




## Jonah: Love Your Neighbor

Jonah 1:4-17

Ray Cortese, January 19 & 20, 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 There is an increasing hostility in our culture towards Christianity? Why do you think that is?
- 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?

#### LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR: INSIDER KNOWLEDGE

- 3 How does the story of Jonah and the sailors reveal that the knowledge of God resides in every person? Read Romans 1:18-21. Is there really such a thing as an "atheist"? Discuss the following quote by Justin Barrett, a senior researcher at the University of Oxford's Centre for Anthropology and Mind: "It appears that we have to be educated out of the knowledge of God by secular schools and media."

- 4 Ray said, “We should never despair for anyone. Everyone is only a storm away from God.” Who did you think of when he said this?

#### LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR: HUMILITY

- 5 Compare Jonah’s actions with those of the sailors. How is this a parable for the church today? Discuss the following quotes:

“Your relationship with God is not for you.”

and

“This is the greatest day to be a Christian.”

- 6 What is “common grace”? Why should it make us humble?

#### LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR: SUBSTITUTIONARY LOVE

- 7 How would you describe “substitutionary love” in your own words? Why is this kind of love so hard for us?

- 8 How does the gospel transform you into someone who *wants* to love their neighbor?

### **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?