

# Submission to God

WHY DO  
BAD THINGS  
HAPPEN TO  
BELIEVERS?

## OVERVIEW

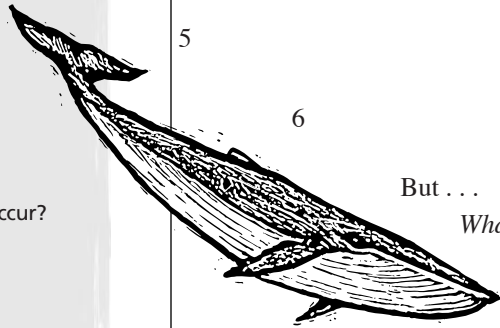
**WHO** are the characters?

**WHEN** do the events happen?

**WHERE** do the events take place?

**WHY** do these events occur?

**WHAT** is the point of this story?



## JONAH 1:17—2:10:

1:17 But the Lord . . .

*What the Lord does:*

2:1 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.

2 He said:

*What:*

3 You . . .

*List the progression of events:*

4

5

6

But . . .

*What God does:*

7 When my life was ebbing away . . .

*What Jonah does:*

8 *List Jonah's conclusions:*

9

10 And the Lord . . .

*What the Lord does:*

OUR REPENTANCE IS  
MORE IMPORTANT THAN  
OUR RELIEF.

# Submission to God JONAH 1:17-2:10

1. What does God do in Jonah 1:17?

2. What does God do in Jonah 2:3?

3. What does God do in Jonah 2:10?

What does this tell you about God?

What does this tell you about God?

What does this tell you about God?

What characterized Jonah in Chapter 1?

What characterized Jonah in Chapter 2?

**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

What did it take to get Jonah where God wanted him to be?

## SELF PORTRAIT

Is there any hardship you are experiencing that may be a result of God trying to get your attention?

What area of your life is not submitted to His lordship?

What do you need to do to demonstrate submission to God?

### PATTI'S PORTRAIT

**A young woman tells her story of being unmarried, alone, and pregnant.**



I considered myself a Christian at the time...but being pregnant ripped through the hypocrisy of my double life. I had been meaning to 'get right with God,' but I kept slipping back.

I was looking out my bedroom window one night when I thought clearly for the first time in weeks. I realized I either believed this Christianity or I didn't believe it. And if I believed in Christ, then I couldn't do this (have an abortion). God is real, I thought, even if I've never lived like He is.

That decision was a point of no return. I put my faith in the God of the Bible, not the God I made up in my head. I was still everything I never wanted to be – pregnant, alone, deserted by family, and rejected by the one I had loved. Yet for the first time in my life I was really peaceful, because I knew for the first time I was being obedient.

I thought in the depths of my despair that my life was ruined, but I knew I had to at least be obedient in taking responsibility for my sin. What matters more than anything is that I have what I was searching for so desperately before – peace with God.

*-from Loving God by Charles Colson, pp. 138,139.*

**QUOTE: THE ANSWER TO YOUR "WHY" IS A "WHO."**

