

“Journey to Nineveh” Family Devotion Questions

Jonah 1:1-16 (NIV) The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

1. Jonah was called to preach against Nineveh because of its wickedness. Why is wickedness an offense to God? Discuss wickedness in the world today. Are we very different than the Ninevites? Contrast man’s wickedness with God’s righteousness.

3 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.

2. Discuss Jonah’s disobedience. Why did Jonah choose to disobey God? Is it possible to run from God? Read Psalm 139:1-7

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

3. God used a huge storm to accomplish His plan. Read Romans 8:28 (ESV) “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Discuss ways in which God has used “storms” (difficulties) in your life to get your attention and used that “storm” for good.

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

4. What happened when the men threw Jonah into the Sea? (The storm stopped)
5. What happened to the sailors? (They feared God, offered sacrifices and made vows to the true God)
6. Even in Jonah’s disobedience, God used Jonah to reach the lost sailors. What does that show us about God? (God cares for the lost). What does that show us about Jonah? (Jonah didn’t care about the lost sailors. Jonah was being selfish). There are also many people in our lives who don’t believe in Christ. Do we care about them? Are we sometimes like Jonah?
7. Share how and when you believed in Jesus with your kids. What would happen if everyone stopped telling others about Jesus and His gift of salvation?
8. Discuss how you as a family can be more proactive about sharing the Gospel with others.