

Begin with prayer:

To begin with, pray. Ask God to teach you about Himself from his word.

Picking up from where we left off:

Whilst inside the big fish God disciplined Jonah. He did so by providing that which is good in the sight of God despite Jonah’s disobedience. God caused Jonah to remember Scripture and to use the Bible to shape his prayer (i.e. Psalm 18:6; 116 and Deuteronomy 32:21). Recall what he learnt about God, himself and maybe the people of Nineveh.

Read Jonah 3:1-10:

Questions:

1. What did God command of Jonah? (Verses 1 and 2) In the context of the story so far, what do you learn about God from these two verses?
2. How did the people of Nineveh respond to God through the preaching of Jonah? (verses 3 to 10)
 They b_____ God (See verse 5)
 They f_____ and p_____ on s_____ (See verse 5)
Note: Putting on sackcloth was an outward sign of repentance, a deep humble and sincere regret for actions done or not done.
 What else did they do at the king’s command?
 They p_____ (see verse 8)
 They gave up _____ (see verse 8)
 They trusted G_____ to r_____ and have c_____ on them. (See verse 9)
3. When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, what did God do? (see verse 10) What does this teach you about God?

Unlike Jonah, Jesus was no reluctant messenger of God. Read the third of the parables Jesus spoke regarding God’s desire for all people to be saved of a father and a son.

Read Luke 15:11-24:

Questions:

4. Compare the actions of the younger son to that of possibly the people of Nineveh and Jonah. (See verses 11 to 13)
5. Describe the stages involved in this son’s “coming to his senses”. What do you understand that to mean for him? What do we learn about this son as he thinks on his father and returning to go home? (See verses 14 to 21)
6. What do we learn about the father in this parable? How does he respond to his youngest son? (See verses 20 to 24)
7. God is like the father in the parable. We the younger son. Think on God and yourself. What do you learn about your heavenly Father and yourself from this parable?

Contemplate:

Jesus used what the generation of the people of Nineveh did as a warning and example not only to the Jews of his time but for all people. Read and listen to what Jesus said in Matthew Chapter 12 verse 38-41 and in Luke 11 verses 29-32. What do you understand Jesus to be saying?

Finally, reread Luke 15 verses 22 to 25. Identifying with the servants, what does God expect of us to do when people repent, receive God’s forgiveness and welcome? What about at your own repentance, forgiveness and welcome?

Finish with prayer:

Think on what you have learnt about God and thank him in a prayer.

This Bible Study is such that it can be done on one’s own or with others in a Bible Study Group - even around the table at home. It’s designed to help you to remember the sermon, grow in your knowledge and love of God, appreciate your fellowship with other believers and to take your part in the life of the Church as followers of Jesus Christ.
 Rev Trevor Young – Senior Minister Abbotsford Anglican
