



Sermon Discussion Guide

08.10.25 Message | Tyler Myers | Jonah 1:1-16

Key Scripture (ESV):

"Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. 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."

And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows".

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

1. God's grace often moves in unexpected and radical ways.
 2. Our response to God's presence reveals what lies deepest in us.
 3. Spiritual access doesn't guarantee spiritual power.
 4. We must account for our identity, calling and mission.
 5. God's redemptive plan prevails, even through our failures.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

What was the last situation where you felt totally unprepared or in over your head? How did you respond?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

1. Tyler said during the sermon, "God's grace is sometimes even comical in how it works despite us." Where have you seen this play out in your life?
 2. The message emphasized that our response to God's presence says a lot about us. What response have you noticed in yourself lately?
 3. During the message, Tyler pointed out that everyone is spiritual, but not everyone walks in power. What helps you stay spiritually grounded?
 4. Tyler said we have to give an account for our identity, calling and mission. How are you living that out daily?
 5. Tyler mentioned Jonah checked out, but God's grace still prevailed. When have you felt tempted to check out, and what did God do in that space?
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THINK DEEPER *(Does your group understand the passage?)*

1. Why do you think Jonah fled instead of obeying God's call? (*Jonah 1:3*)
 2. What does the storm symbolize in our own lives when we resist God's leading? (*Jonah 1:4-5*)
 3. Why do you think Jonah was able to sleep during a life-threatening storm? (*Jonah 1:5*)
 4. How does Jonah's confession to the sailors affect their perception of God? (*Jonah 1:9-10*)
 5. What do you notice about the sailors' spiritual transformation throughout the story? (*Jonah 1:14-16*)
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THINK LIFE CHANGE *(Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)*

1. What area are you are running from God's direction in your life?
 2. What part of your life do you try to keep separate from God's presence?
 3. Have you ever had someone confront you about your faith? How did you respond to this? What could you have done differently? Better?
 4. What might it look like to face your spiritual discomfort rather than flee from it?
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THINK ENGAGE *(Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)*

1. Have you ever looked at others as undeserving of God's love (Romans 5:10)? What about the other individual brought you to this thought?
 2. What does God's word say about taking the Word to those we feel are undeserving (Matthew 5:44, Luke 10:25-37)
 3. If God's grace is big enough for even those you would disregard, how can you work to alter your mind to engage those who seem least deserving?
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THINK KINGDOM *(Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)*

1. How does this Jonah story challenge our view of how God reaches people through broken vessels?
2. What does Jonah 1 reveal about God's commitment to bring redemption, even when we resist?