



Life Group Questions

Jonah 1:1-6

April 23, 2017

THE BOOK AS A WHOLE

- Please consider reading the whole book of Jonah multiple times as we go throughout this sermon series. There's value to digging deep into one section, but also great value exists in seeing the big picture.
- How does the book of Jonah differ from other prophetic books?¹
- Since Jonah served after the Psalms were written, Jonah the professional prophet would more than likely be well acquainted with them.
- How might Jonah read Psalm 139 after his experience in chapters 1-4?
- How would Jonah read Psalm 42 (especially vs 7)?

THE WORD OF THE LORD (Jonah 1:1)

- Please Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21.
- What does the narrator tell us in verse one with regard to the frequency of "The Word of the Lord" in those days?
- How should that make us feel with regard to what we have?
- How does the word of the Lord impact people (vs 11)?
- How does it impact you?
- Please read Isaiah 6:1-10 and describe Isaiah's response to the word of the Lord when it came to him.
- Again, how should the word of the Lord impact you?
- Do you come ready to hear the scriptures on Sunday mornings?
- How could you prepare yourself in advance?
- What are some practical things you could do to prep the soil for the seed?

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

- Please read Exodus 34:1-9
- Nahum prophesied against Assyria (the Ninevites). How does Nahum 3:1-19 describe these people?
- Is God interested in a group like that? (Please read Joel 2:12-14.)

COMING UNGLUED

- Jonah 1:4 describes the ship as "About to break apart" more literally *Heb* is "the ship seriously considered breaking apart. [This] personifies the ship to emphasize the ferocity of the storm. The NET Bible. Biblical Studies Press. What makes you want to consider coming apart? How might God be using this storm in your life to direct you back to Him?
- As in Jonah, God may graciously send storms our way in order to bring us back to Him or prevent our escape from Him because God does not want us to run away from Him (see Luke 15:11-32).
- When God asks you to do things you're uncomfortable with, which way do you run?
- When storms come, which way do you run?
- What would Jonah say to us today if he could?
- What can we learn from his struggles?

FOOTNOTES

¹ What does the Book of Jonah focus on – the prophet or his message? How much space is devoted to the message of the prophet? How much space is devoted to the character of the prophet?

(continued in next column)