



SERMON

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty
Sunday: October 24, 2021

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read the book of Jonah together as a group. It's only four chapters, and should only take 10-15 minutes.
- 3) In what ways can idolatry function inside religious communities? What are the consequences of such idolatry?
- 4) What is the significance of God calling Jonah to go to Nineveh?
- 5) In chapter 2, Jonah ran away from God's call upon his life and instead went to Tarshish. What idols in Jonah's life caused him to run away?
- 6) How was God gracious to Jonah despite his disobedience?
- 7) Jonah prays to God from inside the big fish. What does Jonah finally realize? How had his idolatry blinded him to the grace of God?
- 8) In the past, have you ever ignored a call from God and gone in the other direction, like Jonah? What do you think caused this action?
- 9) In Jonah 4:1-3, the motives of Jonah's heart are finally revealed. Why was Jonah so angry with God?
- 10) Jonah realized and repented from idolatry in the belly of the fish yet his idols reasserted themselves in his life. What does this reveal to us about the human heart? Have you ever gone through the same experience as Jonah where idols continued to hold sway even after identification and attempted repentance?
- 11) Jonah shows us that it is one thing to believe the gospel with our minds, and another to work it deep into our hearts so it affects everything we think, feel, and do. Under what circumstances in life is the true nature of our heart revealed?
- 12) What do you notice about Jonah's anger in Jonah 4:4-9? What does this teach about the power of idols over our feelings, thoughts and actions?

- 13) Have you ever erupted in unwarranted and disproportionate anger as a result of an idol in your life?
- 14) Jonah was asked to leave his comfort zone and his safety, and to go in love to minister to a people who might harm him. In what ways does Jonah foreshadow Jesus Christ?
- 15) How does remembering Jesus help us in our struggle against idols?
- 16) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you've been learning and discussing.

** These questions taken or adapted from <https://www.westminsterchapel.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Study-Guide-to-Counterfeit-Gods1.pdf>*