

Day 1

Jonah 1: 1-16

Vocabulary:

Nineveh (Nin –ah-vah): a city in Assyria

against: not with or not for

disobeyed: did not obey

caused: made

preach: give God's message

port: a place where ships come in and go out

fare: money paid for transportation

on board: go on a ship

sailors: people working on the ship

captain: person in charge of the ship

caused: made something happen

cast lots: to use an objects like matches to make a choice

Hebrew: Person from Israel

created: made

The Lord told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh. The Lord wanted Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh that they were doing bad things---things against God. But Jonah didn't want to go. Jonah disobeyed and ran away. He found a ship that was going to a place called Tarshish.

God knew what Jonah did. God sent a strong wind over the sea. The wind caused a storm that almost broke the ship apart. The sailors on the ship were afraid. They began to throw things from the ship to make it lighter.

Read Jonah 1: 1-5 (pg 990)

During the storm, Jonah was asleep. The captain of the ship woke up Jonah. The captain asked Jonah to pray to God to stop the storm.

The sailors thought that someone on the ship caused the storm. They cast lots to find out who caused this trouble. Jonah was chosen.

The sailors asked Jonah what he did that was wrong. Where was he from? Jonah told them that he was a Hebrew. He told them that he believed in God –the God that created the heavens and earth.

Read Jonah 1: 5-9 (pg 990)

Jonah told the sailors that he had run away from God. The sailors asked how they could calm the sea. Jonah said “throw me into the sea and it will become calm.” The sailors didn’t want to throw Jonah in the sea. They tried to row the ship to land. They were afraid that God would blame them if they threw Jonah into the sea. The sailors did throw Jonah into the sea. The sea became calm and the storm stopped. The sailors were thankful to God.

Read Jonah 1: 10-16

Questions:

1. What did God tell Jonah to do?
2. What did Jonah do? Did Jonah obey or disobey God?
3. How did God respond to Jonah’s disobedience? What did Jonah do?

Jonah 1: 17 – 2:10

Vocabulary:

huge: very big

swallow: move something down the throat

drowned: to die in the water

sweeping over me: coming over me

Seaweed: a plant from the sea

sank down: went down

worthless: having no value or importance

grace: free gift

In the sea, a huge fish swallowed Jonah. God had sent this fish. Inside the fish, Jonah prayed to God. Jonah thanked God for hearing his prayers. When Jonah almost drowned in the sea, he called out to God. God heard Jonah's prayer.

God allowed the storm to come. God had the sailors throw Jonah in the sea. Jonah thought his life had ended. But Jonah remembered God. Jonah knew that God would save him.

God made the fish spit Jonah out. Jonah was safe on dry land.

Read Jonah 1: 17 – 2:10

Questions

1. What "trouble" did Jonah have?
2. When did Jonah "remember" God?
3. Some people worshiped worthless statues. They turned away from _____.

Lesson 3

Jonah 3

Vocabulary:

destroyed: ruined; broken apart

announce: tell

warning: to tell about something bad in the future

throne: a place where a king sits

nobles: people of authority

harm: to hurt someone

pity: feel sorry for

Again, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. God had a message for the people of that city. This time Jonah obeyed God. Jonah told the people of Nineveh that the city would be destroyed in 40 days.

The people of Nineveh believed Jonah. They were sorry. The people showed that they were sorry by wearing black clothing. The people also did not eat any food.

Read Jonah 3: 1-5 (pg 991)

The king of Nineveh also heard the message. He was sorry for not following God. The king sent a message to all the people. He told them to show that they were sorry by wearing black clothing and by not eating. He told the people to pray to God. The king told the people to stop their bad behavior.

Read Jonah 3: 6-9

God listened to the people of Nineveh. He saw that they were sorry for their disobedience. God decided to save the city of Nineveh. He did not destroy the city.

Read Jonah 3: 10

Questions

1. God spoke to Jonah again about Nineveh. Did Jonah obey?
What was God's message?
2. When the people of Nineveh heard God's message, what did they do?
3. How did the king of Nineveh respond?
4. Did God destroy Nineveh? Why?

Day 4

Jonah 4

Vocabulary:

angry: to get mad

mercy: to show kindness

exactly: precisely, accurately

gracious: kind

pity: feel sorry for

shelter: a place which gives protection

shade: cover from the sun

When God saved the people of Nineveh, Jonah was angry. Jonah knew that God was loving and caring. He was afraid that God would not destroy Nineveh. Jonah ran away from God because he knew that God would show mercy to Nineveh. Jonah told God that he was angry. Jonah would rather die than have Nineveh saved.

Read Jonah 4: 1-3

God responded by asking why Jonah had the right to be angry. But Jonah ran away again. He left the city of Nineveh. He sat where he could see the city. Jonah got some branches and made a shelter from the heat.

God caused a plant to grow up behind Jonah to help keep the heat away. Jonah was happy to have the plant. It made him very comfortable.

Read Jonah 4: 4-6

Before the next morning, God sent a worm to eat the plant. The plant dried up and no longer made a shade for Jonah. Then God caused a hot wind to come. He also made the sun shine very strongly. It was so hot that Jonah felt sick. Jonah was so uncomfortable that he wanted to die.

Jonah became angry again. This time he was angry that something had destroyed the plant. God asked Jonah why he was angry about the plant. Jonah was concerned about a plant that was alive for only one day. Jonah did not make this plant grow. He didn't water it or take care of it. However, he was still upset that it died.

God showed Jonah that just as Jonah cared about a small plant, God cared even more for the people of Nineveh. Which is more important, a plant or the people of Nineveh?

Jonah 4: 7-11

Questions

1. How did Jonah feel when God saved the people of Nineveh?
2. Why did Jonah run away from God?
3. What did Jonah do when he left Nineveh?
4. What did God use to make Jonah comfortable? What happened to this plant?
5. Why did Jonah get angry again?
6. Why did God cause the plant to die? What lesson did He want Jonah to learn?

Day 5

Matthew 12: 38-41

Vocabulary:

miraculous sign: things that are special which only God can do

grave: a place in the ground where you bury people who die

prophet: a person who receives a message from God and gives this message to other people

unharmd: not hurt

Jesus is God's son who came to tell us about God's love. More importantly, Jesus came to save us so that we can become God's children.

During Jesus' ministry, He talked with Jewish leaders who did not believe in Jesus. One time, the Jewish leaders (called Pharisees) asked Jesus to give them a miraculous sign. Jesus told them that the sign of the prophet Jonah was the most important miracle.

Read Matthew 12: 38-39

Jonah spent 3 days and nights inside a large fish. Afterwards, he was spit out unharmed. Jesus would also spend 3 day and nights but this time it would be in the grave. After 3 days, Jesus would rise from the dead.

The people of Nineveh turned away from their sins when Jonah preached to them. They decided to trust and believe in God. Jesus is more important than Jonah. He not only preached about God but He has the power to save us.

Read Matthew 12: 40-41

Questions

1. What did the Jewish leaders think about Jesus?
2. What is similar about what happened to Jonah and what happened to Jesus?
3. How is Jesus different than Jonah?