

JONAH

RESPONDING TO GOD'S COMPASSIONATE CALL

Community Group Questions Jan 17, 2021

Sovereign God of Heaven and Earth Jonah 1:4–17

Kicking Things Off

Read the whole passage together out loud, Jonah 1:1–17

What stands out to you from this account?

Getting Into It

In this account who caused the storm and who calmed the storm? What does that tell us about God and His power AND His purposes?

Why is it so important to remember the sovereignty of God in the day-to-day?

How does this awareness affect how you see the world, events, the people you come in contact with, etc.? Or does it?

How would you answer the question posed by the sailors in verse 10?

Discuss the contrast between the pagan, unbelieving sailors who attempt to save Jonah the believer (see vv 11–12), and Jonah the believer and his attitude toward the Ninevites.

Jonah was not the best witness to these pagan sailors. He says he “fears the Lord God of heaven” and yet he was trying to run from this God. But ultimately, what was the sailors’ response to God (see vv 14 & 16)? What does that tell us about God using everything for His glory?

The Parting Shot

In an honest discussion, what has been your heart towards those who are opposed to Jesus and His people? What might you need to repent of?

Love Kindness

What struck you from the story about the religious man on the plane from chapter eight that Dr. Corey observed?

One of the most common critiques of Christianity that our detractors levy against us is that we as Christians are all very hypocritical. Unfortunately, that critique is too often true, but it’s true of everyone, not just Christians. Our enemies would love to muzzle us when it comes to sharing the gospel, by guilting our mouths shut. How does the proper application of the gospel enable Christians to live beyond hypocrisy?

Dr. Corey says, “Nothing invalidates the way of kindness more than the way of arrogance and hypocrisy ... If we claim to be children of God, many eyes are watching to welcome our sincerity or to scoff at our hypocrisy ... bearing the name ‘Jesus follower’ puts us on display.” As followers of Jesus, we have to accept that we will be scrutinized by the world to see if we really believe what we say we believe. Dr. Corey’s solution is the gospel and the humility and authenticity it produces. “When we mess up, which we inevitably will, defaulting to denial only pours kerosene on the flames of hypocrisy. People of piety must be seen acknowledging and owning our mistakes rather than spinning them away.” Pray for one another that we can be real with God and real with each other about our sins and struggles, confessing them and walking in the light and believing the gospel.

