

February 2021

Church Life

- If you are a guest with us today, we want to **WELCOME** you! If you haven't done so already, we invite you to stop by our Guest Reception Center in the lobby at the scooter table following the service. Someone will greet you, answer any questions you may have, and give you a gift as a thank-you for worshipping with us today!
- Want to know what is going on at Grace? Weekly, we email out the E-news. The E-news is a sermon summary written by one of our amazing attenders. Please fill out your connection card if you would like to receive this!
- **Calling all Hunters!** If you are not aware, Grace plans a few men's hunting trips each year! This year we are planning a bear, antelope, and deer hunt! If you would like to get on the email list for future hunting trips, please place your name and email on your connection card.
- **Please join Grace in Prayer starting February 17!** The Prayer Ministry at Grace wants you to pray for our community for 40 days leading up to Palm Sunday! Pick up a copy of "Seek God for the City 2021" to help focus and unite us in prayer. The 64-page prayer guide makes it easy for you to pray rich, biblical prayers for spiritual awakening throughout our city. And it's dated to unite prayer worldwide, during the 40 days to Palm Sunday, February 17 – March 28, 2021. We have a limited number of booklets available! (also available in ebook form - contact Beth Webb or Pastor John)

**God doesn't call the _____, He _____ the called.
When we choose to _____ God instead of _____ God; it _____ us.**

Jonah 1:1-16, The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." ³ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord. ⁴ Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶ The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish." ⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" ⁹ He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.) ¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" ¹² "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." ¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴ Then they cried out to the Lord, "Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased." ¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

God uses all situations to bring him more _____ and to expand His _____.

Jonah's Prayer, ¹⁷ Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

You cannot _____ from God.

Matthew 12:40, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Jonah 2:1-10 ¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. ² He said: "In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³ You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ⁴ I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' ⁵ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶ To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit.

⁷ "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. ⁸ "Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. ⁹ But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'" ¹⁰ And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Following God brings _____.

Jonah 3:1-10, Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." ³ Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

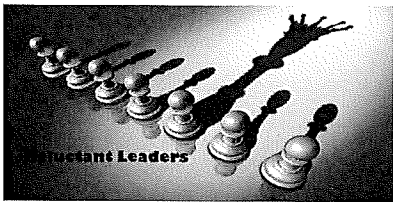
⁶ When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Life Application:

This whole month we are focusing on where we might be reluctant to lead for God. Can you identify an area in your life where you are specifically serving/leading for God? Do you serve at Grace? If not, pray and ask God where He would have you begin and follow His leading.

If you are serving/leading in some area for God, pray and ask God where He might have you take your serving/leadership to the next level and follow His leading.



February 2020

Reluctant Leaders

1. Have you ever resisted God's plan for you? Have you ever been afraid to follow where God is leading!

KEY POINT: God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

2. Pastor Adam gave many examples from the Bible, can you think of any reason God could not qualify you?
3. DO you agree that God uses **ordinary** people for extraordinary purposes? Do you believe this about yourself?

KEY POINT: Being used by God for His Kingdom is not about being flawless. It's about being willing and surrendering our hearts and our agendas to Him.

READ: Jonah 1:1-17

4. Jonah was running from God and surrounded himself with people that did not believe in God. How do people still do the same today?
5. What happened to the men in the boat?

KEY POINT: God uses all situations to bring him more glory and to expand His kingdom.

KEY POINT: You cannot run from God.

6. Sometimes God must teach us hard lessons. Have you ever had to learn the "hard way?"
7. Have you ever questioned the truth of stories in the Bible like, Jonah and the Whale?

READ: Matthew 12:40

8. What does this tell us?

READ Jonah 2:1-9

9. What is the main lesson you see in this passage of Jonah's prayer?
10. Read verse 10, what happened once Jonah submitted to God's plan?

KEY POINT: Following God brings FREEDOM.

A Quote from Pastor Adam... So many people think following God is restrictive, that following God is more work, that following God is just a list of rules. But I hope you see today that following God brings us freedom! Not only can it bring us freedom, but it can also bring freedom to others as God begins to work through us, instead of us working against His plan for us. This world is filled with people who need to know Jesus. Do you see the way God could use you, just like He used Jonah? Because if you are willing, He can... Think about that!

READ: Jonah 3:1-10

11. God brought Jonah through something horrible, for great purpose. What was that purpose?
12. One man who was reluctant to lead people to God finally got into alignment with God and did what God called him to do. When you think about this, what does this tell you?
13. Do you see God's heart in this story? What have you learned from this story?

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