

The Bible Study for the week of May 20th-26th

Reminder: This Study is in two parts. The first part is the lesson that will be discussed on Tuesday at 10:30 am. The 2nd part is THE GO DEEPER section for anyone who has more time or wants more reflection. These studies are to inspire and motivate you; the time invested is completely up to each person.

INTRO: Don't forget to read the Wed. Devotional email. I put a challenge in there that was motivated by our talk on Tuesday about "the vine and branches." For this week's study, I am going to do one of my favorites: The story of Jonah. We all know about Jonah running away, being swallowed by a whale, repenting, preaching and lastly, learning about God's grace & mercy. But have we really looked at the relationship between Jonah and God. If you ever struggle with inadequacies or anger or justice, Jonah is your man.

PART ONE: Our Tuesday discussion, read 1:1-3 & 17 for a quick background, then Chapter 2-Jonah's Prayer. (I would love for you to "Go Deeper" this week and read all 4 chapters but we will start our time together here.)

REFLECTIONS:

1. When reading, did anything jump out at you? Any highlighting? Any questions?
2. Here we have another example of a relationship and conversation with an invisible God. Jonah's prayer is very personal. What does it reveal to you about Jonah? About God?
3. Think of a time that you ran from God, or He chased you, or He had you do something that you did not want to do...(Ask me about running for city council☺)

PRAYER TIME: How can we, your church family, pray for you? Is there something that causes you to run from God that we can agree with you for....courage, faith, joy, etc.?

PART 2: GO DEEPER through the week.....read all of Jonah, chapters 1-4.

What stands out to you? If you had to write Jonah's bio, what would it say? Would you have picked Jonah "for the job?"

What does this story tell you about God? Who and what is He after? This story served a great purpose for the time BUT, I believe it's message is powerful for today. God does that with His entire Word. The Bible may be accounts of history, but He chose these 66 books because they can be used for any day or season. As you reflect on your week in The Word, how do you see it's relevance for you, today?