



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 16th June 2024



Jonah 3 Revolution

Warm Up

When was the last time you heard a fire and brimstone, hell and damnation sermon? They used to be popular in the 19th century. What's changed?

Background and context

Having repented in the belly of the fish, Jonah is obedient to God and heads off to Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian empire. It was a vast city, the centre of power for one of the cruellest empires the world had seen. Jonah preaches a very short sermon. Five words long. Perhaps he was hoping that his brief sermon might be ignored by the Ninevites and thus bring judgement. How wrong he was!

Judgement and wrath are not popular topics in the 21st century. But they were and are important to Jesus. Not because of a desire for people to perish, in fact the complete opposite!

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Jonah Ch 3. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. What is the purpose of God sending Jonah to Nineveh?
2. What is strange about Jonah's brief sermon? What appears to be missing?
3. Why do you think the Ninevites repented so readily? **Read Romans 1:18-20, Ecclesiastes 3:11.** How might these verses help in understanding why they repented?
4. With whom does the repentance begin, the King or the people? How might this encourage us in our witness to people?
5. **Read Jeremiah 18:7-10.** What does this reveal about God's nature? Should it inspire us or concern us?
6. When is it helpful to be warned of danger? Give some examples.
7. **Read Ezekiel 33:3-6.** What does this say about those who know of danger and remain silent?

Discipleship and Application



8. **READ Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 16:19-31, Matthew 5:30.** Jesus speaks a lot about judgement. Why is He so concerned about it? How should we interpret that?
9. Why does our modern world take such offence at being warned about hell and judgement?



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.