

The Upside Down

Prophet

Jonah 1



Discussion questions:

1. Jonah works hard to avoid a task he was commissioned to do...and the God who tasked him with it.
 - a. **In what ways have you found yourself "scheming" to avoid something you knew God was calling you to do?**
 - b. **Where are you tempted to flee when you want to escape God's presence or a difficult commission?**
2. The text emphasizes Jonah's repeated "descent" (*yarad*) into the ship and eventually into a physical and spiritual slumber. **Have you ever experienced a time when your own rebellion or avoidance of God led to a spiritual "slumber" even while a storm was raging around you? What/who woke you up?**
3. Jonah offers a perfect theological confession in 1:9, yet he is actively fleeing the very God he describes as the creator of the sea. Talk about dramatic irony! **How are you most tempted to fall into the trap of a correct "God Creed" without the actions to back it up?**
4. While the prophet sleeps, the pagan sailors are praying, sacrificing, and showing deep concern for "innocent blood". "Unlikely people" are sometimes more responsive to God than those who claim to know Him best. **Who are the "sailors" in your life—unbelievers or unlikely sources—who have modeled a genuine response to God?**
5. Unlike Jonah, who fled from need, Jesus ran toward it. He is the "Better Jonah." **How does Jesus' compassion for the lost help you love better?**
6. The sermon encourages us to be "anti-Jonahs" who approach others with humility rather than phoniness or superiority. **Who in your life are you praying will come to Christ? What is one practical and genuine way to come alongside them this week?**