

Pacific Growth Group Sermon Questions

Week of March 19th, 2023

Sermon Series: Jonah

Sermon Theme: "Divine Pursuit?"

Primary Text(s): Jonah 1

1. **Read Jonah.** From your reading and reflection on this passage:
 - a. *What adjectives would you use to describe Jonah?*
 - b. *What can we learn about God's character from this passage?*
2. *How was Jonah portrayed in your early exposure to his story in church?*
3. **Read Nahum 3:1-4.** *Discuss your perspective(s) on the call God issued to Jonah to go to Nineveh considering how the city is described in Nahum 3.*
4. *Share moments in your life when you felt called to do or say something that was challenging. What made the situation so complex? How did you handle the circumstances involved?*
5. Jonah "ran" in the furthest possible direction from home (the place where God spoke to him), and from Nineveh (the place God was calling Him to). *Talk about the times in your life when you ran away from God or a call/command/instruction that He gave to you.*
6. **Jonah 4:2** reads, **"(Jonah) prayed to the Lord, 'Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.'"**
 - a. *This verse teaches that Jonah rebelled against God's decision to show compassion to the Ninevites. As a group talk times in your spiritual journey that you struggled to come to terms with a request God issued to you or an aspect of His perfect character.*
7. Pastor Paula mentioned on Sunday that the Book of Jonah is primarily about the character of a God who pursues His people, even though we don't deserve it. *Discuss the ways you see God's grace in Jonah 1. Additionally, unpack the ways you observe God pursuing Jonah in the passage?*
8. Tim Keller is quoted as saying, "God is both too holy and too loving to either destroy Jonah or to allow Jonah to remain as he is, and God is also too holy and too loving to allow us to remain as we are." *Share with each other your*

recollection of encountering God's grace and love pursuing you in profound ways in your spiritual journeys.

9. *How should God's pursuit of a people group who were as godless/depraved as the Ninevites inform our conceptual approach to embodying the Gospel for the purposes of transformative justice in our spheres of influence as a local church?*
10. NT Wright has stated, "What we all need from time to time is for someone (a friend, a spiritual director, a stranger, a sermon, a verse of Scripture, or simply the inner prompting of the Spirit) to say, "It's time to wake up.""
Share a few actions your group may embrace and take to help each other to stay spiritually awake or be woken as needed.