

Jonah: Gracious Savior & Grumbling Servant

OUTLINE

1. _____ & _____ (ch1)

2. _____ & _____ (ch2)

3. _____ & _____ (ch3)

4. _____ & _____ (ch4)

5. Discussion Questions:

1. What was your biggest takeaway from the book of Jonah and his account? Is there a next step you feel prompted to take today? How can we support and encourage one another to follow-through on that step?
2. Have you ever tried to run from God's will for your life? What are some of the ways God pursues Jonah in this passage? What are some of the ways God pursues us when we run from Him?
3. Is there anything God could ask you to do, today, that you would say "no" to? If so, what is it and why would you say no?
4. In chapter two verse two, Jonah says, "I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice." Have you ever experienced a difficult season when you felt like you were "in the belly of Sheol" (ESV)? Read Psalm 34:18, Psalm 145:18, and James 4:8. According to these verses, what is God's posture toward us when we walk through dark, difficult seasons of life?
5. When you walk through trials, do you tend to press in toward church or avoid community? Why is it important to rely on brothers and sisters in Christ when we face difficult seasons?
6. Reread Jonah's confessional prayer to God in Jonah 2:3-9. Which verse(s) stands out to you the most? Why?
7. Another famous prayer of confession is found in Psalm 51 after David recognizes his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and arranging to have her husband killed. Read Psalm 51 aloud and discuss any similarities you notice between these two prayers. After confessing, what do both Jonah and David promise to do? (see Jonah 2:9 and Psalm 51:13-15)
8. Based on Jonah's reaction, we can conclude that although He obeyed God outwardly, his heart was begrudging. Do you agree or disagree with the sentiment that "half-hearted obedience is disobedience"? Why? How can we inspire and equip the next generation to live lives of radical, wholehearted obedience to God?
9. Jonah 4:5-8 is a clear picture of God's sovereignty in the face of a rebellious servant. Where are you tempted to find comfort and security apart from God and obedience to His Word?
10. In discussing the American virtue of self-reliance, Matt Hopkins writes: "To be self-reliant and independent is a necessary attribute for survival when you are a frontier nation as America has been for most of its history." What are the spiritual challenges of living in a culture where self-reliance is highly valued?
11. In light of shifting circumstances and personal suffering, how can we resist the temptation to respond like Jonah? What practical steps can we take to cultivate hearts like Jesus' heart?
12. What makes you afraid when you think about giving yourself to God without reservation? What prayers can you pray that surrender yourself to God? How could we grow toward radical obedience as a church? What are we doing well? Are there areas where we could push ourselves to grow? Do you testify of God's goodness and life-changing grace toward you? Who is one person you could share your testimony with this week?