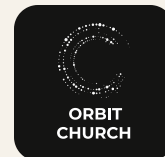


Not What I Signed Up For !!

2024-04-08 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Jonah 1:1-3

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Jonah bought a ticket to Tarshish, the far edge of the known world, in the exact opposite direction. Pastor Matt's point is that nobody actually escapes God's presence, and everybody tries anyway, usually with a reason that sounds fair. Church hurt. Bad timing. Past failure. Then he held Jonah up against Jesus, who is the opposite in every way. Jesus stayed resilient all the way to death, praying not my will but yours. Next to that prayer, no excuse survives.

To get started

- What have you been asked to do that you would rather not do?

Looking back at the message

The church-hurt section is direct and could sting. He was clear that the hurt is real and still not a reason to stop.

- 1 Pastor Matt said God calls each of us to something uncomfortable. What has that been for you?
- 2 Pastor Matt described marriage after the honeymoon: two people folding towels differently, loading the dishwasher differently, discovering that becoming one is abrasive. Where has a good calling turned out to be hard?
- 3 Pastor Matt said church hurt is real, and it still does not excuse ignoring God's call. Is that too harsh, or is it fair? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Jonah 1:1-3. Three verses that set up the whole book.

- 4 Read Jonah 1:1-3. Where does God send Jonah, and how far in the opposite direction does he actually go?
- 5 The text says Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord. Now read Psalm 139:7-10. How does fleeing from God's presence usually go?
- 6 Read Mark 14:36. Jesus faces the hardest assignment ever given. What does he pray?
- 7 Read Matthew 12:39-41. Jesus says the only sign this generation gets is the sign of Jonah. What is he pointing to? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The question is not whether the excuse is understandable but whether it is working.

- 8 Everybody has a Tarshish, the direction you run when you do not want to obey. What is yours?
- 9 What excuse have you used long enough that it now feels like a fact?
- 10 Pastor Matt said his own regular failures send him back to God asking why he was called at all, and the answer is always to keep moving forward. Where has failure made you quit instead?
- 11 What would resilience actually look like for you this month? OPTIONAL

The group together

Some in the group carry real hurt from a previous church. Listen before you challenge.

- 12 Why do we let one person's failure change our whole relationship with God?
- 13 Think of someone who kept going when quitting would have been easy. What do you notice about them?
- 14 How could this group help each other stay when following gets uncomfortable?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What has God asked of you that you have been avoiding, and what is the first step back toward it?

You might pray about

- For people carrying hurt from a church
- For obedience when the assignment is uncomfortable
- For resilience rather than escape