

JONAH, PROPHET TO NINEVEH

The Book of Jonah
Unit 14, Lesson 1

WHAT WE LEARNED

God loves all people and showed mercy to the Ninevites through the wild journey of Jonah. God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. Later, God sent Jesus to His enemies to call us to repentance. Jesus willingly obeyed. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. God called Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell them to stop doing evil. Jonah didn't want to go, so he ran away. God sent terrible storms; when the sailors found him hiding he told them to throw him into the sea, where he was swallowed by a big fish that brought him to Nineveh.**
 - Why was Jonah fleeing in the first place/why did he not want to do what God had called him to? Are there times where you feel that you want to do the same?
 - How did Jonah respond when he was swallowed by the fish? When God revealed to Jonah his sin and error, how did it change His perspective of God and his perspective of responding to God's calling?
 - Why didn't Jonah want to share God's warning with Nineveh, and why did he eventually do it? How does that shape what we know about how God views people we may view as "enemies"? How does it impact how we should think of other people, even those we disagree with?
- 2. While he is best known as the man who was swallowed by a big fish when he tried to run away from God, his story continues beyond chapter 2 to reveal what Jonah knew all along: God is "a gracious and compassionate God" (Jonah 4:2). Jonah's account centers around the compassion of God, not only for the people of Israel but for people throughout the earth—even Israel's worst enemies!**
 - Why is it hard to love people who are unkind or unloving to us? How does that help you understand what Jesus did for us?
 - Is there anyone too sinful for God to forgive? What does that tell us about who God is and how we should love other people?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT

“The Lord is patient toward you, wishing that all should reach repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time this week praising God for the ways that He is committed to His people and the ways He has redeemed us. Praise God for His compassion and forgiveness, ask Him to reveal any bitterness you may have towards others, and ask Him to remind you of how deeply we have been forgiven by God as we seek to love others.

Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer for. Have someone to pray for that person’s request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.

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