

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 1

TOPIC: Jonah – God’s Sovereign Call To Preach The Gospel To All Nations

BIBLE PASSAGES: Jonah 1-4 plus also Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16: 15-18, John 20:21-23, Acts 1:8

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the “Personal Application” section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Jonah was perhaps the first person sent by God specifically to preach to Gentiles to get them to repent. He was a famous prophet in the northern part of Israel, close to King Jeroboam and was in his “comfort zone” preaching to the Jews. Being sent to the enemies of Israel (in Nineveh, capital of Assyria) did not appeal to him, but God used a series of miracles to get Jonah back on track. This short book shows us God’s heart for the nations and for missions. Jesus refers to the book and its events as literally true and as a model for His own ministry and the events of the cross. (Matthew 12:38-41; Matthew 16:4; Luke 11:29-32)

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did God call Jonah to do? (Jonah 1:1-2, 3:1,2)
2. Was Jonah to preach his own philosophy? What was he to declare? (Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1,2)
3. Why do you think Jonah avoided being a missionary? (Jonah 1:3, 3:10-4:3)
4. What did God use to get Jonah back on track? (Jonah 1:4-17) What happens to those who try and avoid God’s specific calling?
5. “And God spoke to the fish...” (Jonah 2:10) If God speaks to fish, will He not also speak to His children, His servants and the “members of His household”? (Ephesians 2:18-22) Should missionaries expect to hear clear and specific instructions from God?

6. What happened when Jonah began to preach? (Jonah 3:1-5)

7. How did the king respond? (Jonah 3:6-9) How can converted leaders assist the spread of the gospel?

8. What was God's response to the repentance of Nineveh? (Jonah 3:10, 4:9-11)

9. Does God care about those who have not yet heard the gospel? (1 Timothy 2:3,4, Romans 10:13-15)

Statistic: About 1.5 billion people have not heard even the name of Jesus! These are mainly Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims in the "10-40 Window". In such places there is no adequate local witness so cross-cultural missionaries to these people groups are still needed!

10. What about those who have not heard? (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Romans 10:1-4, 17,18)

11. What was Jesus' solution to the problem of an unsaved world? (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-18, John 20:21-23, Acts 1:8)

12. Why is it essential that the task of missions be completed? (Revelation 5:9,10, Matthew 24:14)

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS - Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: India