



June 1-2
“God’s Word and Our Response”
Jonah 1:1-3

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

1. What stands out to you as you read this passage?
2. In verse 2, God calls Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh. What is significant about God calling a pagan city to repent? What does that tell us about God’s divine initiative?
3. Who are some of the Ninevites in your life? Are there people that you see as more unworthy of God’s grace?
4. We’re told that Jonah was intending to flee to Tarshish to “hide from the presence of the Lord.” Tarshish was the most distant city from Israel in the ancient world. What are some places in your life where you might be tempted to “hide” from God’s call to reach the least and lost?
5. What are some of the things that make you nervous about reaching the Ninevites in your life? What would it look like to go to them in the name of Jesus? How can we pray for you as a group?



June 8-9
“The Storm-Making God”
Jonah 1:7-17

And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to the LORD, “O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.” So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

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1. What stands out to you as you read this passage?
 2. We're told that the pagan sailors cast lots to know where this evil came from. What was the conclusion of their inquiry? What is Jonah's key sin?
 3. What are some ways that we may be tempted to “flee from the presence of the Lord?”
 4. Compare and contrast the response of the sailors and that of Jonah. What is ironic in each of their responses?
 5. What do you think Jonah was hoping for as he was cast overboard? What happened instead? How does this guide us as we wrestle with the things that God has called each of us to do?



June 15-16
“Praying When You Hit Rock Bottom”
Jonah 2:1-10

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying, “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!” And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

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1. What stands out to you as you read this passage?
 2. This weekend, Pastor Ryan talked about gratitude as an important way to remember the Lord. How are you practicing gratitude? How does that help us see Christ?
 3. Read Psalm 18:3-6 and Jonah 2. Can you think of a time in your life where you felt this way? What made it so difficult?
 4. Jonah says “that those who regard vain idols forsake the hope of steadfast love.” What are some of those vanities in our lives? Where might we be tempted to trust in them rather than God?
 5. What does it look like to trust that salvation belongs to the Lord? What are some ways that we can encourage each other to hold onto that perspective in the midst of the storms we face?



June 22-23
“God’s Grace & Bare-Minimum Obedience”
Jonah 3:1-10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.” When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

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1. What stands out to you as you read this passage?
 2. How do you think Jonah felt the second time God gave him the call to go to Nineveh? What did Jonah do differently?
 3. How did the people of Nineveh respond to the message Jonah spoke to them? What did they expect to happen because of their actions?
 4. God seems to have changed his mind about the action he had planned to take against Nineveh. What caused the change of plan? What does this say how God relates with his people?
 5. Re-read the passage. It's clear that the actions of one individual affects others. What lives were affected by Jonah's obedience to God's second chance call? What would have happened if Jonah had not obeyed? Read Matthew 28:19. How can our obedience or disobedience to this command affect the lives of others?

**Questions borrowed from Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, Texas.*



June 29-30
“Do You Do Well To Be Angry”
Jonah 4:1-11

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?” Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

1. What stands out to you as you read this passage?
2. What was Jonah angry about? Why was he upset with God and where might we have the same anger in our journey?
3. Read Matthew 18:23-35. In this parable, how does Jesus connect our receiving forgiveness and letting go of indignation and anger with others?
4. In lines 6-15, God appoints a plant and a worm to grow and provide comfort to Jonah. Why do you think he was glad for the plant? Why was the death of the plant so personal to Jonah? In what ways do our anger and indignation keep us from reaching out to others?
5. Look again at Jonah’s confession in lines 2-4. “...for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.” How does this description of God shape the way that we see his mercy in our own lives and how we share that love with others?