

GIVE YOURSELF AWAY

Part 4: Going to Great Depths

Pastor Grant Fishbook

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God calls for action

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." – *Jonah 1:1-2*

Jonah gives himself away to fear

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. – *Jonah 1:3*

God pursues

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. – *Jonah 1:4*

Life Lesson: You can't escape God.

Jonah gives himself away to drowning

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him. – *Jonah 1:15-16*

God provides

But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. – *Jonah 1:17*

Jonah gives himself away in prayer

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry... Salvation comes from the Lord." – *Jonah 2:1-2 and 9*

Life Lesson: God will go to great depths to show his mercy.

God persists

And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." – *Jonah 2:10-3:2*

Jonah gives himself away to obedience

Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. – *Jonah 3:3*

Life Lesson: Obedience matters to God.

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God provides salvation

The Ninevites believed God... 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 threatened. – *Jonah 3:5 and 10*

Jonah gives himself away to disappointment

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." – *Jonah 4:1-3*

Life Lesson: Always remember the grace that saved you.

God gives perspective

But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?" – *Jonah 4:10-11*

Life Lesson: People matter to God.

Next Steps

- If you're a believer who's never been baptized, **attend a baptism class and get baptized**, both on the weekend of February 13 & 14. Details in today's program; sign up today at the Connection Point.
- **Attend the Arrows Out Conference on Saturday, February 27** to refocus your vision for reaching the lost and broken of Whatcom County and beyond. Details in today's program; register online at arrowsout.com.

On Your Way Home

Look around on your way home with the city of Ninevah in mind. Do you see people or homes or businesses that clearly need God's saving grace? Do you truly believe that God's heart is to seek and save that which is lost, or have you been running from the thought of reaching out to those who oppose God?

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) What's the fastest or furthest you have ever run? Why were you running so fast or so far?
- 2) Have you ever run from God? Why were you running? How far did you get?
- 3) Have you ever been disappointed in God? What happened? Have those feelings changed over time?
- 4) Read Jonah 4. How do you honestly feel about God's tactic and Jonah's response?
- 5) Which of the life lessons is God teaching you right now?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?