



Jonah Part 1

Handout

Session Theme: God & Our Attention

Activity: Pick-up Sticks

Scripture Story: Jonah Chapter 1
(*edited for easier reading comprehension*)

Video Clip: Minority Report

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah (who was a prophet). God told Jonah, 2 "Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me." 3 But Jonah set out to for Tarshish which was in the opposite direction from Nineveh. Jonah was trying to hide from the presence of the Lord. He did this by going down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

4 But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the sailors were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was on the ship into the sea, to lighten the boat. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. 6 The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps your god will spare us a thought so that we do not die." 7 The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know whose fault this is." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then the sailors said to Jonah, "Tell us why this is happening?" Jonah told them and the men were even more afraid, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!"

11 Then they said to him, "What can we do so that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more stormy. 12 Jonah said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." 13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. 14 Then they cried out to the Lord, "Please, O Lord, we pray, let this be the right thing to do because we do not want to do it." 15 So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. 17 But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. In the belly of the large fish, Jonah prayed to God. Then the fish spat Jonah up on a beach.

NOTES:

- ◆ In verse 3, Jonah sets out for Tarshish, which requires sea travel, whereas Nineveh requires travel over land.
- ◆ Jonah thinks he knows better than God about what's best. But what does Jonah experience when he acts on the knowledge that he thought was best?
- ◆ Jonah finally wakes up when the chaos gets to be too much. Tune in next week to see what it takes to wake up Nineveh.