

God's Interruptions...

- COME FROM HIS WORD

"The Word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai:" JONAH 1:1 NIV

- REQUIRE A STEP OF FAITH

"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it..." JONAH 1:2A NIV

- OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

"...because its wickedness has come up before Me." JONAH 1:2B NIV

"The Lord ... is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 PETER 3:9 NIV

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."
JEREMIAH 29:7 NIV

Jesus— *"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."*
MATTHEW 5:13A, 14A NIV

- MAY SEEM TOO COSTLY

"But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord." JONAH 1:3 NIV

next week: INTERRUPTED BY THE MISSION OF MERCY

jonah

INTERRUPTED BY THE MESSAGE OF MERCY

03.01.20 | Ron Thompson

"But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'" JONAH 2:9 NIV

"I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love..." JONAH 4:2B NIV

"In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria... He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the Word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through His servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher."

2 KINGS 14:23, 25 NIV

FACTS ABOUT JONAH

JONAH

JEWISH

SON OF AMITTAI

THE PROPHET

GATH HEPHER

"The Word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before Me.' But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord."

JONAH 1:1-3 NIV



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to learn from the Book of Jonah what it is to be interrupted by the message of mercy.

BELONG in God's family:

CHECK IN: (optional) Let's briefly check in with one another. How are you doing?

OPENING PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever felt God calling you into a direction in which you were reluctant to obey? Explain.

BECOME like Jesus:

1. This past Sunday, we were introduced to our new series through the Book of Jonah. What stood out to you from Sunday's message?
2. Read Jonah 1:1-3. What was so unusual about Jonah's call to Ninevah? How did God's call to Ninevah express His mercy?
3. Read Ephesians 2:14-18. How does this passage correspond with the message of Jonah? How does the message to Ninevah reflect the gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. Read Acts 10:23-48. How does Peter's call to Cornelius' house parallel with Jonah's call to Ninevah? How does it differ? Do you think that the

early disciples felt some similar emotions to Jonah's when told to reach out to the Gentiles? Why or why not?

5. Read Matthew 5:43-48 What role does our faith play in being called out of our comfort zones? How does ministering to those that we 'dislike' reflect the mercy of the Father?

BLESS others:

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 and Colossians 1:19-20. How should our reconciliation with God affect those around us? To whom (outside of your comfort zone) can you reach out to and share the mercy of God through the ministry of reconciliation? Why do you think Jonah had such difficulty with this? Do you?

BUILD God's Kingdom:

2 Peter 3:9 assures us that the Lord is patient, and that He doesn't want anyone to perish, but to receive everlasting life. John 3:16 reminds us that God went to great lengths to demonstrate that this is true. How do we cultivate a heart like God's that loves all people so much that we are willing to sacrifice to see them find eternal life?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

Read Luke 14:15-24. What excuses were given in response to the Master's invitation to the marriage supper? Does this passage correlate with our introduction to Jonah? If so, how? Are there any areas of your life that you are resisting the calling of God? If so, bring these areas to God in prayer.

PRAYER: What is a challenge you are facing this week? How can we pray and support you?



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