

THE RELUCTANT EVANGELIST

JONAH 1

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Instead of being *reluctant*, we must be *ready* to share the good news of Jesus!

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Share an example of a time when you “missed the point”?

Christians are called to evangelize. How can we lose sight of this and miss the point?

People often miss the point of the book of Jonah. As Pastor Greg shared, it’s not about a great fish but all about salvation—salvation of pagan sailors from a storm, salvation of a disobedient prophet, and salvation of one of the most wicked cities on earth. Jonah also missed the point—he didn’t want to go to Nineveh and share God’s message. But he soon discovered the blessing of sharing his faith. Jesus has called us to share the gospel, but we’ll also miss the point if we keep this message to ourselves.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 3:15 & 2 TIMOTHY 2:22-26

Why don’t we share our faith? In your experience, what are some obstacles to evangelism? What is the objective of evangelism?

Why does effective evangelism begin with a burden?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JONAH 1:1-3

How do people often miss the point of this book? How did Jonah miss the point?

Jonah was the reluctant evangelist. How was he not just reluctant but recalcitrant—stubborn, defiant, and unwilling? How have you observed the way in which God seems to go out of His way to find the most unlikely people to use?

We have our modern Ninevahs. God has chosen to use people to reach people through verbal communication (Romans 10:14). How is this especially illustrated in God's repeated call for Jonah to go to Nineveh?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JONAH 2:10–3:5

Jonah repented of his sin—he called on the Lord and God had mercy on him. How does this story reveal that there are only two roads in the Christian life: obedience and disobedience? Where does each road lead?

The reason Jonah did not go was because of a fear of success (Jonah 4:2). What did Jonah know to be true of God? Why did he react this way?

We need to go to people who are unlike us. Through our attitudes and actions, how can we demonstrate that no one is beyond the reach of God?

Sharing our faith can be exciting and fun! Why are the happiest Christians often the evangelistic ones (Acts 20:35)? How have you experienced this to be true?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Pastor Greg said, "There is no good reason you can offer as to why God cannot and will not use you. God is not looking for *ability*; He is looking for *availability*." How do you make yourself available to serve the Lord?

Pastor Greg said, "Every step away from God is always a step down. We fail to realize God's plan for us is better than our plan for ourselves." How can you guard against becoming a *reluctant* evangelist?

PRAYER

Thank God for the good news of the gospel and for our privilege to share His message. Commit to praying for people who do not know the Lord.