

JONAH ON MISSION

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Week 3

Introduction:

God is already on mission and calls us to join him.

Jonah had been through an ordeal and was now ready for mission.

The purpose for Jonah was to understand God's grace. He wants to reach the people of the whole world.

What is mission?

Introducing other people, even evil people, to Jesus and what He's done.

In the Old Testament, Israel was the centre. That all changes in the New Testament. There was a massive change after the resurrection. Jesus said, (paraphrase) "All authority just been given to me! Therefore I want you to go... I will be with you!"

Our commission is to get moving with the gospel. Our mission is going wide with the gospel. Go wide with Mission and deep with Discipleship.

'The gospel is a happiness message.'

It's not about what you have to do, it's about what Jesus has already done. You must believe it, repent and follow Him.

The Lord wants us to take this glorious gospel around the globe. God is at work to get the message of Jesus out there. The way we do church must be shaped by Mission - not just gathering but going.

Is our church focused there?

- Are we clear on the gospel and is it at the centre?
- How do we reach the city?
- Is our church for Christians only or is it open to unbelievers?

Things to consider:

- Ramp up hospitality!
- Change our language in our meetings. Visitors must not feel alien.
- Edify believers and evangelise unbelievers in our preaching
- Do relevant teaching series. We must be a counter-cultural people.
- Your giving is missional ammunition.

1. Jonah was given a message. We have a better message – a gospel message about the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ.

2. We have a market – reach the cities of the world – if you reach city you reach the nation.

Will Christian Centre take on the assignment of reaching the city?

Idea: Prayer walks in Nompumelelo – all together

3. We have a method.

What was Jonah's method or strategy? He was sent. He had to go. Where – to that great city. He was on-site/local/involved/deployed.

4. We have 3 powerful tools!

- Gospel and the Holy Spirit
- Testimony
- Existing social networks in the city

So pray, pick a few and prioritise. Be intentional about a relationship with them. Pray over your phone contacts - family neighbours colleagues. We need to see people; make friends like Andrew the disciple. Practise the art of getting to know people. Be present. Make time for them. Have conversations - ask them questions about themselves. Build bridges that you can drive the gospel over.

Conclusion:

Gospel is fuel for mission.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – 21 NKJV

17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

*20Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you **on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.** 21For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*