

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

January 3rd, 2010

Focus: To examine Jonah's reluctance to go where God is sending him and to look for parallels in our own lives.

The Book of Jonah Why Didn't Jonah Want to Go? Lesson #1

Introduction: Many of us have heard this story dozens of times since we were small children. Let's begin tonight remembering the story.

- Someone tell us the general story of Jonah.
- Share with the group your perception of this prophet and your rationale for that perception.
- What is this book really about?

Text: Jonah 1

- Read chapter 1 one discuss your initial thoughts.
- Discuss the characters and cities we find in this text.
- Spend the next few minutes talking about the state of the world at this time...
 1. What was the state of Israel during this period?
 2. Where was Nineveh located and what was its importance in the world?
 3. Discuss connections to Amos and Hosea.
- So why do you believe Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh?
- What are we learning about God here?

Application: Some are quick to criticize Jonah for running away from God but Jonah had good reasons didn't he!

- Discuss how we in our culture run away from God?
- Share some of the "good excuses" we can use to not follow where He leads us.
- Is there anything God is asking you to do this New Year that you are apprehensive about?
- How might we as a group help you 'go to Nineveh' this year?
- Conclude tonight contemplating this God we serve who loves all and wants to use us to reach them.