

SERMON OUTLINE

Jonah Runs; God Overcomes **Jonah – Act 1**

- I. The Lord:** Picks a Prophet; Pursues the Prophet (1:1-4)
 - a. Jonah Runs from the Lord
 - b. The Lord Raises a Storm
- II. The Sailors:** Pray to the gods; Probe Jonah's Life (1:5-12)
 - a. Their Fear of the Storm
 - b. Their Futile Prayers
 - c. Their Findings about Jonah
- III. Jonah:** Plunged into the Sea; Plucked up by a Fish (1:13-2:10)
 - a. A Cautious Decision
 - b. A Cry of Distress
 - c. A Cringeworthy Deliverance

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 4, 2018

Passage: Jonah 1:1-2:10

Memory Passage: Jonah 2:7-9

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Jonah 1:1-2:10.** Why did the Lord tell Jonah to go to Nineveh, and for what purpose?
- (b) Why does Jonah attempt to “flee from the presence of the Lord?” Why would he think that Tarshish would be a place of escape from the Lord’s presence?
- (c) Who is responsible for the storm and why?
- (d) Why are the mariners so fearful about this particular storm, and what does their initial response to the storm reveal about their religious beliefs?
- (e) Considering the ferocity of the storm, how is it that Jonah can sleep through it all?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Jonah 1:1-2:10.** What was the reason the pagan mariners resorted to casting lots, and why is it significant that the lot fell on Jonah?
- (b) Why did the mariners become “*exceedingly* afraid” when Jonah answers their questions?
- (c) Why does Jonah tell the mariners to hurl him into the sea? Was he suicidal? Was he more concerned about their welfare than his own? Or was there some other reason?
- (d) Why are the mariners reluctant to throw Jonah into the sea?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Jonah 1:1-2:10.** Based on a comparison of the mariners’ prayers and actions in verses 5-6, and then again in verses 14-16, what observations can you make as to how their religious belief systems may have been altered by this experience?
- (b) What is significant about the term translated as: “appointed” (ESV, NASB); “provided” (NIV); or “prepared” (NKJV) regarding the fish (1:17)?

(c) Is there any significance to the fact that Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights? If so, what? (see also: Matthew 12:40)

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 1:1-2:10.** How does Jonah’s prayer to the Lord in 2:2-9 compare to that of the sailors in 1:14?

(b) Why does Jonah say in his prayer: “*you* cast me into the deep” (2:3) when it was really the mariners who did so in response to Jonah’s own advice?

(c) Notice Jonah’s remark in 2:4 about being “driven away from your sight.” Wasn’t it Jonah’s original intent to get away from the Lord’s sight when he “rose to flee...from the presence of the Lord (1:3)?” Has Jonah had a change of heart about the wisdom of trying to get away from the Lord’s presence?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 1:1-2:10.** What do Jonah’s comments in 2:8-9 reveal about how his spiritual outlook may have been altered as a result of undergoing this ordeal?

(b) How does Jonah’s account of his own “near-death” experience compare to many of the accounts we hear from people who claim such experiences in our day?

(c) What lessons can we learn from Jonah’s attempt to “flee from the presence of the Lord” when it comes to matters of obedience to God in our lives today?

DATE: February 4, 2018

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