

## ***I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

### **Unit 5: Accountability**

#### **Lesson 6:** Adjust It

#### **The Cave of Wisdom**

**The Cave Opening: The Burning Bush:** Results should be according to God's Dream.

Welcome back to the cave of "Not What I Wanted". What if the results of your actions are not what you expected or wanted? In this lesson we see how results that don't match our expectations can cause us to go against God's Dream. Our Bible character, Jonah, tried not to do the Dream of God for his life. He fled in the opposite direction of God's instructions and as you surely know, he was swallowed by a whale and returned to the beach.

In a sense, Jonah entered the cave of darkness, just as Elijah did. Jonah would have to face his shortcoming before the Lord: he showed no mercy to others. This is a story of mercy and forgiveness; but also how a lack of it can destroy us from the inside out, like the gangrene of Hymenaeus last week destroyed outside in.

Today we would call Jonah's behavior pouting. Surely you have never behaved in this manner to your parents when you were not allowed to do something or when someone hurt your feelings! This is a dark side of the cave that can

only be overcome by a changed life to one of forgiving and showing mercy.

**Circle of Fire:** Adjust your attitudes to match God's Dream.

**Scripture: Jonah 4 (key verse 4).**

*<sup>4</sup> But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"*

**Biblical Character:** Jonah

God gave Jonah a second chance, but Jonah still didn't like the assignment. And why should he: the people of Nineveh were enemies of Israel. He went, but in his heart, Jonah hoped that Nineveh would ignore the message. Jonah did not want to succeed, he wanted the town destroyed. When the king of Nineveh decreed that the kingdom would repent, God forgave them, had compassion on them, and did not destroy the city. But note Jonah's response in chapter 4: he was greatly displeased and became angry.

Now we see how our actions can go astray when God doesn't do things the way we want him to do: Jonah began to do what may best be described as "pout". He even blamed God's actions for his failure to obey in the beginning: "is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish."

Jonah may as well have said: "See God, I told you so, I knew what would happen. I know better than you what they need: they need to be destroyed!" But his actions to an even

darker turn: Jonah wanted to die from his embarrassment. He had proclaimed that God would destroy the city and now it wasn't going to happen! Oh my, what shall I do now! I will be seen as a liar and my prophesy is worthless. I am a failure! Life is not worth living if I can't have fame and glory.

So Jonah went away from the city to a hill where he could watch and wait for God to change his mind. Surely God will change his mind if what he has done upsets me! But God did not change his mind and Jonah began to "pout". His heart became darker with desire for killing of the people of Nineveh. Jonah was lost, for without forgiving others, we cannot be forgiven.

God tried to show Jonah the dark path he was upon by sending the vine, but Jonah was still "angry enough to die". We aren't given the outcome of this story, but Jonah is left on the hill. Not a good ending!

Act the part of the king of Nineveh and tell the story in Jonah 3:3-10. Or act out the part of Jonah on the hill "pouting".

Show the video: “Jonah Fails to Adjust (Testament – Jonah)” in Appendix 2, Unit 5. Jonah had to learn mercy. We need to do the same as part of the Dream.

***Modern Character(s): Pope John Paul II***

Would you forgive someone who shot you three times and almost took your life? Imagine the pain, the surgery, the recovery period: and still you must forgive. Pope John Paul II showed us the way to forgive those who seek our destruction. He even went to the prison and talked to the man who shot him.

Show the video news report of Pope John Paul II being shot in Appendix 2, Unit 5.

Show the videos: “Famous Pouts” and “Little Baby Pout” in Appendix 2, Unit 5. These are on the lighter side, but show the attitude of pouting.

***The Tribe:*** “*Move On*”! Life’s results may not be what you expect, desire, or think you deserve; but, “get over it”. Do not sit on the hill top and sulk, waiting for life to change around you. Have mercy and show forgiveness.

**Craft:** Make a “No Pouting” sign to put on wall at home. Use yellow construction paper for the sign. Print a picture of Jonah under the vine “pouting” with a circle and mark over the picture to represent “no”. See Appendix 8 Craft for material.



**Recreation Activity:** “Battleship” – Use a divider or sheet to separate two teams so they cannot see each other. Have each team form a line on their side of the court. Rotate through players as they throw a wet sponge ball over the barrier at the other team. If a player is hit, they must yell “On target”. If the throw is a miss, yell “adjust your attitude!” Continue until one team has hit all of the players of the opposing team.