

JONAH'S "ESCAPE"

As preached on Sunday, March 9th

Read: Jonah 1:4-17

1. As we rejoin Jonah's story in v.4 we find that his escape isn't going as planned. Do you think Jonah honestly believed he could out-run God? Are there times when you've felt like you could?
2. Verse 4 tells us that "God sent a great wind on the sea" which caused a violent storm. Do you think God controls the elements of nature in our world today in the same way? Why, or why not?
3. The entire crew panic as the storm threatens to destroy the ship. And yet, they discover Jonah asleep below deck. Why do you think Jonah did that?
4. The sailors are convinced this is more than just a naturally occurring storm. They decide to cast lots to determine who is responsible for this God-sent calamity. What was the purpose of casting lots? Do you think God works in that same way today?
5. Jonah's individual sin of disobedience impacted everyone on the ship. In what ways do our own individual sins/mistakes affect our whole faith community?
6. In this movement of the Jonah story, the righteous prophet learns something about God from the unrighteous sailors on board. How can Jesus-followers in today's world remain open to learning more even from unlikely people and situations?
7. Both the storm and the great fish are examples of God's pursuing love and mercy. In what ways do you see God's pursuing love and mercy at work in your life?