



FUSION

CHURCH OF MADISON

Sermon Guide for Tribes

June 16, 2024

Series Title: Not Just for Kids: Jonah
Scripture: Jonah ch. 1-4 (selections)

Movements in the text:

Understanding God's character, Jonah would rather die than see God be gracious to His enemies (1:12)

Confronted with death, Jonah was forced to appeal to God's grace and mercy for his salvation (2:7-9)

With reluctant obedience, Jonah saw God's enemies repent and God's mercy prevail (3:7-10)

Experiencing God's character, Jonah would rather die than see God be gracious to His enemies (4:1-3)

Discussion Questions:

Pastor Evan noted that one huge misconception we have about Jonah is that it is a happy and cheerful story for kids, when the reality is quite the opposite. What themes in Jonah are sobering to you as you read it? How does the Lord use some of these themes to drive home the overarching message of Jonah's story?

Jonah is a tragic character in this story, and, as Pastor Evan noted, the overwhelming majority of OT figures are torn down in the text from the pedestals we tend to place them on. They all seem to have fatal flaws. Who are some other OT figures who, like Jonah, do not possess a crystal clear record? What effect does this have on us as we read about the Virtuous Man, Jesus, in the Gospels?

The most convicting element about Jonah's story is that, while it may seem drastic that Jonah is content to see an entire city suffer the wrath of God, we are not far from acting likewise. Do you know any people against whom you are so hardened that you would rather die than see a day where they experience God's grace?