



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 2nd June 2024



Jonah 1:11-17

The Storm, The Sacrifice, The Saviour

Warm Up

Who remembers the “Great Storm of 1987”? What are your memories? What is the worst storm you have experienced? Why was it so bad?

Background and context

The whole of chapter one is the account of Jonah, rebelling against the God he worships and fleeing from Him. The consequences are disastrous for both him and the crew of the ship he is on. Rejection of God has implications for others as well as us! Last time we explored Jonah’s decision to flee and his apathy towards his plight and that of the sailors. We also discovered his hypocrisy as one who claimed to worship God but was in fact asleep in the boat!

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Jonah chapter 1. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don’t you really understand?

1. What do you notice about v 4,11,13 and 15? What causes the storm to get worse and what causes it to end?
2. What was God’s purpose in bringing the storm? Retribution or mercy?
3. “The worst thing that can happen for a believer who has turned from God is to have a pleasant onward journey.” Is this harsh? Should we be praying for storms in the lives of our children, family and friends, so they repent? How is 2 Peter 3:9 an encouragement for our “lost” friends and family?
4. Compare v5-6 with v12. What has changed in Jonah’s attitude?
5. How does Jonah’s new attitude help change the sailor’s lives? Is there a message for the Church here? Or for you as an individual? How does Matthew 16:24-5 help your understanding? (You may want to consider Q9 at this point.)
6. In what way is Jonah being thrown into the sea like a baptism as well as a sacrifice?
7. How is the fish a picture of Jesus?
8. Being inside a fish seems impossible! What other “impossible” things does the Bible reveal God has done to rescue His people?

Discipleship and Application

9. What needs to change in the Church (not specifically VBC) or in your life to reveal that we are “in Christ” or have “died to self “ and are “alive in Christ”?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.