Opening

Gathering: Who is your greatest enemy today? How might God want to use you to give them His blessing?

Today’s Focus: Jonah rejected God’s call because he didn’t want to save his enemy. God called him a second time to show Jonah that he was blessed to be a blessing.

Key Verses:

*The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”* Galatians 3:8

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction He had planned. Jonah 3:10

Opening Prayer

Lesson

God’s Prophets *(2 Kings 17:7-15)*

- How faithful were God’s chosen people – the Israelites? 2 Kings 17:7-12
- How did God respond to their rejection? 2 Kings 17:13
- Did the Israelites return to faithfulness when God sent His prophets to call them back? 2 Kings 17:14-15

God’s People *(Amos 7:12-13)*

- Why didn’t the Israelites listen to God’s prophets and follow their call to be faithful? Micah 2:6
- Why did Israel feel so secure? Amos 7:12-13
- How did God respond to Israel’s feeling of superiority? Amos 9:7
- How did Jesus respond to the Jews’ arrogance as descendants of Abraham? Matthew 3:9

God’s Chosen People *(Galatians 3)*

- But hadn’t God excluded non-Jews from His people when He called Abraham? Genesis 12:1-3
- Wasn’t God only the God of the Jews? Romans 3:29-30 (10:12-15)
- What about God’s promise being specifically for the descendants of Abraham? Galatians 3:7-9
- How do we, as non-Jews, receive the promise given to Abraham? Galatians 3:14, 29
News to Christians  *(Acts 11)*

How did the early church respond when Peter baptized the Roman, Cornelius?  
Acts 11:1-3  
What great understanding did they gain after Peter told his story?  
Acts 11:18

Jonah's Times  *(Jonah 1:1)*

Who was Jonah?  
Jonah 1:1  
At what time in Israel's history did Jonah prophesy?  
2 Kings 14:23, 25  
What world power was Israel's biggest threat?  
2 Kings 15:19  
For what did the Israelites dream?  
Micah 5:5-6  
Why is it called the land of Nimrod?  
Genesis 10:8-12

Jonah's Call  *(Jonah 1:1-3)*

What was God's mission for Jonah?  
Jonah 1:2  
What would happen if they listened to Jonah and turned from evil?  
Ezekiel 18:21, 23

You Can Run But You Cannot Hide  *(Jonah 1:3-6)*

How did Jonah feel about being God's messenger of grace to Assyria?  
Jonah 1:3  
How easily could Jonah run away and hide from God?  
Jeremiah 23:23-24  
Did Jonah really feel he could run away and hide from God?  
Jonah 1:4-6

Rough Seas Away From God  *(Jonah 1:7-16)*

How did the sailors determine Jonah was responsible for the calamity?  
Jonah 1:7  (Proverbs 16:33)  
Were they upset with Jonah when they learned that he was responsible for this trouble?  
Jonah 1:8-10  
How would they be able to calm this storm?  
Jonah 1:11-12  
How quickly did the sailors follow Jonah's instructions?  
Jonah 1:13-15  
What effect did this event have on the sailors?  
Jonah 1:16
The Fish  (*Jonah 2*)

How did God protect Jonah from the sea to be able to fulfill his mission?
Jonah 1:17; 2:10

Fish Notes:
- Not a whale - Extremely rare in Mediterranean, throat too small to swallow a man
- Probably a *Requin* shark - Common in Mediterranean to 25' long, large throat
  - Deep water, Very voracious, swallows everything it finds; Whole horse was found in one
- 1758 - One swallowed an overboard sailor, captain shot with cannonball, man vomited up alive

What was significant about the time Jonah remained in the fish?
Matthew 12:38-40 (16:4)

How did Jonah pass the time in the fish?
Jonah 2:1 (2-9)

Jonah's Mission  (*Jonah 3:1-4*)

How did God's mission for Jonah change after his display of faithlessness?
Jonah 3:1-2

How did Jonah respond this second time?
Jonah 3:3-4

How did Jonah know what to say?
Jonah 3:2

Jonah's Impact  (*Jonah 3:5-10*)

How had the Israelites treated God's prophets who called for repentance?
1 Kings 19:10

Did the evil Ninevites reject Jonah's message and attempt to harm him?
Jonah 3:5

How seriously were the Ninevites in responding to God's warning?
Jonah 3:6-9

How did God respond to their acceptance of His call?
Jonah 3:10

Jonah's Celebration of Success  (*Jonah 4:1-5*)

How thrilled was Jonah that his mission had been successful?
Jonah 4:1

Why did he react this way?
Jonah 4:2

What did he do?
Jonah 4:3-5

Jonah's Object Lesson  (*Jonah 4:6-7*)

What miracle did God perform to teach Jonah a lesson?
Jonah 4:6-7

Probably *Elkeroa* - Common shrub in Palestine, grows in sandy places
  - Broad vine-like leaves with dense shadow; Grows very quickly in matter of days

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Jonah's Misplaced Concern  *(Jonah 4:8-11)*

How did this affect Jonah?  
Jonah 4:8-9

What was God's message through the vine?  
Jonah 4:10-11

Note:  *Cannot tell their right hand from their left* is a phrase that referred to small kids  
120,000 innocent kids under 7 leads to around 600,000 people in city

Closing Prayer

**Response**  -  Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I acted like God’s rules didn’t apply to me?  
 *(Psalm 119:43-48; Matthew 5:17-19; 28:19-20; Luke 11:28; John 14:15; Romans 6; 1 Timothy 1:9)*

2. How have I acted superior or more important than others?  
 *(Proverbs 8:13; Matthew 23; John 13:1-17; Romans 12:3-8; Galatians 6:3-5)*

3. How do others recognize that I am part of God’s chosen family?  
 *(Exodus 19:4-6; Matthew 27:69-75; Romans 11:13-14; Gal. 5:22-25; 1 Peter 3:1-2; 1 John 4:2-6)*

4. How has God rescued me in ways that didn’t seem like salvation at the time?  
 *(Jonah 1:17; 2:10; Genesis 50:20; Esther 4:14; Isaiah 55:8; Hebrews 12:5-11)*

5. When have I been jealous of or upset with the success or blessings of others?  
 *(Jonah 4:1-4; Proverbs 23:17; Matthew 20:1-16; Mark 7:20-23; John 21:20-22)*

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**Minor Prophets Timeline**

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<td>Worshipper of YHVH</td>
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<td>Against Edom</td>
<td>Edom had continual violence toward Jacob. Edom cheered when Judah taken captive.</td>
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<td>Joel</td>
<td>YHVH is God</td>
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<td>765-725</td>
<td>Hoshea</td>
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<td>760</td>
<td>Amos</td>
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<td>Micah</td>
<td>Who is like YHVH?</td>
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<td>Samaria, Jerusalem and then the whole earth</td>
<td>Lack of justice in the land, injustice, oppression</td>
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<td>Nahum</td>
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<td>Hidden by YHVH</td>
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<td>Judah, Jerusalem, Israel and all peoples, warning them of the Day of the Lord</td>
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<td>Habakkuk</td>
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<td>Aggression/plunder, Greed/self-assertion, Graft/violence in building Inhumanity, Idolatry</td>
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<td>520</td>
<td>Haggai</td>
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<td>Zerubbabel, Joshua and the returned remnant</td>
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<td>420-400</td>
<td>Malachi</td>
<td>My Messenger</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Israel (12 tribes) and Israel of God today (Church)</td>
<td>Priests neglecting duties. People chided for divorce, adultery, robbing God and criticizing.</td>
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