

26–28 February 2021

IGG weekend away

Jonah

Sharing God's heart for the
salvation of the world

Workers track

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Talk 1: Salvation for *who??!!* (1:1–16)

How do we feel about God's salvation plan?

God's salvation plan (in the language of Jonah):

Evil people
From all nations
Who 'turn' and 'call out' to God
Can be saved.

Anger? Apathy? Adoration and action?

In the text:

The LORD sends Jonah to Nineveh... (1:1–2)

...but Jonah disobeys and goes to Tarshish... (1:3; cf 2 Kings 14:25)

...so God judges Jonah, but uses his profession to save the Gentile sailors. (1:4–16)

Jonah claims to 'fear the Lord' (1:9)

The sailors 'call out' to the Lord, and 'fear the Lord exceedingly' (1:16)

To consider:

The Lord of heaven and earth has a salvation plan for all on earth (Matthew 28:18–20)

No matter how evil

All nations are 'calling out'

How do we feel about this plan?

What does our attitude show about our profession that Jesus is Lord?

Breakout rooms discussion question:

Why does Jonah flee to Tarshish? Can we sympathise with him?

Small group discussion questions:

- 1) What have you learned about what the Lord is doing in the world? (5 minutes)
- 2) What are some examples of evildoers in your home countries, or in your current experience? How do we feel about the fact that such people can be saved? (5 minutes)

Talk 2: A reformed character? (1:17–2:10)

How should reflecting on our salvation change our response to God's salvation plan?

In the text:

God appoints a fish to rescue Jonah... (1:17)

...and Jonah reflects on his salvation... (2:1–7)

'I called out to the Lord, and he answered me' (2:2)

...and resolves to worship the Lord... (2:8–9)

'I will sacrifice... what I have vowed...' (2:9)

'those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope' (2:8)

...before the fish vomits Jonah out. (2:10)

Implications:

God has graciously rescued us!

Our response should be:

to offer all to God in worship (like Jonah—2:9)

'Debtors to God' Romans 8:12

to desire the repentance of other sinners (unlike Jonah—2:8)

'Debtors to the lost' Romans 1:14

Breakout rooms discussion question:

What does God's rescue of you as a Christian have in common with Jonah's?

Small group discussion questions:

- 1) How should remembering the way God has rescued us shape our attitude to God? (5 minutes)
- 2) How should it shape our attitude to unbelievers? (5 minutes)

Talk 3: Boundless salvation! (3:1–10)

Have we limited the scope of God's salvation?

In the text:

Jonah is re-commissioned, and calls out... (3:1–4)

...and Nineveh turns dramatically and calls out mightily... (3:5–9)

...and God turns from disaster. (3:10)

Implications:

God wants his salvation to be preached to all kinds of people

All may turn to God, no matter how evil
(possibly in deeper repentance than us!)

God will forgive all who genuinely 'turn' and 'call out' to him

Therefore get behind the preaching of repentance to all

Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations. — Luke 24:46–47 ESVUK

Breakout rooms discussion question:

How do we limit the scope of God's salvation (in our expectations of others/of God)?

Small group discussion questions:

- 1) How do we limit the scope of God's salvation? (4 minutes)
- 2) How might understanding that God's salvation is boundless change our thinking and actions (in London/on our return/supporting mission to the global unreached)? (6 minutes)

Talk 4: Boundless compassion! (4:1–11)

Why might we not share God's heart for the salvation of the world?

The book so far:

- 1:1–16 Jonah is judged, Gentile sailors 'call out' and are saved
- 1:17–2:10 Jonah 'calls out', is saved, and rejoices in his own salvation
- 3:1–10 Ninevites 'call out' and are saved
- 4:1–11 How will Jonah respond to the salvation of others?

In the text:

Jonah reacts angrily... (4:1)

...because of 1) his meanness (4:2–4)

'A gracious God and merciful' etc (4:2b; Exod 34:6)

2) his self-centredness... (4:5–9)

...but should God not desire the salvation of all his creatures? (4:10–11)

...how does this change your reaction, Jonah?

For consideration:

What's been our reaction to God's salvation plan? (anger/apathy/adoration + action)

What do we have in common with Jonah?

What would it look like to see people as God sees them?

How does God's compassion for all change our attitude?

Breakout room discussion question:

What is our reaction to God's plan for the salvation of the world? (anger/apathy/adoration + action)

Small group discussion questions:

- 1) What was defective in Jonah's attitude to lost sinners? (5 minutes)
- 2) What might we have in common with Jonah? (5 minutes)
- 3) How does God's attitude to lost sinners contrast with Jonah's? (5 minutes)
- 4) How would seeing people as God sees them change our thinking and actions? (in London/as we prepare to return/supporting mission to the global unreached) (5 minutes)

Seminar: Gospel challenges and opportunities

1. How has lockdown challenged you in talking about the gospel and have you found yourself being like Jonah?

2. How do you remind and encourage yourself to reach people with the gospel?

3. How have you tried, or are planning to, overcome the challenges to have gospel opportunities with people at this time?

Seminar: Sharing God's heart for all peoples

Why do we often care less about building relationships with unbelievers from other cultures?

Convinced biblically:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" — Revelation 7:9–10 ESVUK

Committed personally:

Attitude

-

-

Action

Three location to consider: _____

-

-

-

What different excuses might we come up with for not _____?

Considered practically:

How do I get from A to B?

What are the key questions to be thinking through?

2030 vision

Further Reading

- Let the Nations be Glad, John Piper
- Missions: How the Local Church goes Global, Andy Johnson
- Missionary biographies—there are many!!
- www.joshuaproject.net / www.operationworld.org

Structure notes

Jonah 1:3 ESVUK

But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.
He went down to Joppa
and found a ship
going to Tarshish.
So he paid the fare
and went down into it,
to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

Jonah 1:4–16 ESVUK

Sailors fear and cry to their gods (1:4–5a)
The sailors hurl the cargo (1:5b)
The captain asks Jonah to call out to the Lord (1:6)
"that we may know on whose account" (1:7)
Sailors question Jonah (1:8)
"I fear" (1:9)
Sailor's fear (1:10a)
Sailors question Jonah (1:11)
"I know it is because of me" (1:12–13)
Sailors 'call out' to the Lord (1:14)
Sailors hurl Jonah into the sea (1:15)
Sailors fear the Lord exceedingly, worship him (1:16)

Jonah 3:3–10 ESVUK

Jonah calls out warning of disaster (3:3–4)
The people all call for a fast, put on sackcloth (3:5)
The King (1) repents (3:6)
He calls for all to fast, put on sackcloth, 'call out' (3:7–9)
The Lord turns from disaster (3:10)

Jonah 4:1–11 (+1) ESVUK

Jonah's response to God's salvation of Nineveh—anger (4:1)
Jonah protests at the Lord's compassion for Nineveh (4:2)
Jonah desires to die (4:3)
The Lord questions Jonah's anger (4:4)
Jonah's delight in the plant—'salvation' (4:5–6)
Jonah's anger at the sun and wind—'judgement' (4:7–8)
The Lord questions Jonah's anger (4:9a)
Jonah is angry enough to die (4:9b)
The Lord defends his compassion for Nineveh (4:10–11)
Will Jonah change, and will you change your response to God's salvation of the world?