

Jonah 1 – Summer 2012 - Week beginning 5th August 2012

Home group / Study notes: Running away

Sunday Lessons – Jonah 1:1-16; Psalm 139 (parts); References to Luke 9:57-62; Luke 14:15-24

Background to Jonah

Explore 2 Kings 14:25 to understand the historical setting

Explore the book of Nahum to understand the state of Nineveh

Jonah 1:1-3



Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?

What is the significance of him paying a fare?

Do you think he had any positive reason to go to Tarshish?

Jonah 1:4-7



What purpose does the storm serve in the story?

What is the significance of Jonah being asleep?

Can we always assume that bad things in our lives are a sign from God that we are not doing his will?

Jonah 1:8-12

How good are we at responding like Jonah did in v 9?

Note how honest Jonah is about running away from God. Are we as quick to recognise that we do the same?

Jonah 1:12-16



Why are the sailors reluctant to throw Jonah overboard??

Can you think of examples of when people continue to convince themselves that they can decide what the correct course of action is?

Why do the sailors make vows to God?

Psalm 139 - Read the whole psalm and consider how it makes you feel:

- Is it reassuring or daunting?
- Is it about wanting to hide from God or acknowledgement that you can't?
- Does it mean that God has predetermined everything we do, or is he just observing?

Luke 9:57-62 -

Are there things you hold on to too much to allow you to move forward with Jesus?

What does verse 58 imply about being too cosy in our nests?

Luke 14:15-24

What is equivalent to buying a field, or trying out new oxen, in today's terms?

Does verse 20 imply we should not be married?

Is it ever too late to turn up to the banquet?

In preparation for next week read **Matthew 12:38-41**