

The books of Obadiah and Jonah are both prophetic books, but they read very differently.

Obadiah is a short prophetic warning against pride and self-reliance. Jonah is a story—a surprising, humorous, and sometimes uncomfortable story about a prophet who would rather run from God than watch his enemies receive mercy.

Together, these books reveal two important truths:

1. God opposes pride.
2. God delights in mercy.

This week, we are going to practice **seeing through God's eyes**. As you read, ask:

- What does God care about?
- What attitude is being exposed?
- What do I notice about God's character?
- How is God inviting me to see people differently?

Grab your notebook and Bible, and let's get started.

Parents: Jonah is a story that grows with us. This week's Parent Prompt will help you revisit this familiar story with your kids and students, discovering deeper truths about God's compassion, mercy, and love each time you return to it. Parent Prompt

Week 25 Memory Verse | Jonah 4:2

Monday, June 22

Read: Obadiah 1–9

Reflect: Obadiah is different from most books we've read this year. There are no stories, conversations, or dramatic scenes. Instead, it really just reads like a courtroom announcement.

God is speaking directly against Edom, a nation that had become proud, arrogant, and self-sufficient.

One of the key features of prophetic literature is that the prophets often expose attitudes beneath actions.

The issue wasn't where Edom lived or how powerful they had become. Pride was their issue. They believed they were secure because of their position and strength, but God reminds them that no one is beyond His authority.

Pride often whispers, "You don't need help. You know better. You're fine on your own."

Scripture consistently teaches that pride blinds us to our need for God.

Act: Ask yourself, "Where am I tempted to rely on myself more than God?" Commit to rely on God and write, "Lord, I need You in..."

Pray: Father, protect me from pride. Help me remember that everything I have comes from You and that my security is found in You alone. Amen.

Tuesday, June 23

Read: Obadiah 10–16

Reflect: The heart of God's accusation becomes clearer. Edom wasn't condemned simply because Judah suffered, they were condemned because they stood by and watched.

Even worse, they benefited from other people's pain. This reveals something important about God's character: God cares how we respond when others are hurting.

Sometimes sin isn't only what we do. Sometimes it's what we refuse to do. God's compassion moves toward people, while pride keeps its distance.

Obadiah challenges us to examine how we respond to the struggles of others. Do we ignore them? Judge them? If we're honest, do we sometimes even take satisfaction? Or do we move toward them with mercy?

Act: Think of someone around you currently facing difficulty. What is one practical way you can move toward them in mercy this week?

Pray: Lord, give me a compassionate heart. Help me see people the way You see them and respond with love instead of indifference. Amen.

Wednesday, June 24

Read: Obadiah 17–21

Reflect: Obadiah ends with hope. That may seem surprising after so much judgment. But you have seen this common pattern in the prophets.

God exposes what is wrong because restoration is always His goal.

The final verse declares, "The kingdom will be the Lord's." That statement lifts our eyes beyond temporary seasons and events.

Nations rise and fall. Empires come and go. Circumstances change. But God remains King.

The prophets repeatedly remind us that history is moving toward God's purposes. That truth gives perspective when life feels uncertain.

Act: What in your life feels fragile? What remains true about God? Spend a few moments thanking God for His unchanging character and purpose.

Pray: King Jesus, help me place my confidence in Your kingdom instead of my temporary circumstances. Amen.

Thursday, June 18

Read: Jonah 1

Reflect: Jonah is completely different than Obadiah. Instead of a speech, we get a story.

So, the focus is not simply on what Jonah says, it's on what Jonah does. Or, more accurately, what Jonah *refuses* to do.

God calls Jonah to Nineveh, but Jonah runs the opposite direction. Stories allow us to see ourselves reflected in the characters. Sure, most of us have never boarded a ship to run away from God's call on our life. But many of us have resisted His direction.

We delay. Avoid. Excuse. Rationalize. Jonah reminds us that running from God, whatever form it takes, never leads where we hope it will.

Act: Is there anything God has been prompting you toward that you've been resisting? Write it down and respond with one next step of obedience.

Pray: Lord, help me stop running from what You've asked me to do. Give me courage to trust and obey You. Amen.

Friday, June 19

Read: Jonah 2

Reflect: In the middle of Jonah's story, the book suddenly changes literary styles. The narrative pauses, and a poem appears.

Jonah prays from inside the fish. This reminds us that biblical books sometimes blend styles.

The poem slows the story down and allows us to experience Jonah's feelings and thoughts.

Poetry helps give words to our emotions, gratitude, repentance, and worship.

Notice that it says Jonah *remembers* God. Throughout Scripture, remembering is often the turning point.

When circumstances overwhelm us, remembering God and His faithfulness helps reorient our hearts.

Act: Make a list of three times God has been faithful to you. Thank Him in prayer specifically for each one.

Pray: God, thank You for Your faithfulness. Help me remember Your goodness when circumstances feel overwhelming. Amen.

Saturday, June 27 – Sunday, June 28

Read: Jonah 3-4

Reflect: Jonah finally obeys. But what happens next surprises everyone - Nineveh repents, and God relents.

Remember that God delights in mercy. While many people assume God is eager to punish, Jonah reveals the opposite. God warns because He wants people to turn back. Mercy is not God's backup plan, it's His heartbeat.

Jonah wanted wrath for his enemies. God wanted mercy. The book closes with a question rather than an answer.

Why?

Jonah's struggle is our struggle. We often love mercy when it comes to us, but we struggle when it comes to people, we dislike.

The book of Jonah reveals that God's compassion goes beyond our categories. His love reaches further than our preferences.

The challenge from this book is not, "Will you obey?"
It's, "Will you learn to love who and how God loves?"

Act: Where have you experienced God's mercy recently? Thank Him specifically for it.

Is there anyone you are struggling to extend grace to? Pray for them by name.

Pray: Father, Thank You for being gracious and compassionate. Help me receive Your mercy and extend it to others. Amen.