THE BOOK OF JONAH

1. Jonah's Call

Who enjoys fishing? Those who do like to tell others of the big fish they have caught, often exaggerating the size of their catch! But none can be bigger than the fish we read about in the book of Jonah! Jonah was a prophet who lived about 780 years before Jesus was born. God told him to go to the city of Nineveh to preach to the people living there. Jonah disobeyed and took a ship which was going in the opposite direction. That's when we read about the great fish.

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1:1-17

God called Jonah to go to Nineveh, as we read in Jonah 1:2. However God has called all of us. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In what ways is the call that God gave to Jonah similar to the call he gives to us?

Why do you think Jonah ran away from the Lord? Share your thoughts.

Sometimes we are like Jonah! What are some of the things that hinder us from sharing the gospel with others? How can we overcome these things?

God is concerned for those who are lost. We are told in 2 Peter 3:9, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." The only way they can come to repentance is if they hear the Good News that Jesus died for their sin. Often we are afraid to share with others just as Jonah was. One thing we can do is to pray for one another so that the Holy Spirit will work in and through our lives so that we will be effective as witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What can we pray for one another according to the following verses? Ephesians 6:19-20, Colossians 4:3, Philemon 6.

Let's do that right now! Spend time praying for one another that God will open doors for us to share, and that we will be bold to make the most of those opportunities. Let's not be like Jonah and run in the opposite direction!

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