WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Sermon Title: Jonah in July, Part 1
Key Scripture: Jonah Chapter 1
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/jonah-in-july-part-1
Date + Speaker: July 7, 2024; Pastor Mark Scarr

The BIG IDEA: No matter how far we run, we can never outrun God.

Starter Question:

1. What calling from God have you received in your past or present that has made you wish you could run away from it? Why? (fear, anger, prejudice, doubt, stubbornness…)

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):

2. Read Jonah 1:1-3 What characteristics and values of the people of Nineveh made Jonah feel like the mission from God was out of his comfort zone?
3. What circumstances aligned to potentially cause Jonah to justify his disobedience?

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application)

4. When circumstances align for you to take action, does that guarantee that the action is aligned with God's will?
5. Read Jonah 1:4 Why should we be retrospective during stormy seasons in our lives?
6. Read Jonah 1:5a Do you think as Christians, we often have a self-centered outlook on our sins? Would we be more inclined to obey God if we consistently reminded ourselves that our disobedience will eventually hurt our loved ones?
7. Read Jonah 1:5b. Jonah had disobeyed God but was able to fall into a deep sleep during a storm. What are the results of living a spiritually dead life?
8. Read Jonah 1:6, 11-16 Should you abstain from asking if you can pray for unbelievers, when you notice them going through a crisis?
9. Read Jonah 1:7-10 How can we, as believers, avoid hypocrisy in the eyes of unbelievers and authentically model our faith as true Christians?

Tips for Leaders:

Question 2: Jonah grew up hating the Assyrians and fearing their atrocities. Nineveh was a powerful and wicked city that he did not believe deserved God's mercy. Read Nahum 1-3. The prophet Nahum says that Nineveh was guilty of conspiring against God (Nahum 1:9), exploitation of the helpless (Nahum 2:12), idolatry, prostitution and witchcraft (Nahum 3:4).

Question 3: Aside from Jonah's feelings of fear/anxiety, nationalism, and prejudice, he found a ship going in the opposite direction of Nineveh. He also had the means to board the ship.

Question 5: Sometimes God sends storms to grab our attention to direct us back to the center of His will. The storm could also be God's way of trying to send you a message of His faithfulness at all times.

Question 7: Lack of spiritual conviction, absence of spiritual growth, unable to hear or discern God's voice, a sinful lifestyle, emptiness and lack of purpose, fruitlessness, eternal consequences.

Question 8: Ask how you can pray for them because unbelievers in crisis are often open to prayer. Desperate times can sometimes be a catalyst to draw people to Jesus. Answered prayers become their testimony, which could lead them to become believers. Even if they reject your offer of prayer, you can still pray to God on their behalf.

Question 9:

a) Model your faith according to God's Word.
b) Let your beliefs transcend your behaviors.
c) Show genuine love, rooted in God's love and not in self-service.
d) Stay in the Word.
e) Seek accountability and confess your sins.
f) Be consistent.