

## Reading Tracks

### TRACK ONE

Follow along with basics of the story in a short selection of readings this week.

Monday: Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jonah 1

Wednesday: Jonah 3

Thursday: Jonah 4

Friday: James 1:19-27

Saturday: James 2:14-26

### TRACK TWO

Get a little bigger perspective by reading assigned sections from *The Story* © 2011 by Zondervan.

Read pages 401-405 this week.

### TRACK THREE

Get the whole story by reading through most of the Bible in longer sections.

In your Bible, read Galatians 1-6, Ephesians 1-6, and Philemon this week.

## This Week's Scripture Memory Verse

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead." James 2:27

## Next Week in Worship

**Next Week's Message:** *Running for the Kingdom*

**Next Week's Readings:** Hebrews 12:1-3

*The Big God Story* is not written only in the pages of the Bible but in the pages of our lives now. Today we learned part of the story that God is writing through the work of our partners in Christ in Haiti. When *The Big God Story* continues next week, we'll learn how God wants to train our lives for His Kingdom to expand in our city.



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# Group Discussion

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## Connect

If you were involved in Mission of Hope weekend or attended worship this past Sunday, what stood out to you as interesting or meaningful in our church's partnership with Mission of Hope?

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## Learn

**Read Jonah 1:1-16.** Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria, the nation that had conquered and exiled the Kingdom of Israel. They were hated and feared by Israelites and many other peoples.

- What did God call Jonah to do? What did Jonah do?
- What reasons do you suppose Jonah had for his actions?
- The story of Jonah is meant to illustrate God's love for those who are far from Him—or also just far from us. Why do you suppose Christians sometimes care less about those who are far from God than God does?

**Read James 1:19-27.** Referring to James 1:27, the president of Mission of Hope explained their commitment to the Village of Hope orphanage, "Whatever else we do, we've got to care for orphans. The Bible pretty much makes 'widows and orphans' a non-negotiable."

- Why do you think the book of James clarifies the necessity of this kind of action?
- Widows and orphans were two of the most vulnerable groups of people in Biblical times. If James were written today, what groups of people do you think would fit in this verse?

**Read Luke 10:25-37,** the parable of the Good Samaritan.

- What do you think is most significant about the attitudes and actions of the Samaritan?
  - The Priest and the Levite (vv. 31-32) look pretty bad in this story, but we should also remember that they were doing their religious duty. Jewish law required them to avoid corpses, which this man could very well have been. Does religious duty ever still get in the way of compassionate discipleship to Jesus?
  - How would you summarize the point Jesus was trying to make in this story?
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## Apply

Do you sense God calling you to any action in response to the Bible readings today or to things you heard during Mission of Hope Sunday? What next step are you going to take because of it?

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## Pray

Was your heart particularly touched by stories of God's work through any particular part of Mission of Hope's ministry, perhaps the orphanage, school, clinic, housing, or food programs? Pray for God's protection, providence, and blessing for that ministry.