

JONAH, JESUS, AND US

Week 1: Jonah: The Man, the Myth, the Legend Pt 1

APPETIZER: Resuscitating Jonah

Fill in the Blank

Jonah and the _____!

A Quick History Lesson:

2 Kings 14:25

Nineveh vs Israel

760 BC

DINE IN: On the Run

Jonah 1:1-3

v.1

“Jonah” = Dove

“Son of Amittai” = Son of truth, or faithfulness

The story of Jonah can be seen as drama between a passive man and an active God. Jonah's name literally means "dove," while most prophets had heroic names (e.g., Isaiah means "God has saved")

Joseph Blenkinsopp

v.2

Nineveh

Ga-dowl (Hebrew) -great, large in magnitude and extent

“...a city so large that it took three days to see it all” **Jonah 3:3**

v.3

Where the heck is Tarshish?

Tarshish ←————→ Jonah →————→ Nineveh

Why did Jonah Run?

- **Hosea 9:3**
- Fear – not for his life, but that God may actually do what he says he will do.
- Covenant vs Non-Covenant people

TAKE OUT: What's your Tarshish?

God wanted him to go to Nineveh...instead, Jonah went to Tarshish. God wanted him to take a trip on land...instead, Jonah went on the sea (the Jews hated the sea). God sent him to the greatest metropolis of the day. Instead he heads for a remote trading post on the fringes of civilization.

The Lord wished to go with his prophet. Instead, Jonah tried to flee from the presence and power of God.

-H.C Woodring

What is the kind of life Jesus has for us?

John 10:10

Questions to Consider

- Is there a clear call that God has given me? Am I listening to it?
- Is there an area of my life that I am actively choosing to not obey God in?
- What promises and character traits of God do I need to be reminded of today?

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What is your past experience with the book of Jonah? Have you heard this story before? Have you ever read through it?
2. Share any new thoughts or reflections on this story after Sunday. What stood out to you from the teaching?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Jonah 1:1-3** through several times from different translations. (I know it's quick! Look forward to next week when we keep reading the rest of this chapter!)
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. Put yourself in Jonah's shoes – what would be a modern day parallel to this circumstance? (i.e. – what would be a current political/cultural example that would be just as difficult?)
Share a story from your own life, or the story of someone you know who God asked to do something difficult. What happened?
 - c. What should we do when we can't hear God's voice clearly, or aren't sure what He's asking us to do? Discuss how we can get to know the commands of Jesus, and how this can help us.
 - d. Jonah chose not to obey God, and moved away from the life, purpose, call, and intention that God had placed before him. What are some of the promises and character traits of God you need to be reminded of? (Need help? Check out **Psalm 139:7-8, Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 6:31-33, 1 John 4:8-10**)

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Is there an area of your life that you're not letting Jesus be Lord of?
5. Pray for one another and the circumstances in our lives that we are tempted to run toward instead of toward God.