

Love God? Tell Others!

You Can Run But You Can't Hide

Q. When is the last time you've taken a good look at yourself in the mirror?

..... "If you really love God, are you ready to tell others about Him?"

Jonah 4:1-2

2 Peter 3:9

The book of Jonah is really about the good news of God's character of grace, mercy and love for all people.

The Plan

Genesis 12

Abraham and his descendants of Israel were chosen to be a vehicle of blessings for the nations. Israel's job was to be a prophetic voice, meaning they were to declare truths to guide people towards the goodness of God!

Jonah 1:1-2

How does judgment lead our hearts?

The Path

Jonah 1:3

Jonah is told to go 500 miles east to Nineveh but instead heads 2,500 miles west towards Tarshish. Jonah began running from the Lord before running from the call.

The Pursuit

Jonah 1:4-6

Jonah is not just physically asleep but also spiritually asleep.

Are we awake along our frontline?

Jonah 1:8-10

...If I was one of these sailors there would be at least three things I'd like to say:

“What have you done?”

Getting Back on Track

Jonah 1:11-16

The Heart of Christ in Us

Mark 4:37-41

“Who is this?”

“What are you going to do with Jesus?”

Looking in the Mirror: Three Things to Remember

1. Every step away from God’s Presence takes us down
2. Running is easy, hiding is not
3. Delight in the good news of God’s love

Group Discussion Guide

1. Where is your Nineveh? Can you identify people or personalities you find difficult to love?
2. Often it's the challenging people and places in our lives that force us to grow the most. How is God presently growing the character of love in us for others? Perhaps you can even recall a story where this was done well or not so well!
3. Jonah flees from his responsibility to love God as shown in his reluctance to go to Nineveh, though we know he was given a second chance later on! Are there places in our own life we've run from God's call on our life? What would it look like if we stepped out from hiding and boldly went after what we felt God was asking of us?
4. What happens in our life if we speak truth into the wider culture without God's love abiding in our heart?

Try This: Check out the real life story of *"A Man Called Norman"*, with Mike Adkins. *(Just do a quick internet search and several 45min links are offered for listening.)* It's a heart-warming story of what can happen when we step out to love people who are difficult to love. Both the loved and those called to love find a grace they never expected. Brilliantly told, funny, family friendly and about 45 minutes in length.