

Home group questions Jonah 1.1-4 (Luke 14.25-35)

1. Let's start with a discussion of the varying views of Jonah that may be expressed in the group. What do you make of the story? Do you believe it as truth or allegory? Does it matter? (Please try not to spend too long on this one!)
2. Quietly consider your 'proximity' to God. Have you moved closer to Him or further from Him recently? What's effected the change? It would be good if one or two people felt able to share the background to their feelings about this.
3. What kinds of things make us inclined to run from God? Can we recall times when we've done so?
4. If we're honest, would we sometimes prefer God to exercise vengeance rather than mercy? What kinds of situation might induce that attitude in us? Could that mindset ever be justified?
5. Jesus, quoting Isaiah 56.7 said 'my house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'. Do we spend time praying for our world? If the answer's 'no', why not?
6. Have you ever rationalised a wrong decision before God? What kinds of arguments have you rehearsed? Have you ever convinced yourself? (Really!)
7. Consider the challenges that face you at present. What makes you more or less willing to embrace them?
8. What obstacles lie in the way of you taking the next step you believe the Lord is calling you to?
9. Are you 'too busy' to make serious time for God? What changes could you realistically make that would allow you to spend a little more time with Him each day? Consider being accountable to someone (perhaps someone in the group) for this.
10. Thank God that He sees us through the prism of our perfect Saviour. Thank Him that we are under grace, and that He is the God of new beginnings, no matter how often we fail Him.

Pray for one another, especially about 6), 7) and 8).