame, good comes from finding a way to correct the situation. Kate Summers

The blame game is a waste of time. Any time you're busy fixing blame, you're wasting energy and not fixing the problem. Rick Warren

Don't argue for other people's weaknesses. Don't argue for your own. When you make a mistake, admit it, correct it, and learn from it- immediately. Stephen Covey

Praise loudly, blame softly. Russian Proverb

Quotes about responsibility

We are responsible for what goes on in our heads. John Vaulkner

Taking responsibility is a commitment to own your life, to self-leadership, growth, and freedom. Christopher Avery

Only when you take responsibility for your own life, will you will begin to realize that you can change it. I.B.D.

Music and songs

Songs based on this text

Jonah-man Jazz 4, "The waves grew high... There must be a jinx on board"

Songs about supporting weaker brethren, v8

Brother sister let me serve you,

Songs about the God of the land and sea, v9

He's everything to me

Songs about confessing the Lord, v9

At the name of Jesus... every tongue confess Him, H 191

Come now is the time... one day every tongue will confess, 900

For all the saints who from their labours rest... before the world confessed, H 364

He is Lord... every tongue confess, SiS 49

Highest place. Jesus Christ in very nature... every tongue confess, Ot 20

The heavens shall declare... every tongue confess, 537

Songs about confessing our sins, v10

At the cross... two wonders here that I confess (Getty)
Happy is the one whose sin... and my confession made
Put your hand in the hand... than what I confess to be, HCJ 36
Showers of blessing... Now as to God we're confessing, H 697

Songs about returning to faith, cp v10b

Songs about the journey with God

I walk by faith, Ot 32
Just a closer walk with Thee, FE 79
When we walk with the Lord... Trust and obey, H 711

Songs about choosing

As for me and my house
Be the one (Al Denson) Ot 67
Come, now is the time to worship, 900
Old church choir... once you choose it... Ot 74
Purify my heart... Refiners fire, 657
Time, time is running out... Are you ready,

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Mediterranean cuisine covers how many nationalities? Do you have a favourite among them?
 2. What does it feel like to be blamed, v7? Why are people quick to blame? Are the more advantages, or disadvantages, in blaming?
 3. What would you suggest to someone who told you they had done something illegal; or immoral?
 4. Look at v9. How would you rate Jonah's testimony? What was good about it; what was not so good?
 5. What should you include, or omit, from a good testimony?
 6. What response did Jonah's testimony get, v10?
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