

God in the Unwanted Storms

1. God in the Unwanted _____

But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea... Jonah 1:4

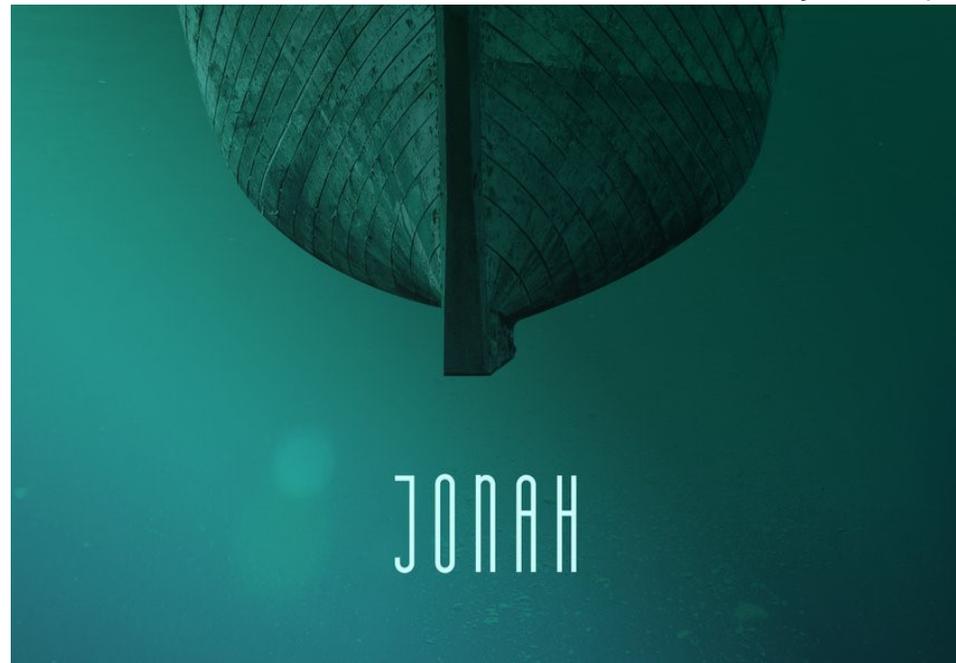
If you know God and you run from His presence and what He has called you to do – that’s called sin.

Storms follow sin. Maybe not literal and not immediately but storms follow sin.

God will discipline and punish sin. (Pr 16:5) The sin itself will to the punishing. (Pr 21:7) Both are true. All sin has a storm attached to it.

God loves you and wants you to turn from your sin before it’s too late, before it destroys a part of your life. God also wants to tell you that if you don’t turn and your life gets tossed and torn by a storm – He’s in the storm WITH you. Offering His mercy to you in and on the other side of the storm.

“Sin always hardens the conscience, locks you in the prison of your own defensiveness and rationalizations, and eats you up slowly from the inside.”
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“... behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.” Numbers 32:23

Learn to trust God in the storm and to get you through the storm because God will use it for your good. (Rom 8:28)

God is in control and greater than the storm. Great works of God come through suffering. God’s mercy is deep inside your storm.

2. God in the Unwanted _____

“So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.” Jonah 1:6

God can use unbelievers to humble His followers and even stir up unbelievers to be a blessing to believers. Compare the sailors with Cyrus king of Persia (Ezra 1:1, Is 45:1-7)

the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing... Ezra 1:1

3. Sin, _____ and the Sleep of Sorrow

But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. Jonah 1:5

“Nineteenth-century Scottish minister Hugh Martin says Jonah was sleeping “the sleep of sorrow.” Many of us know exactly what that is – the desire to escape reality through sleep, even for a little while.” Keller

Jesus is your Savior who says to leave your life of sin and then He went and died for your sin. God’s mercy is always available and a step ahead of your running.

Become a Christ Follower Today

Admit: Sin

Believe: Cross

Choose: To follow Christ

Answers: Storm, People, Depression

Resource: The Prodigal Prophet by Timothy Keller

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Community Group Discussion Questions

Jonah Week 2

“The dismaying news is that every act of disobedience to God has a storm attached to it. We must be careful here. This is not to say that every difficult thing that comes into our lives is the punishment for some particular sin. The Bible does not say that every difficulty is the result of sin – but it does teach that every sin will bring you into difficulty.” The Prodigal Prophet, Keller

Read Jonah 1:4-6

Whether it stems from disillusionment, denial, disobedience or depression, Jonah “sleeps” through the raging storm around him. What situation, present or past, have you “slept” through in an attempt to avoid?

Who or what roused you from your slumber?

Jonah couldn’t have known God would send a storm to get his attention, and then the giant fish. When or how have you experienced God differently than you anticipated?

What illusions about God did you have to acknowledge for yourself or have pointed out to you?

Read Jonah 1:7-19

God used the pagan men (unbelievers) aboard the boat. How does this challenge or affirm your beliefs?

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When asked from where you come and who you are, what is your response?
(v. 8-9)

What gods are you obedient to in your life that have taken precedence over your obedience to God and His purposes? (comfort, emotions, racism, money, success...)

When examining Jonah's actions to expect the sailors to throw him overboard rather than simply jumping into the sea himself, what principle or lesson do you see for a believer?

What storms have you endured that you are able to share as lessons learned and what God revealed about Himself to you?

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