

The Lesson of Jonah

Read Proverbs 3:6.

“In all your _____, acknowledge _____ and He will
_____ your _____.”

Proverbs 3:6 tells us to acknowledge God in all we do and He will direct our paths. But many times, we like to decide when we will allow Him to direct us and when we will do it for ourselves. In the Bible, God calls these Christians “stiff-necked people” and describes them as stubborn and resistant to God’s leading.

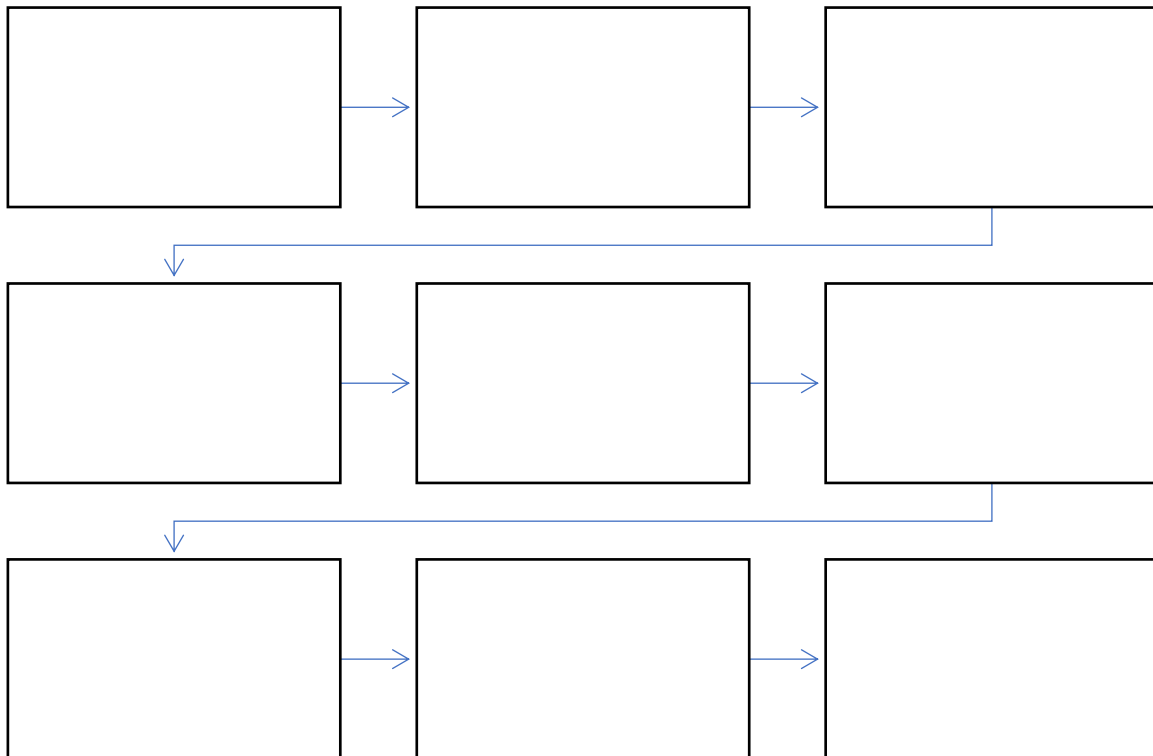
The Bible shows us over and over again how God is not at all happy with this behavior. In fact, an entire book of the Bible is dedicated to that message – Jonah.

What does it mean when we ask God to “direct our paths”?



Think of a time when you knew God was telling you to do one thing, but you preferred to do something different. What did you end up doing and how did it work out for you? Tell your story here.

Read the story of Jonah in Jonah 1-4. As you read, create a timeline of events that take place.



How well did Jonah listen to God? (circle one)

Totally

Partially

Not at All

How did Jonah have a “stiff-neck” in this situation?



God used Jonah anyway, in spite of his stubbornness, but overall, how pleased do you think God was with His servant, Job?

Very Pleased

Somewhat Pleased

Not at All Pleased

Sometimes Christians forget who the Maker is and who servant is, so let's clarify:

The Maker = _____

The Servant = _____

Jonah tried to run from God and His direction in his life. The Israelites did the same thing in the desert. They wanted to do things their own way. God gave them free moral agency. What was the result?

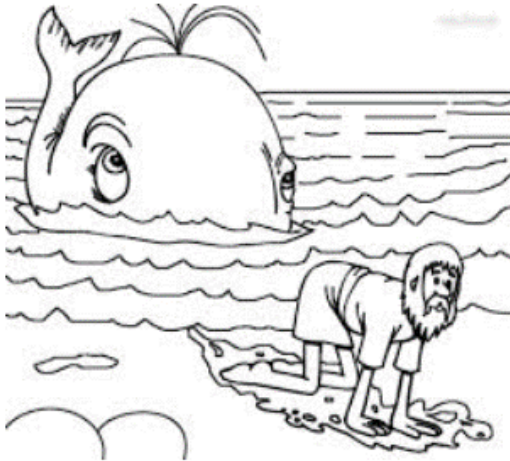
God gives us FMA: F _____ M _____ A _____.

He allows us the choice to obey Him when He directs our paths. Many times, He will redirect (place us on His path) us when we need to be taught the lesson once again, but He is not pleased with our

S _ _ _ B _ _ _ _ _ S S.

Jonah was redirected several times. Write a caption explaining God's redirection of Jonah beside each picture.





God redirects us because He loves us. How has God redirected you in order to teach you that He loves you and wants to direct your paths?

Rate Jonah's joy as he gladly served his Maker. Place an X where you believe Jonah's joy was in serving God.

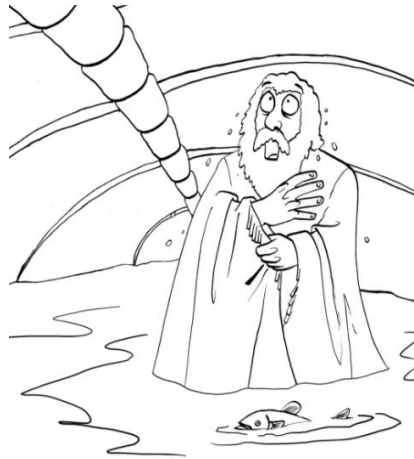


Low

High

Why should we rejoice in God's directing of our paths?

God has a defined plan for each of us to draw us closer to Him. He pushes us to grow in our faith along the way. He builds His character in us as we struggle and grow. We will miss out on a lot if we decide to be “stiff-necked”.



God knows His plan for us is so much better than what we can imagine. We can't really experience His plan until we allow Him to really direct our paths daily with joy and praise, knowing that He is in charge and has our best interests in mind.

Write a prayer to God about an area in which you have been “stiff-necked”. Start by repenting of your stubbornness.
