



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 28th April 2024



Jonah Overview

Warm Up

Have you ever avoided a job you knew you really should be getting on with? What were the consequences? Have you ever felt cross or upset at someone else's ability to forgive others, because you think they deserve punishment?

Background and context

The story in the book of Jonah takes place between 780-740BC when the Assyrian Empire was strong and the capital city Nineveh was renowned for cruelty and godlessness. The book itself is very short but describes events over a long period of time. Scholars suggest the key themes are that "Salvation comes from the Lord" as well as God's merciful and gracious nature being displayed. The narrative is also full of surprises involving both Jonah and the Ninevites!

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ THE WHOLE BOOK OF JONAH OUT LOUD. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. What things surprise you or don't make sense?
2. Can you remember the structure of the book that Chris suggested? Are there any other parallels you can see between the two parts of the story?
3. What do you think about the parallels with the story of the prodigal son?
4. **Ch3: 7-9.** What are the sins the Ninevites repent of?
5. **Ch 2:2-9.** What did Jonah need to repent of?
6. **Ch1:12 ,4:3,8,9.** Jonah seems determined to prefer death than to see his enemies forgiven. What does this tell us about his relationship with God?
7. What was most important to Jonah? Even more important the worshipping God.
8. **Ch 4.** What does the story of Jonah's relapse tell us about repentance?

Discipleship and application



9. In what ways could you be like Jonah in response to other's sins?
10. What warnings and encouragements can we take from the book of Jonah?

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.