

# JONAH

THE SCANDALOUS DEPTHS OF GRACE

We must not focus on the great fish but rather the \_\_\_\_\_.

Who is Jonah?  
A Prophet

The book of Jonah has a prophetic message of only \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew words.

A narrative story

A \_\_\_\_\_ to be aware of our own attitudes and biases.

➤ The greatness and \_\_\_\_\_ of Ninevah

➤ Running away in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction

You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord

The devil will always provide a ship in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction

Why is Jonah fleeing?

1. He was \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. They weren't \_\_\_\_\_ it?
3. God might actually \_\_\_\_\_ them?

God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time He is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

God sends a storm Job 1:4-15

Example of Sailors

1. Recognize own \_\_\_\_\_
2. Hear Jonah's \_\_\_\_\_ and act on it

3. They do run from a difficult decision...

4. \_\_\_\_\_ and witness salvation

5. \_\_\_\_\_

God's call and command to us

God didn't say the whole \_\_\_\_\_ should go to \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
HE said the whole \_\_\_\_\_ should go to the \_\_\_\_\_.

A Great God provides a great fish.

Sign of Jonah

*Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."*

*He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.*

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

IF you find yourself in darkness, remember that Jesus makes the darkness tremble

Creekside Events



Sun, Apr 16, 2023 | Joel Neufeld, Pastor  
Creekside Christian Church

## Prayer

Begin your time by praying together for an open heart of transparency, and that we may delight in intentional community with one another.

## My Story

Have you ever had a bad first impression of someone only for them to impress you at a later time? What changed?

## Digging Deep

- 1) When you first think about the story of Jonah, what comes to mind? What did you hear from the sermon that gave you a new perspective on the story of Jonah?
- 2) In the story of Jonah, we are often so enamored by the “great fish” character in the story, but there are many other characters that we are to learn from in this story. Discuss some of the other groups of people or “characters” in the story and their importance.
- 3) **Read Jonah 1:1-3.** What might have been going through Jonah’s mind to think he could run away from God’s command? Why do you think he didn’t want to cross into Nineveh?

## Digging Deeper

- 4) **Read Jonah 1:4-9.** Do you see any irony in Jonah’s statement in verse 9? How can this kind of hypocrisy – claiming to follow God but then turning in direct disobedience – creep into our lives? When have you “run away” from God – refusing to do something you know He’s telling you to do? What “storms” then and now, bring you back?
- 5) What is the “Nineveh” in your life? Is it a difficult person, an unfriendly place, an unpleasant task, an unresolved situation, or something else?

- 6) **Read Jonah 1:10-16.** Within Jonah’s rebellion of going to preach to the sinful city of Nineveh, he encounters a group of pagan sailors who by the end of this chapter, are repenting and asking forgiveness from the Lord. Have you ever been in a situation where you were surprised that someone turned to the Lord in repentance? Explain why.

## Taking it Home

- 7) The story of Jonah is to be viewed as a mirror and shows us how not to act. However, like Jonah, we often find ourselves following God with our words but being selective in WHO we preach the gospel to. Are there certain individuals or groups of people in your life that you struggle to share God’s love with? Why?
- 8) **Read Matthew 5:44 and 28:19-20.** These are Jesus’ commands to His disciples to love their enemies and to go and preach the gospel to all nations. How do these commands contrast Jonah’s behavior? In what ways do you personally attempt to “flee” from these commands?
- 9) The story of Jonah is about a prophet who is continuously attempts to run AWAY from God’s commands of loving his enemies and preaching the gospel to all nations. In your own life, list some ways you can run TOWARD these commands of loving your enemies and preaching the gospel to those who you may not want to. What step can you take this week toward doing this?

## Praying Together

Pray with one another that we may view the story of Jonah through the lenses of a loving Father who seeks to pour out His grace towards ALL people, and that we may actively participate in the global mission of sharing the gospel to all people.