

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 4. What stands out to you?
2. What did you think of the "God as a Bank Manager" caricature? Have you ever struggled with this view of God?
3. When is Jonah happy in this story? What does it tell us about him? What do you think of God and Jonah's discussion about the plant?
4. How do we prevent bad days from dictating our present? Refer to the notes.
5. Read the quote from Sarah Montana under "Bad Days Make Things Complicated". What are your thoughts? Why don't you think the Bible give us a step-by-step formula for forgiveness?

Pray

Spend some time praying for each other.

Jonah

Week #4: An Inconvenient Mercy Faith Community Church // January 27, 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.

Today we are looking Jonah's worst day ever! Here are some questions to get us going: How do we deal with our bad days? How do we prevent our bad days from dictating our future?

Jonah's View of God

Jonah's view of God is that of a Bank Manager. If he consistently makes investments to the bank of God with the good things that he does, he should be able to withdraw at any point and God needs to provide him with what he wants.

When we choose to treat God as a Bank Manager, we do ourselves such a disservice.

Jonah says that if God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity, then life is not worth living.

How do we Prevent Bad Days from Dictating our Present?

1. Working Through Bad Days is a Journey

It takes years to think through and learn to live with them.

2. Bad Days Make Things Complicated

Every story is unique. There is no quick fix.

“There are 62 passages in the Bible with the word “forgive”, and there are 27 passages with the word “forgiveness” and none of them actually tell you how to do it.” - Sarah Montana

3. Bad Days Can Almost Never be Fixed

Think about the difference between reconciliation and forgiveness.

Reconciliation is making what is wrong, right. Almost always, reconciliation is not possible as it is completely out of our hands.

Forgiveness is a mindset towards those who have wronged us. It's admitting that what was done will never be made right and engaging with the specific ways that we have been hurt.

4. Bad Days are Made Bearable in Community

We need people to give us the space to talk through our thoughts, be supported, and cared for.

We can be tricked into thinking it's easier to go at it alone, but it's simply not true.

5. Working Through Bad Days is Indeed... Work

It is often choosing not to reflect on the past bad days, which releases us from their control.

Working through bad days takes place in the unseen and the unheard. When people aren't around and we're alone.

6. Working Through Bad Days is Worth it

It is a beautiful gift that we give ourselves and the world around us.

Where do we go from here?

Questions are powerful and Jonah has been a series which leads us to introspection. We've seen elements of Jonah in all of us - the scars from the past or the wounds that have led us to poor decisions. It can make us uncomfortable, but it is in the scars and wounds that we learn who God is and his faithfulness towards us.