

JONAH

OPENING UP



Gravity is a law of nature that no one can defy on this earth, but people try! Share stories about when someone tried to defy gravity but failed.

TEXT



Defiance Gets Us Nowhere | Jonah 1:1-3

¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” ³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: Defiance Gets Us Nowhere

1. I am the LORD's servant, and I know what the LORD wants. (vv.1-2)
2. I know what the LORD wants, but I will not do it. (v. 3)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- Before Jonah was sent to Nineveh as recorded in the book of Jonah, God used him to bring blessing to Israel—even when they were living in disobedience to God and his ways (2 Kings 14:25-27). When have you experienced God’s grace in your life even though you were resisting God and his ways?
- Jonah knew that God would be faithful to forgive the Ninevites if they repented...and he could not stomach that. What has God asked you to do or obey that is difficult for you (put your faith in Jesus, extend forgiveness, ask for forgiveness, serve, etc.)? What are some of the common justifications we use that keep us from following through?
- When Jonah decided to “flee from the presence of the Lord”, nothing seemed to stop him—the ship was present, the ticket was available, he had the money. Share a time that circumstances allowed you to defy God, and when it may have even seemed that God was allowing you to take a path away from obedience. Take time as a community to have a few moments of personal prayerful repentance admitting to God where you have not followed His word for your life.
- Jonah defied God rather than obey when it was difficult. You and I do the same thing every day! Jesus came to overcome our defiance. What can you do this week to cling to the forgiveness and power of Jesus when you are tempted to defy the Lord? The same Spirit that moved Jesus to sacrificial obedience lives in us!
- Defiance eventually landed Jonah right back where he started. In what areas do you need to trust that God’s word to you is ALWAYS GOOD, even when it looks confusing or like it requires too much sacrifice?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Sharing God’s love and goodness with people who are not following Him can be scary, seem hopeless, or require personal sacrifice. But as we learned this week, disciples of Jesus are meant to share the message of Jesus with the authority of Jesus for the good of the world!

Ask God to show you one person in your life that needs to know his love and forgiveness. How can you move toward that person and grow that relationship this week, even if it requires a sacrifice of your time, money, energy, etc.?

CLOSING PRAYER



Oh Lord, we trust that all your commands to us are for our good and your glory. Show us where we are defying you in our lives, and how that defiance stems from unbelief about who you are and what you say. Help us to live in the victory and obedience that Jesus died to make available to us in every moment. Amen