

Taking It Home

The important thing to remember about the book of Jonah is not that he was swallowed by a great fish, but that we have a great God who has so much compassion that he was moved to act on behalf of a people so lost that they couldn't tell their right hand from their left. And God wants us to be moved with compassion for those lost around us also. Like Jonah, we have our 120,000. Will we love them unconditionally as Jesus does, or will we look down on them in judgment and contempt because of their sinfulness? That's the challenge we face. This week, examine your heart about the lost around us, and pray that God will make your heart for the lost like his. Pray about what you can do to support the outreach efforts of Eagle's Nest this year. Information about our outreach plan is available at the Connections Corner at church.



Life group lesson—Jonah Week of 2/15/15

Quick Review:

What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

My Story:

1. Have you ever had a difficult time forgiving someone who had sinned against you or someone you love?

Digging deeper:

This week we looked at the story of Jonah. He was a reluctant prophet called to a mission about which he disagreed with God. God was sending him to the Assyrians to bring the people to repentance. But they were a fierce and dreaded enemy of Israel, a very cruel empire. Jonah feared that if they repented, God would forgive them, and he felt that they weren't deserving of God's forgiveness or favor. So instead Jonah fled from God, choosing rather to be disobedient than be a part of something that seemed to him to be so unfair. He wanted the Assyrians to be punished, not forgiven. But running from God didn't work out for him, and ultimately Jonah delivered God's message and the people repented. God then confronted Jonah about his lack of compassion, because Jonah had been a disobedient and angry servant. The book shows us the depth of God's love for all people and that no one is beyond redemption if they just repent and believe.

1. Read Jonah 1:8-14. Discuss the impact on others of Jonah's decision to flee. How does the pagan sailors' compassion compare to Jonah's?
2. Jonah 1:14 records the prayer of the sailors as they say, "for you, O Lord, have done as you pleased." What is the significance of that statement? Did the sailors recognize a truth about God that Jonah didn't?
3. Read Jonah 2:1-9. What do you see in the prayer—recommitment, thanksgiving, a call for help?
4. What does Jonah 3 say about God and second chances?
5. What does Jonah 4:1-2 reveal about his anger and his previous fleeing from God?
6. What are some of the points God is trying to make to Jonah in chapter 4?