

Sermon Title: Depths of Love- Jonah Week 1

Sermon Scripture: Jonah 1:1-2:10



Sermon Discussion Guide (4/19)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Jonah 1:1-2:10 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

What call does God give to Jonah? How does Jonah respond to this call?

In these verses, how is God understood in relation to creation as seen through the storm, the sea, and the fish? What might God's relationship to creation have to do with how the sailors who have many gods (verse 5) respond to God in verses 13-16?

What are the main themes present in Jonah's prayer in chapter 2? What do these themes reveal to us about the character and activity of God?

Read Psalm 139:7-10. What do these verses reveal about the reach of God's presence? How far does God's presence extend?

Application

Why do you think it can be easy for us to rationalize or justify decisions to try to “run” from God? What do you think we are trying to accomplish? How could a reminder of the endless reach of God’s presence encourage us to leave behind our habits or trying to run from or ignore God?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you tried to run away from or at least delayed acting on a call that God had given to you? How did you experience God pursuing you even as you drifted away or were disobedient to Him?

Jonah experiences God’s grace even through the storm and being thrown into the sea. How can we hold in tension the goodness of God yet also knowing that there will be times when we must face consequences on account of our actions? Has there ever been a time when you have experienced God’s grace while also having to endure the consequences of your actions?

If you are currently in a place of running from God’s call, what is one step you can take this week to turn around and begin moving back to God, trusting that God's love is continuing to pursue you both now and as you begin to return to God?

Prayer

God, we thank You that there is nowhere we can go where Your presence and Your love do not meet us. Even when we run from You, we are still met with Your grace. Thank You for not abandoning us to our own ways, but for continuing to pursue us with mercy and compassion. Give us the courage to stop running and to trust You, even when You call us beyond our comfort zone. Help us to return to You, knowing that You are good and Your will is always better than ours. In Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.