

SIN IN JONAH

Jonah 1:1-16

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE ESSENCE OF SIN
2. THE SUBTLETY OF SIN
3. THE EFFECTS OF SIN
4. THE ANSWER TO SIN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. Identity is a huge topic of conversation in our culture and it's one that came up in the sermon on Jonah this week. How would you describe your identity? What are the first things that come to your mind when you try to describe yourself to someone else?
3. In Jonah chapter 1, Jonah chooses to leave the calling God has on his life and decide for himself who he is. This is the essence of sin. But Jonah had a clear calling on his life he could run from. What is God calling you to? How can we make sure we aren't doing the same thing Jonah did?
4. Deciding to control your own life or to "be true to yourself" can feel amazing. It can feel empowering, validating or even fulfilling, at least initially. If that's the case, why is it such a big deal? What does the story of Jonah show us this sort of living leads to?
5. After he "got up" to run from God's presence, we are told that Jonah went down to Joppa, down into the boat, down into the lowest part of the boat and eventually into a "deep sleep". This imagery is a perfect picture of how sin leads us on a slow and steady decent. Pastor Ryan compared this with being anesthetized. What are some ways that anesthesia and sin are similar?
6. God used a violent storm as a wake-up call to turn Jonah's life around. Describe a time when God used a scary, destabilizing event in your life to get your attention. What can we learn from Jonah about how to respond to these types of storms in our lives?
7. Jonah had plans for his life, but God's plans were different. How have God's plans for your life differed from your own? Are you at a point in your life where you trust God's plans over your own? Why or why not?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: Even in the midst of the most terrifying storms, you can be sure that God loves you and is for you because Jesus willingly chose to face the ultimate storm on your behalf. Whatever the reason is for the storm, it can't be that God doesn't love you.