

## Jonah 1:1-16 The Reluctant Evangelist

What are some of the excuses people sometimes have for not wanting to share their faith with others?

*Read Jonah 1:1-16*

1. What is Jonah's call and what is his response?

b) Compare the way Jonah interacts with God in verses 1-3 with the way Moses (Ex 3:1-14; 4:10-17), and Jeremiah (Jer 1:1-10) interact with God? How is it similar? How is it different?

2. Israel at the time of Jonah – read 2 Kings 14:23-25

Jonah was a Prophet in the northern tribes of Israel. At this time Israel looked pretty prosperous and politically stable, not at war with other nations, but Israel had moved away from God. They were proud and arrogant. They refused to listen and their hearts were a long way from God.

3. Assyria (Capital Nineveh) at the time of Jonah – they were superpower in the world, but a wild and brutal bunch. They had gained a wide reputation for their disgusting war practices, and their relationship with Israel was far from good. The Israelites hated their northern neighbors and this is the nation Jonah was called to preach.

Read Nahum 1:1-15 What picture do you get of Nineveh from this passage?

4. Jonah was reluctant to go to Nineveh and ran for Tarshish. Read 2 Chronicles 9:21 and Isaiah 66:19, what can you discover about Tarshish and why do you think Jonah wanted to flee there?

5. List the different attitudes of the Sailors and Jonah to:

a) The Storm

b) The gods/ God

6. Jonah claimed to worship the Lord in verse 9 but his actions showed otherwise, What evidence in the passage reveals his hard heart?

7. Why do the Sailors worship the Lord in a better way than Jonah in this chapter?

8. Why did God send Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh seeing they were a foreign nation? Here are three possible reasons: Evaluate them and list which you think is the most likely and why?

1. To make Israel Jealous: If Israel sees the Ninevites respond to God's Word then they will realise how stupid they have been to harden their hearts toward God.

2. God's plan was to bless the Nations: God's promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:3), said the whole world would be blessed. Jonah's preaching to the Gentiles is another step in the fulfilment of God's plan.

3. As a forerunner to Jesus: Jonah is a forerunner to Jesus – the one who would bring BLESSING to the whole world.

9. How does this chapter point us to Jesus and the gospel?

10. What is the right response when feeling fear to speak for God or fearing people? Also *Read Acts 4: 18-31*

11. We are quick to judge Jonah, but to what extent are you like him, particularly in the area of sharing His Word with others? What do you need to do about that?

Pray for the Seeing Jesus Clearly Diocesan Mission happening in 2019/20. Pray for family and friends who still don't know Jesus yet. Pray for our upcoming Special Parish Dinner on Wed 27 Feb.