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 = They rejected God and worshiped idols

How did God respond to their rejection?
2 Kings 17:13 = He sent many prophets to call them back to faithfulness in Him

Did the Israelites return to faithfulness when God sent His prophets to call them back?
2 Kings 17:14-15 = They wouldn't listen and grew more unfaithful

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 = They believed that disgrace will not overtake us

Why did Israel feel so secure?
Amos 7:12-13 = They were God's chosen, God wouldn't harm them

How did God respond to Israel's feeling of superiority?
Amos 9:7 = Aren't you Israelites the same to me as the Cushites?

How did Jesus respond to the Jews' arrogance as descendants of Abraham?
Matthew 3:9 = Out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham

God’s Chosen People (Galatians 3)

But hadn't God excluded non-Jews from His people when He called Abraham? = all peoples blessed
Genesis 12:1-3 = No, He specially blessed the Jews so they would be blessings to others

Wasn't God only the God of the Jews?
Romans 3:29-30 (10:12-15) = No, He is the God of all creation and all people

What about God's promise being specifically for the descendants of Abraham?
Galatians 3:7-9 = Those who believe are children of Abraham

How do we, as non-Jews, receive the promise given to Abraham?
Galatians 3:14, 29 = If you belong to Christ, then you are ... heirs to the promise
News to Christians  *(Acts 11)*

How did the early church respond when Peter baptized the Roman, Cornelius?

Acts 11:1-3 = They criticized him for associating with Gentiles

What great understanding did they gain after Peter told his story?

Acts 11:18 = God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life

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

Who was Jonah?

Jonah 1:1 = Son of Amittai, From Gath-Hepher in Zebulun, north of Nazareth (2 Kings 14:25)

At what time in Israel's history did Jonah prophesy?

2 Kings 14:23, 25 = During Jeroboam II of Israel, Between Elisha & Amos/Hosea

What world power was Israel's biggest threat? = Menahem ruled 7 months after Jeroboam II

2 Kings 15:19 = Assyria (1000 talents = 37 tons), reputation for incredible brutality

For what did the Israelites dream?

Micah 5:5-6 = Destruction of and deliverance from Assyria

Why is it called the land of Nimrod?

Genesis 10:8-12 = Cush's son, Nimrod, built Nineveh (Assyria's capital)

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

What was God's mission for Jonah?

Jonah 1:2 = To preach in Nineveh and call them to repentance

What would happen if they listened to Jonah and turned from evil?

Ezekiel 18:21, 23 = They would be forgiven and not be destroyed

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 = He tried to run away from God, Tarshish (Spain) was western end of the world

How easily could Jonah run away and hide from God?

Jeremiah 23:23-24 = God fills heaven & earth, near & far, no secret places to hide

Did Jonah really feel he could run away and hide from God?

Jonah 1:4-6 = Apparently; he slept while God was getting his attention with a storm

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) = They cast lots to learn God's answer

Were they upset with Jonah when they learned that he was responsible for this trouble?

Jonah 1:8-10 = No, they were afraid & wondered what he could have done to draw God's wrath

How would they be able to calm this storm?

Jonah 1:11-12 = Throw Jonah into the sea

How quickly did the sailors follow Jonah's instructions?

Jonah 1:13-15 = First tried to row to land, prayed for innocence before throwing Jonah in

What effect did this event have on the sailors?

Jonah 1:16 = It built their faith, they sacrificed & made vows
The Fish (Jonah 2)

How did God protect Jonah from the sea to be able to fulfill his mission?
Jonah 1:17; 2:10 = The Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, Spit him out on land

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) = Christ to lie 3 days in heart of earth
How did Jonah pass the time in the fish? = Concluded that Salvation comes from the LORD
Jonah 2:1 (2-9) = He prayed prayers of thanksgiving for rescue

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

How did God's mission for Jonah change after his display of faithlessness?
Jonah 3:1-2 = It didn't. Shows God's patience & grace; man can't harm God's plan
How did Jonah respond this second time? = Greater Ninevah was 60 miles circumference (3 days walk)
Jonah 3:3-4 = He obeyed and went, warned of destruction in 40 days
How did Jonah know what to say?
Jonah 3:2 = God told him, just like all of God's other prophets

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

How had the Israelites treated God's prophets who called for repentance?
1 Kings 19:10 = They rejected and killed them
Did the evil Ninevites reject Jonah's message and attempt to harm him?
Jonah 3:5 = No, they believed, fasted and humbled themselves before God
How seriously were the Ninevites in responding to God's warning?
Jonah 3:6-9 = Even the king responded and issued a decree for all to repent and turn to God
How did God respond to their acceptance of His call?
Jonah 3:10 = He had compassion & didn't bring upon them the destruction he had threatened

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

How thrilled was Jonah that his mission had been successful?
Jonah 4:1 = Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry
Why did he react this way?
Jonah 4:2 = He was afraid this would happen; he didn't want Nineveh to be saved
What did he do?
Jonah 4:3-5 = Made a lean-to on a hill hoping to see destruction

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

What miracle did God perform to teach Jonah a lesson?
Jonah 4:6-7 = Made bush grow to give shade, then had worm kill it
probably Elkeroa - Common shrub in Palestine, grows in sandy places
  - Broad vine-like leaves with dense shadow; Grows very quickly in matter of days
Jonah's Misplaced Concern (Jonah 4:8-11)

How did this affect Jonah?
Jonah 4:8-9 = He became very angry and even wished to die

What was God's message through the vine? = God is concerned & gives His grace to His creation
Jonah 4:10-11 = Jonah was much more concerned over vine than innocent in city

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)

Minor Prophets Timeline

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<th>Date (B.C.)</th>
<th>Bible Book</th>
<th>Meaning of Name</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<td>840-830</td>
<td>Obadiah</td>
<td>Worshipper of YHVH</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Against Edom</td>
<td>Edom had continual violence toward Jacob. Edom cheered when Judah taken captive.</td>
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<td>830-750</td>
<td>Joel</td>
<td>YHVH is God</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Israel, Northern Kingdom</td>
<td>Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness.</td>
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<td>780-740</td>
<td>Jonah</td>
<td>Dove</td>
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<td>Nineveh, implications for all peoples</td>
<td>Cruelty of the Assyrians</td>
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<td>765-725</td>
<td>Hosea</td>
<td>Salvation</td>
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<td>Israel, Northern Kingdom</td>
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<td>760</td>
<td>Amos</td>
<td>Burden Bearer</td>
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<td>Israel, Judah and Benjamin. All Nations.</td>
<td>Oppression of the poor, Sexual Immorality, Wanton Luxury, Corruption of law &amp; men</td>
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<td>740-700</td>
<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>640-620</td>
<td>Nahum</td>
<td>Consolation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Assyrians, primarily the city of Nineveh</td>
<td>Cruelty of the Assyrians, overstepped boundaries</td>
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<td>640-609</td>
<td>Zephaniah</td>
<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>
<td>Spiritual fornication</td>
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<td>608-605</td>
<td>Habakkuk</td>
<td>Embrace</td>
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<td>Babylon, implications for all peoples</td>
<td>Aggression/plunder, Greed/self-assertion, Graft/violence in building Inhumanity, Idolatry</td>
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<td>520</td>
<td>Haggai</td>
<td>Festival</td>
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<td>Zerubbabel, Joshua and the returned remnant</td>
<td>Neglect in building God's House. Procrastination.</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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from www.biblestudy.org/prophecy/minor-prophets.html

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com