

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOW SHIP

Stuck in the whale - Jonah 1:17-2:10

I. The Story of Jonah

A. Mission

1. Message: Judgement (repentance)
2. Prophet (Jonah), Place (Great city Nineveh), People (wicked Ninevites)

B. Challenges

1. Unwilling prophet
2. Storm, Whale, heat

II. Stuck in the Whale

A. Jonah knew what he was doing

1. He knew what God would do (and so do we)
2. He didn't want grace and mercy for Nineveh (how about you)

B. God knows what He is doing

1. Jonah does what God told Him to do
2. God has the last word

C. The belly of the whale

1. Loss of influence
2. Loss of choice
3. Wallowing in self

D. Why God puts us in the belly of the whale

1. Correction for not following Him
 - a. Circumstantial course correction to put us back on track

- b. Spiritual correction to show Who is in charge
 - a. Jonah still didn't want Nineveh saved
 - b. He did it because God made him
- 2. Do you have a just cause that's not from God?
 - a. Political affiliation that alienates and demonizes others
 - b. Cultural purity that keeps us isolated
 - c. Social justice without mercy
- 3. Are you not acting when you should act?
 - a. Ignoring low pressure opportunities to share faith
 - b. Neglecting the Word of God and prayer
- 4. Simply entangled in sin, unwilling to let go

III. What if God sent you to the nazis? (how bad were the ninevites?)

A. Are you willing to do what God asks regardless of your opinion?

- 1. We don't always know (Prov 14:12)
- 2. We don't want God to pull away from us (1 Peter 5:5-6)
 - a. Do we care about what He cares about?
 - b. Are our cares leading us away from Him?

B. Are you willing to trust God whatever He may ask

- 1. Sometimes He tells us not to act
- 2. Sometimes He has us do things that are uncomfortable

Discussion Cards

- 1. Tell me the story of Jonah
- 2. Why was Jonah in the belly of the whale?
- 3. What is the "belly of the whale"
- 4. Why would God put us in the "belly of the whale?"

Discussion Card 5

Are there times when you don't want to do what God has asked? Why?

Why do we linger in disobedience?

Has God ever done you wrong?

Has God ever put you in the belly of the whale?

What advice would you have for others in the above situations?