

THE “GO” EXPERIENCE

Jonah 3:2-10

This applies to Christians who want to be part of God’s work here on earth. We have a mission and it’s the great commission.

Mark 16:15 (NLT) ¹⁵ And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

“If God’s primary purpose for the saved were loving fellowship, He would take believers immediately to heaven, where spiritual fellowship is perfect, unhindered by sin, disharmony, or loneliness. If His primary purpose for the saved were the learning of His Word, He would also take believers immediately to heaven, where His Word is perfectly known and understood. And if God’s primary purpose for the saved were to give Him praise, He would, again, take believers immediately to heaven, where praise is perfect and unending. There is only one reason the Lord allows His church to remain on earth: to seek and to save the lost, just as Christ’s only reason for coming to earth was to seek and to save the lost. ‘As the Father has sent Me,’ He declared, ‘I also send you’ (John 20:21). Therefore, a believer who is not committed to winning the lost for Jesus Christ should re-examine his relationship to the Lord and certainly his divine reason for existence.”
MacArthur, J. F., Jr.

I. WHEN WE GO WE EXPERIENCE GOD’S GUIDANCE (JONAH 3:2-3)

1. Maybe you don’t experience God’s guidance because you don’t really want to do what he says.

i. Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In

all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

- ii. *Psalm 32:8–9 (ESV)* ⁸ *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.* ⁹ *Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.*

2. Don't "follow your heart"! Jonah tried that the first time.

- i. *Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)* ⁹ *"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*
- ii. "The truth is, no one lies to us more than our own hearts. If our hearts are compasses, they are Jack Sparrow compasses. They don't tell us the truth; they just tell us what we want.... In fact, if we do what our hearts tell us to do, we will pervert and impoverish every desire, every beauty, every person, every wonder, and every joy. Our hearts want to consume these things for our own self-glory and self-indulgence." – Jon Bloom, Desiring God Ministries

3. His guidance is one step at a time. This is for our obedience (Like Jonah we may not do it if we knew!) and for faith (trust him!)

- i. "The story of Jonah demonstrates why God so often leads us one step at a time without telling us more. When God told Jonah what he would say in Nineveh,

Jonah rejected the call. God often only tells us what we can handle at the time.” - Guzik, D

- ii. [2 Corinthians 5:7 \(NKJV\)](#)⁷ *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

II. WHEN WE GO WE EXPERIENCE BIG OPPORTUNITIES (JONAH 3:3-4)

1. Big results come from big challenges

- i. [1 Corinthians 16:9 \(NKJV\)](#)⁹ *For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

2. There is a lot of work to do.

- i. People Groups 17,311 // Unreached Groups:7,372 // Percent Unreached Groups: 42.6% // Population: 7.67 Billion // Population in Unreached: 3.19 Billion // Percent of Population in Unreached: 41.5% // “An unreached or least-reached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance.” – Joshua Project
- ii. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time!
- iii. “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” – Chinese proverb

III. WHEN WE GO WE EXPERIENCE BOLDNESS TO WITNESS (JONAH 3:4)

1. The message we have.

- i. God created everything and he is perfect and holy. He created people in His image. People rebelled against God starting with Adam and Eve and sin came into the world. We are sinners, and we have sinned against God. Our sin deserves judgment, but Jesus came and lived a perfect life in our place. Then he died on the cross for our sins. After three days he rose from the dead. Our response to this gift is repentance and faith.
- ii. *1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)* ¹ *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures*

2. The boldness to witness (Jonah was brave to walk around the city of his enemies!)

- i. *Romans 1:16 (NKJV)* ¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation*

for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

IV. WHEN WE GO WE EXPERIENCE POWERFUL RESULTS (JONAH 3:5-10)

1. Repentance & faith

- i. Five words to save 600k people in this major ancient city.
- ii. *Mark 1:15 (NKJV)¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”*
- iii. *Acts 20:21 (NKJV)²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- iv. *2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*
- v. *Matthew 3:7–8 (NKJV)⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,*

2. God will always forgive if you turn to Him in faith (Verse 10)

- i. Psalm 86:15 (NKJV)¹⁵ *But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.*
- ii. 2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)⁹ *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*



Discussion Questions – Week 5

“THE ‘GO’ EXPERIENCE”

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1. We are ALL called to be part of the great commission, BUT not everyone is called to move to a foreign country! What are some other ways we as Christians can fulfil this calling?

2. How many Christians do you think truly prioritize sharing the gospel? Why do you think so many of us practically ignore this “great commission”?

3. God often leads us one step at a time. Can you think of an experience in your life that you would have probably avoided if God told you all the details ahead of time? Why do you think we have such a hard time walking by faith?

4. Jonah did something very dangerous in going into Nineveh. Many missionaries today risk their lives to share the gospel. What do you think is the balance between taking a risk for God, and using wisdom to avoid danger if possible?

5. We know we are saved by grace through faith, and faith alone is necessary for salvation. But the Bible says to repent too. So, do people have to only believe, or repent and believe? In other words, what is the relationship between repentance and faith?
