

Jonah and the Whale/Fish
Stories We Thought We Knew
Jonah 1-4
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions are intended to use in discussion and application of the past week's sermon.

Listening

What part of the sermon was most helpful to you or challenged you to think and/or live differently? How will you apply this message to your life?

Engaging

With such a generally familiar and also widely contested story, what stands out to you most about the account of the book of Jonah? How would you describe the overall point or message of this relatively short book?

What accounts beyond the book of Jonah have overlaps or echoes of the 'rebellious prophet'? (Hint: You can find at least one in the book of Matthew, chapter 12, although there are definitely others.) Consider being 'resourceful' and doing an internet search – just be mindful of what sites you are drawing from.) How are those stories accentuated because of the multiple story repetition?

Applying

Can you think of examples in your own life where God 'worked in spite of you' (meaning worked around you, worked even when you resisted)? How did that experience make you feel? Did you find that you learned something from that experience?

Jonah's run-away from God mirrors the hiding of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. Many people theologically believe that we cannot hide or run to a place where God cannot find us. So why do we try? Can you relate to these reactions?

Praying

In light of this message and discussion:

How can we pray for each other?
Where do you feel challenged or convicted?
What can we praise God for?
How can we pray for our church?