



FISH TALE

SERMON STUDY - 3.30.2025

Leader Corner

Running From God

Jonah 1:1-3

The first line of Jonah, chapter 1, makes it obvious that Jonah clearly knows that God has given him a direct command. No questions are needed, there is no lack of clarity, there are no difficult interpretations, and no message from a false or self-serving prophet: this is the word of the Lord. But Jonah...

Main Idea: Running from God...not a great idea!

Main Practice: When we know God's will for our lives, we should follow it.

Main Teaching: Jonah 1:1-3

Connect with Prayer & Praise

Pray over your group's time and study together and read aloud Psalm 119:33-36. Contemplate together what obedience to God looks like in our lives.



with Principle

1. Have someone read aloud Jonah 1:1-3.
2. What questions did last Sunday's sermon bring to mind and what challenged you?
3. Jonah clearly heard God's instructions yet opposed them. Where today do we find God's clear instructions? Discuss this in light of the following scriptures: Matthew 24:35, John 17:17, Hebrews 2:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
4. 1 Corinthians 10:6 tells us that some of the Scripture's accounts were given as examples so that we will not fall into evil. Can you recall additional biblical passages (aside from Adam and Eve) that tell of outcomes where people ignored God's will? Some reminders: Genesis 19:17-26, Leviticus 10:1-2, Joshua 7:20-21, Acts 5:1-2.
5. The Ninevites were Israel's great enemies. Jonah could not understand why God would care for these immoral, non-God-fearing or non-God-loving people. Do we ever feel this national, racial, economic, or denominational exclusion toward others? How does God feel about those who are not in our comfort zone? See Acts 10:34-35, 17:26-27, 1 Timothy 2:1-5, 2 Peter 3:9 for God's words on this subject.
6. We forget that before the Spirit of God opened our minds and hearts to the TRUTH, we were enemies of God. How should this realization change our hearts toward those who don't know Christ's salvation, and may oppose us? Read together Isaiah 53:6, Matthew 5:43-44, 1 Peter 2:15-16, 3:15-16 and discuss.

with Practice

As a group, share why we often want to avoid God's commands and what may keep us from doing His will. Pray for one another to overcome our resistance.

for Further Study

Tim Keller believed that Jonah could not see any good reason for God's commands. Jonah doubted God's wisdom, justice and goodness. God's mercy doesn't always fit with what we think is "fair." Go deeper with these scriptures as you pray through the mystery of God's kindness: Matthew 5:44-48, 20:1-16, Romans 5:6-10, Ephesians 2:4-9.