

Home Church Questions

What's new?

1. What stood out to you from the message on Sunday?
2. Has anything you've experienced in the last month or so been relevant to the message on Sunday?

What do you think?

1. Read Jonah Chapter 1 - 2:1, what stands out to you?
2. What did you think of Jonah's backstory? Does the story change when you re-read it with this new information?
3. How can anger caused by the past, or fear of the future, affect our lives?
4. What are some spiritual alarms that can help us realize if we are 'hitting the snooze button'? (Ex. Lack of motivation to pray.)
5. Why do others always feel the effects of our apathetic choices? How is this seen in our world?
6. How does Jesus' message to, "love your neighbour as yourself", play into question #5?

Huddle + Pray

1. If numbers allow for it, break down into smaller groups and spend a few moments praying for each other. Pray that the people in your group would be able to find a new and fresh love for God.

Jonah

Week #2: Just 5 More Minutes
Faith Community Church // January 13, 2019

Welcome Back

Welcome back to our series on Jonah. The book of Jonah is typically a story that we hear as kids and then don't really reflect on as adults.

In reality, Jonah is less like a children's story and more like late-night television as it's filled with scandal, humour, judgment, and irony. It is a true ancient satire, which exposes the human condition and confronts the sacred cows of our life.

Jonah's Backstory

Jonah served as a religious advisor to Jeroboam II, a notoriously evil king. During the time of Jeroboam's reign, there were four prophets living in the area: Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Jonah.

All of these prophets, with the exception of Jonah, spoke publicly against Jeroboam's evil ways.
(2 Kings 14:23-25; Amos 6:13-14; Amos 7:9-11; 1 Kings 12:31-33; Hosea 1:1)

The Journey of the Soul

The journey from Joppa to Tarshish is a metaphor for Jonah's decision making. Just as Tarshish is the furthest place that he could possibly go, so too will He go to a place far, far beyond his best, true self.

“How can you sleep?”

1. Anger Caused by the Past, and Fear of the Future, can Affect our Lives.

As we saw last week, Jonah is angry with God's command to go and speak to the Ninevites. He does not want to become a prophet to the enemy, but rather continue life as a religious advisor. Jonah's anger towards God begins to manifest itself in his life as apathy and indifference.

Apathy is a protective mask for anger and anxiety, for both anger and anxiety hijack our sense of purpose.

2. Others get Hurt by our Apathetic Choices

Jonah's apathetic choices lead to the creation of a violent storm. It is almost always others who feel the effects of the storms that we create.

One dangerous consequence of our individualistic culture is that we feel so distant from others. Even though we are more connected to others than ever before, we can easily feel like we are living on an island.

As Jesus followers, how does Jesus' counter cultural, “love your neighbour as yourself”, play into this?

“What should we do?”

This chapter is consistently comparing Jonah (the Dove of Faithfulness) and the sailors (Non-Hebrews) as a way to reflect on those who are spiritually awake and those who are dozing off.

While Jonah is becoming an apathetic, relational wrecking ball, these sailors are showing reverence and trust in the Hebrew God.

Jonah and Jesus

Did you know that Jesus quotes Jonah?

In one instance, Jesus is having a dialogue with the religious leaders who are challenging his authority and questioning his value.

This is Jesus' response: “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a beast, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Matt. 12:40)

God became human to absorb all of our apathetic choices into himself - all the decisions that we have made that pull people into our collision course - and he takes the hit, dies, and spends three days in the grave.

As we reflect on this time of communion, may we remember that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the hope for the world that is hitting the snooze button.