

Jonah

Directed Prayer

Introduction

I'll be guiding us through a series of brief prayer times with suggested topics for you to pray about.

1. Ground rules:

- a. Don't spend your time talking -- get right to prayer.
- b. Keep your prayers brief -- don't be a prayer hog!

Begin by praying that:

1. God will bless your time of prayer.
2. God will use this time in a very powerful way to draw you closer to Himself.
3. God will lead you by His Holy Spirit

I Chapter 1: Jonah: Man On The Run

A. Jonah ran from God's call

1. Take a moment to consider whether there is something God has called you to do that you have refused to do. It might be an issue of holiness and purity. Or faithfulness as a spouse. Or some root of bitterness over some offense that He wants you to release. Or some particular calling He has on your life that you have neglected. Whatever it is, write it down.
2. Surrender your life afresh to God and ask Him to give you a heart that will delight to "run in the path of God's commands" - Ps 119:32

B. God pursued Jonah by turning up the heat in his life

Through the natural elements: the great wind and violent storm

Through the unbelieving sailors

Through the great fish

God has a way of bringing pressure into our lives to get our attention and turn us toward Himself.

1. Is there an area of your life where God has been turning up the heat in your life? It might be in the area of finances. Or your marriage. Or your business or work. Or with your kids. Or relationships. Take a moment to write down.
2. Thank God for His discipline and for bringing these areas to your attention. Confess your sin of self-sufficiency and surrender the areas of disobedience to Him and ask Him for a new start.

II Chapter 2: Jonah's Prayer

A. Jonah finally called out to God in his desperation

1. Frequently we call on God as a last resort. We exhaust all of our own options and strength and then we come to God. Is there an area in your life where God wants you to "give up" and call on Him for help? Write it down.
2. Surrender your problems to God. Confess to Him your neediness and helplessness. Ask Him to help you and deliver you.

III Chapter 3: The God of Second Chances

A. The Word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time

1. Is there an area in your life where you would like a second chance? What is it? Write it down.
2. Thank God for being a God of second chances. Ask Him for His strength and for an obedient heart to respond to what He has already told you to do.

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1. Is there anything in your life today that you know is not pleasing to the Lord? Something that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about?
2. Are you ready to humble yourself before God and repent? If so, do it now.

IV Chapter 4: Angry with God

A. Jonah was angry with God because He showed mercy to Jonah's enemies.

1. The Bible teaches that we will be judged in the same way we judge others.

B. God has a great concern for the lost

1. Pray that God will give you His heart for the lost: a heart of concern, a heart of compassion, a heart of love.
2. Pray that our fellowship will be effective in reaching the residents in this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

V Closing prayer

- A. Briefly describe to your prayer partner a prayer need you have today.
1. Pray for one another and bless one another through prayer.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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