

Friday

Read Jonah chapter 4. Think about it: Is there anyone in your life — or any group or individual in the world — that you would struggle with seeing in heaven? If so, why?

Read Matthew 18:23–35. How is Christ's parable similar to the lesson of the last chapter of Jonah?

What is the final sentence of Jonah?

Why do you suppose the author of Jonah leaves us with Jonah angry at God, and God's question to him, rather than resolving the book happily?

Thank God today for His mercy on you! Ask Him to help you extend the same grace to others even as you tell them the complete gospel.

Saturday

Today, meditate on God's power to forgive you even when you bring the storms in your life on yourself. Thank Him for His grace! Please pray for the weekend services. Thanks!



WEEK 5

Jonah

July 10 & 11, 2010 • René Schlaepfer

Phases of Failure and Recovery:

1. The _____ Phase

The word of the LORD came to Jonah... "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. 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 1:1–3*

2. The _____ Phase

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god... *Jonah 1:4–5a*

Four Typical Reactions to Moral Failure (Dr. Gary Oliver)

- _____

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. *Jonah 1:5b*

- _____

Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." ...The lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us?" *Jonah 1:6–8*

- _____

He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." *Jonah 1:9*

- _____

The sea was getting rougher and rougher... "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," Jonah said... I know that it is my fault..." *Jonah 1:11*

3. The _____ Phase

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm... But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. *Jonah 1:15, 17*

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... The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head." *Jonah 2:1–2, 5*

over

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you... Salvation comes from the LORD.” *Jonah 2:8–9*

4. The _____ Phase

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 obeyed the word of the LORD... *Jonah 3:1–3a*

When God saw ...how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them destruction... But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed... “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...” *Jonah 3:10; 4:1–2*

The most quickly forgotten lesson of failure:

Extend the same grace to _____ God extends to _____ !

Resources

Books used in the development of this message:

The God of the Second Chance Greg Laurie

How to Get It Right After You've Gotten It Wrong Gary Oliver

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day this week meditating on the topic

Monday

Look back over the message notes and read the whole book of Jonah (it's only 3 or 4 pages long!) What do you think is the message of the book? What impresses you about the story?

Have you ever felt like Jonah?

Ask God to give you insight into the story of Jonah as we study it this week.

Tuesday

Read Jonah chapter 1. Having heard a description of Nineveh in the weekend services, why do you suppose Jonah wanted to run? (Check all you think apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of people | <input type="checkbox"/> Rebellion | <input type="checkbox"/> Insecurity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anger | <input type="checkbox"/> Hatred | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt incapable | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of failure | |

Who would you have a hard time seeing forgiven by God?

continued 

Has God ever asked you to do something you were afraid of, or felt incapable of? What happened?

Is God asking you to do something in your life now that you are running from for any of the reasons above?

Ask God for the courage to do what He is calling you to do today!

Wednesday

Read Jonah chapter 2. Some of the components of recovering from failure are listed below. What are the phrases Jonah uses that relate to each step?

- Reach out to God:

- Realize my desperate need:

- Refocus on God's grace:

Is there a way you have fallen recently? Go through these steps in prayer today and see how God empowers and forgives you too!

Thursday

Read Jonah chapter 3. Jonah finally goes to Nineveh, but then only preaches half the message. It's clear from his comments later in 4:2 that Jonah knew the whole message was that God would extend mercy to the Ninevites if they turned to Him. But he leaves the good news out, opting instead to preach only judgment. Why do you suppose he did this?

Jonah had a hard time forgiving the Ninevite nation for what they had done to his people. What individual or group do you sometimes have a hard time forgiving?

Is there any group you wish God would judge more quickly — and, truth be told, you're a little upset, like Jonah, that God is delaying his judgment?

Thank God today that He is slow to anger. Ask Him to help you clearly communicate both the bad news and the good news of the gospel — not only are we all sinners who deserve judgment, but God is also eager to forgive and extend mercy to those who turn to Him.



Memory Verse

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.” *Jonah 2:2*