




Jonah: Surprising Grace

Jonah 1:1-4

Ray Cortese, January 12 & 13, 2019

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 How familiar are you with the story of Jonah? Have you ever been surprised by grace when you expected the opposite?
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

SURPRISING GRACE: THE MISSION

- 3 What were the Ninevites like? Why was the sending of a prophet by God to Nineveh so surprising?

- 4 Ray said that the mission of God's people is *to take the balm of the gospel to broken people and broken places*. Has your life been defined by this mission? What broken people or places could God use you to reach?

SURPRISING GRACE: THE RESISTANCE

- 5 Why did Jonah flee to Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh? Have you ever been guilty of Jonah-like thinking?
- 6 Discuss the following quote: "You never get where you want to go when you run away from God." Have you ever tried to run away from God? Is there someone you know who is currently trying to run away from God?

SURPRISING GRACE: THE INTERVENTION

- 7 When storms come sometimes people say to God, "I thought you loved me!" What is faulty with that thinking?
- 8 Has God ever used a storm (a difficult circumstance) to intervene in your life?
- 9 In your own words, how is Jesus the greater Jonah? What was the point of the illustration about the adopted boy being pinned to the ground by his mother?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?