

March 11, 2007
Pastor Tim Wood

A Story About Sharing our Faith Jonah

Key verses:

1:1-2 – “The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach (cry) against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.’”

1:5 – “But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.”

2:1 – “From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.”

3:1 – “The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time”.

3:3 – “Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD.”

3:5 – “The Ninevites believed God.”

4:2 – “I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”

1. The book of Jonah: history or parable?

I believe the story is historical for two reasons:

2. Six things to remember about sharing your faith with others.

Small Group and Personal Bible Study Guide

This Weeks Memory Verse: Matthew 9:37

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out the workers into His field.”

This Weeks Lesson: Jonah

This short book follows the call upon Jonah as a prophet of God. How he chose to flee from the Lord rather than bring the good news to those whom he did not feel were worthy of God. God pursued Jonah and used miraculous ways to get his attention. Finally, Jonah followed God’s calling and the people of Nineveh turned to the Lord so God spared them. In this lesson we learn beyond a shadow of a doubt the words of Jonah found in Jonah 4:2 are absolute truth, “You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love.”

1. Have you ever felt a call from God to witness to people that seemed unworthy of God’s love?
2. Is it difficult for you to understand how God can love and forgive a mass murderer? A terrorist? A child molester? A rapist?
3. What does God say about the worthiness of people to receive his love and forgiveness? Can you think of any bible verses to share that answer this question?
4. What lesson do we learn from Jonah about our own calling as a witness for God?

Another truth is revealed in this story. Jonah chapter 2 is one of my favorites because it is a prayer of thankfulness and praise, but the profound truth is found in the first words of first verse, “From inside the fish Jonah prayed.” Jonah prayed, thanked God, trusted God, and praised God even before he was delivered safely. I think being inside a fish would not be the easiest place to praise and thank God but the truth is, we cannot let our circumstances be the purpose of praise. The truth is God is the reason for praise. Because Jonah didn’t give up on God, God didn’t give up on Jonah.

5. Can you think of a time in your life that you had to thank and praise God before he delivered you or answered your prayer? What was the outcome?

This Weeks Reading Schedule:

This week we will read the book of Jonah and also take a look at one of Jesus’ example in witnessing to the unworthy and loving the lost found in John 4.

Day 1: Jonah 1

Day 2: Jonah 2

Day 3: Jonah 3

Day 4: Jonah 4

Day 5: John 4 (Jesus Talks To The Samaritan Women - The Harvest)